

MINUTES
MISSOURI ASSOCIATION OF SOIL
AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS
65th ANNUAL MEETING
TAN-TAR-A RESORT
OSAGE BEACH, MO
December 17, 2013

The 65th Annual Meeting of the Missouri Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts was called to order by President Kenny Lovelace at 8:00 a.m. at the Tan-Tar-A Resort in Osage Beach, MO. Guests in attendance were introduced.

Roll call: A quorum was established by voting card pickup and sign-in with 56 voting districts present.

Minutes: Motion was made by Carroll County and seconded by Callaway County to approve the 2012 minutes as presented by email, posted on the Internet, and on screen with the correction of Colleen Meredith's title which should be Director not Acting Director. Motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer's report for November 2012 to November 2013 was presented, copies were included in conference packets. Internal audit was done Sunday night with no issues identified. Livingston County moved to approve the treasurer report and file for audit, seconded by Cole County. Motion passed unanimously.

Due to time constraints, the partner reports and president's report were not given. The first time attendance prize of \$100 was awarded to a supervisor that was attending the conference for the first time. Dillon Franklin from Bates County was the winner.

SOIL AND WATER RESOLUTIONS

Kenny Lovelace introduced Ben Gorden, Resolutions Chair, to handle the resolutions. Ben briefly reviewed the resolutions process and gave a brief report on the status of the resolutions passed at the 2012 meeting.

Resolution #1 was presented by Gasconade on Tech II certification. Gasconade read the resolution and made a motion to approve the resolution. Jefferson County seconded. Minimal floor discussion and George Engelbach stated the resolution also gives direction to the Plan for the Future Committee. Vote – Yes – 50 / NO – 0. Resolution Passed.

Resolution #2 was presented by Carter on grazing requirements for interseeding practices. Carter read a revised version of the resolution that better clarified the intent and made a motion to approve the resolution. Bates County seconded. No floor discussion. Vote – Yes – 20 / NO – 19. Resolution Passed.

Whereas, Current DSL-2 policy makes it difficult for smaller acreage farms to qualify for the practice and,

Whereas, There is a great need for this assistance with many smaller acreage farms that would substantially benefit from a practice that includes interseeding legumes, and

Whereas, a sufficient grass stand resource needs to be in place before the farms will qualify for grazing system assistance, and

Whereas, it is more practical and efficient to lime, fertilize, and seed before installing some of the grazing system practices, and

Whereas, precedence has been set with the WQ10 that the Missouri Dept. of Natural Resources can create its own practice that is independent from NRCS technical guidelines, and

Whereas, the Missouri Dept. of Natural Resources has the ability to create its own practice that would include interseeding legumes without the NRCS 512 and 528 standards and specs but still include the 723, and

Whereas, the Missouri Dept. of Natural Resources can put in place requirements that annual spot checks be made by the district technician to ensure that the stand is persistent on farms that install this new practice, and

Whereas, the spot check can be notated in MoSWIMS so that the DNR can follow if they so choose, and

Whereas, It is of utmost importance to make sure that the funds for this new practice are properly utilized, and

Whereas, A maintenance violation can be handled on individual basis by the district board who will follow the strictest guidelines for repayment;

Therefore be it resolved: That the Missouri Dept. of Natural Resources create its own seeding practice that would include interseeding legumes without the 512 and 528 NRCS standards and specs so that smaller acreage farms in Missouri can benefit from the states Cost-Share program and ensure that the funds for this new practice are properly utilized and the practice properly maintained.

Resolution #3 was presented by Barton on reinstating the matching grant program. Barton read the resolution and made a motion to approve the resolution. Livingston County seconded. No floor discussion. Vote – Yes – 41 / NO – 6. Resolution Passed.

Resolution #4 was presented by Howard on keeping the focus of the program on soil and water conservation. Howard read the resolution and made a motion to approve the resolution. Livingston County seconded. In response to a question on the objective of the resolution Howard County explained with 2 new Soil and Water Commissioners this resolution would help let them know what the districts wanted to focus on. Vote – Yes – 28 NO – 12. Resolution Passed.

