

**Minutes**  
**MISSOURI ASSOCIATION OF SOIL**  
**AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS**  
**64<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL MEETING**  
**TAN-TAR-A RESORT**  
**OSAGE BEACH, MO**  
**November 27, 2012**

The 64<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Missouri Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts was called to order by President Steve Radcliff at 8:00 a.m. at the Tan-Tar-A Resort in Osage Beach, MO. Guests in attendance were introduced, John Larson of NACD, Kelly Smith of Farm Bureau, Colleen Meredith acting director of the DNR Soil & Water Program and her staff, and MO Department of Ag Director Dr. Jon Hagler.

Dr. Hagler thanked the districts for their work with the Drought Assistance Program

**Roll call:** A quorum was established by voting card pickup and sign-in with 57 voting districts present.

**Minutes:** Motion was made by Daviess County and seconded by Johnson County to approve the 2011 minutes as presented by email, posted on the Internet, and on screen. Motion passed unanimously.

**Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer's report for November 2011 to November 2012 was presented, copies were included in conference packets. Internal audit was done Sunday night with no issues identified. David Dix has decided to retire as the Treasurer. Steve Radcliff thanked David for his years of service and announced that if someone was interested in the job of Treasurer to see him or Peggy. Jefferson County moved to approve the treasurer report and file for audit, seconded by Callaway County. Motion passed unanimously.

**NRCS Report:** J.R. Flores, State Conservationist, gave an update on the accomplishments for the past year and the dollars for each federal program Missouri received. He also reported Missouri had received some federal funds to assist with the drought. 999 people have volunteered 10,200 hours through the Earth Team volunteer effort. 109,000 pounds of food was collected through the Farm-Food-Family food drive. J. R. stated that the Plant Materials Center is constantly evaluating new plants. He gave a presentation of several success stories in the state.

**COMMISSION REPORT:** Colleen Meredith and Richard Fordyce gave the Commission report. Colleen greeted everyone by saying "Happy District Employee Day", referring to the proclamation signed by Governor Nixon proclaiming November 27 as Soil & Water District Employee Day. Richard Fordyce stated that the majority of the staff in the Program Office have an ag background. He stated they have made the Governor's office aware that they would like the vacancy on the Commission filled as soon as possible. Richard stated that they are all very proud of the Missouri Envirothon team and congratulated them on their win of the National Competition in Pennsylvania this summer.

He stated that as of November 21, there had been 5000+ contracts for \$20,165,000 paid for the drought assistance so far and there are still a few left to get done. He also stated that they are looking forward to the results from the cover crop pilot project. Colleen Meredith thanked J. R. Flores for his staff's assistance with the drought assistance program. She stated that 2012 is the 3<sup>rd</sup> highest year for cost-share payments with \$26.6 million for 6343 contracts on 43 different practices. She stated the sales tax revenue was approximately \$40 million last year, up 4% from the previous year.

The \$25 attendance prizes were awarded to one supervisor in each of the 8 MASWCD areas that had attended their Area Meeting on Monday morning and also in attendance at the MASWCD Business Meeting.

### **SOIL AND WATER RESOLUTIONS**

Steve Radcliff introduced Ben Gorden, Resolutions Chair, to handle the resolutions. Ben briefly reviewed the resolutions process and stated there were no resolutions presented prior to the meeting. He asked if there were any resolutions to be presented from the floor and reminded that it would take a 2/3 vote to approve bringing the resolution from the floor.

Steve Huber, supervisor in Perry County SWCD stated Perry SWCD wished to present a resolution concerning reinstating matching grants for district equipment. There was a motion by Johnson County, seconded by Daviess County to bring this resolution from the floor. The vote to bring from the floor was 47 in favor which met the 2/3 requirement. Steve Huber then read the resolution and motioned for its approval.

#### **Resolutions from the floor:**

##### **Resolution #1 – Perry County SWCD:**

**Whereas**, tilling the soil and leaving it without a ground cover is one of the worst things that can be done on fields that are highly erodible. Planting with no-till planters and drills is the most effective method to use to prevent erosion on these fields, and

**Whereas**, the equipment is so expensive that many farmers do not have enough acres to justify buying newer planting equipment but they would rent no-till equipment if they were available, and

**Whereas**, many districts cannot afford to buy or replace existing no-till equipment without a matching grant program;

**Therefore, be it resolved:** that the Missouri Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts urge the Missouri Soil and Water Commission to reinstate the matching grant program to districts for no-till equipment.

Taney County seconded the motion and the floor opened for discussion. With no discussion, the vote on the resolution passed with 51 yes and 0 no.

Ben Gorden announced the 2012 MASWCD policy now included the resolutions passed at last year's business meeting and Steve Radcliff reviewed these. He stated there had been no response from the Commission on any of the resolutions forwarded to the Commission for action. The only resolution that has been acted on is the one asking for the district employees to receive the same percent salary increase as state employees. A motion to approve the policy was made by Pettis County, Daviess County seconded. No discussion, motion passed with a voice vote and no opposition.

**Other Business:** David Morris, supervisor from Livingston County stated his district did not feel the funds for outsourcing the payroll should be provided to a district in addition to their other funding. He read from the job description of the Program Specialist which states that payroll is part of that position's duties. He stated Livingston County would like to make a motion that the cost of the outsourcing of the payroll come from a district's \$5500 administrative fund with no additional reimbursement from the Program Office. DeKalb County seconded the motion. Chariton County stated the outsourcing had been a good thing for their county, it has freed up the time of the Program Specialist to do other work. He stated he feels it is a good deal and is supportive of it and the funding for it. No other comments. The vote on the motion resulted in 39 in favor which is a majority and the motion passed.

George Engelbach of Jefferson County stated he wanted to thank Mr. Dix for his service as Treasurer and made a motion that there should be an audit when the books are turned over to the new Treasurer. Gasconade County seconded. Voice vote approval.

**President's Report:** Steve Radcliff stated it had been a good 4 years for his Presidency. He said he had good Directors and Partners to work with. He announced the results of the Reorganization Meeting last night. Kenny Lovelace is the new President, Bruce Biermann is 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, Beverly Dometrorch is 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President and Ben Gorden is 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President. The NACD Board delegate is Kenny Lovelace and the alternate is Beverly Dometrorch. He stated the Monday night auction raised right at \$7200.

George Engelbach stated a Foundation could be the answer to sufficient funding for Soil Health and bringing in additional partners. Paula Champion, Lawrence County, thanked Steve for his leadership.

Steve stated the Employees Meeting will start in this same room at 10:00 am, and the Partner Forum will also be in the same room this afternoon starting at 1:30 pm. He thanked everyone for attending.

A motion was made by Callaway County to adjourn, Daviess seconded. Motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 9:35 am.