Resolution #5 from Oregon County on warm season grass cost-share component. Since Oregon County was not able to attend St. Louis County as one of the supporting counties made the motion to bring the resolution from the floor and approve the resolution. Johnson County seconded. Vote – Yes – 44 / No – 3. Motion to bring the resolution from

the floor passed. Jefferson County read the resolution and made a motion to approve. Callaway seconded. Jefferson County spoke in favor of the resolution. Vote – Yes – 36 / No – 4. Motion passed.

Resolution #6 was presented by St. Louis on precision ag cost-share. St. Louis read the resolution and made a motion to approve the resolution. Barton County seconded. No floor discussion. Vote – Yes – 18 / NO – 26. Resolution Failed.

Whereas:

- Negative impacts from chemical fertilizer and pesticide applications are established environmental concerns affecting soil health and water quality and for which agricultural operations are targeted;
- A suite of tools related to yield monitoring, soil mapping, precision application equipment and variable rate technology (collectively known as Precision Agriculture) mitigates these negative impacts;
- Precision Agriculture is increasing nationally but Missouri has lower adoption rates than neighboring states, with research suggesting that the large initial investments in equipment, complexity of the technology, and the need to use multiple precision technologies together are entrance barriers;
- The Soil and Water Conservation Program (SWCP), having established the importance of promoting farming techniques which protect soil and water resources, provides financial incentives to landowners to help implement such practices;
- The common mission among Missouri's Soil & Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs) is to be locally responsive, to assume active leadership in conservation education, and to address producer, public, and natural resource concerns through cost-share programs;
- In addition to taxpayer-generated cost-share funds, there is support from private industry which would leverage those dollars by providing matching funds specifically for Precision Agriculture;

And whereas this convergence of conservation goals, producer needs, technological advances, and private-industry support reflects an opportunity to leverage public funds to serve the public interest, develop new channels to market conservation practices, and meet environmental goals through innovation rather than regulation,

Therefore be it resolved by the body of the Missouri Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts to request that the Commission work with the SWCP to continue to demonstrate exceptional stewardship of public resources and establish a work group to (1) explore developing a cost-share category for Precision Agriculture—which would include components such as surveying, software, hardware, and after-market production equipment—that support the suite of tools related to yield monitoring, soil mapping, precision application equipment and variable rate technology, and (2) explore options for receiving and administering matching funds from private industry.

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.

Resolutions from the floor:

Gasconade County made a motion to bring Resolution #7 from the floor on revising the dollar and acreage limits for the grazing practices due to inflation and higher costs over the past few years. Johnson seconded. Vote – Yes – 44 / No – 0. Motion to bring the resolution from the floor passed. Gasconade County read the resolution and made a motion to approve. Jefferson seconded. Vote – Yes – 43 / No – 0. Motion passed.

GASCONADE COUNTY SWCD – RESOLUTION #7

Whereas, the Soil and Water Districts Commission has a policy providing up to 75% of the state average cost to assist with conservation practices,

Whereas, the state average cost has increased annually,

Whereas, in FY2010 the grazing system program was split up into five different categories each having a set acreage limit,

Whereas, the acreage limits in regards to water establishment and distribution have not increased to reflect the increase in the state average costs;

Therefore be it resolved: that MASWCD urge the Missouri Soil and Water Commission to address the DSP-3.1 and DSP-3.2 acreage limit maximums to be more reflective of the rising state average costs.

Kenny Lovelace announced the resolutions just passed will be incorporated into the MASWCD policy. A motion to approve the policy was made by Callaway County, Barton County seconded. No discussion, motion passed with no opposition.

Proposed Bylaw Changes: Proposed bylaw changes were sent out with the resolution slate. The purpose of the proposed changes is cleaning up language in the bylaws. Motion to approve the proposed bylaw changes made by Callaway. Livingston seconded. Motion passed with no opposition.

Other Business: None

Kenny Lovelace 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 Cole County to adjourn, Livingston seconded. Motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 9:00 am.