

Minutes
MISSOURI ASSOCIATION OF SOIL
AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS
69th ANNUAL MEETING
TAN-TAR-A RESORT
OSAGE BEACH, MO
November 28, 2017

The 69th Annual Meeting of the Missouri Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts was called to order by President Ryan Britt 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 Johnson County and seconded by Monroe County to approve the 2016 minutes as presented by email, posted on the Internet, and on screen. Motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer's report for November 2016 to November 2017 was presented, copies were available. Internal audit was completed Sunday night with no issues identified. Lafayette County moved to approve the treasurer report and file for audit, seconded by Randolph County. Motion passed unanimously.

President's Report: Ryan Britt reported that the LAGERS legislation is the #1 priority right now. This conference is the time for questions and input on this legislation. Plans are to submit the legislation on December 1 which is the first day bills can be pre-filed. The Leopold Award was presented this year for the first time with MASWCD, NRCS and the Commission all sponsoring the award. He stated they all hope to be able to continue the award into the future. Ryan Britt also stated he has been in several meetings with the Program Office and NRCS concerning the vehicles and budgetary concerns for the future.

Partner Reports: J. R. Flores of NRCS, Colleen Meredith of the DNR Soil & Water Program Office and Jeff Lance of the Soil & Water Commission all came to the stage to be available for questions from the audience. Partner reports had been given at Area Meetings and the Commission meeting the previous day. When questioned about the Commissioners attending MASWCD Area Meetings, Jeff Lance stated he felt that was valuable and hoped to continue doing that. Colleen Meredith responded to a question on if LAGERS would affect salary increases for district employees. She stated it would not. A comment from the audience emphasized the need to keep vehicles available to the district technicians so they can do their job. J. R. Flores stated that NRCS has funded 135 technical positions through partner agreements in Missouri. Commissioner Jeff Lance thanked the districts for all the work they do. Colleen Meredith stated the draft of the reduction in the rules due to the Red Tape reduction initiative of DNR will be sent to the districts for their review and input.

SOIL AND WATER RESOLUTIONS

Ryan Britt introduced Ron Willis, Resolutions Chair, to handle the resolutions. Ron briefly reviewed the resolutions process and stated the results of the action on the resolutions passed at the 2016 meeting were included in the registration packets.

Resolution #1 was presented by Ozark on increasing the maximum cap for the N595 Pest Management practice. Ozark read the resolution. No floor discussion. Howell County made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Oregon County. Vote – Yes – 43 / NO – 0. Resolution Passed.

Resolutions from the floor: Ron Willis asked if there were any resolutions to be presented from the floor and reminded that it would take a 2/3 vote (38 votes) to approve bringing the resolution from the floor.

Resolution #2 was presented by Lafayette on District Employee stipend increases. Vote to bring from the floor. Vote – Yes – 42 / NO – 0. Lafayette explained the resolution stating some district employees could wait as much as 3 months to receive their salary increase due to the Program Office not including funds for the increase until the quarter following the employee's eligibility.

Howard motioned to approve the resolution, Jasper seconded. No floor discussion. Vote – Yes – 39 / No – 0. Resolution passed.

Whereas, The Program Office will only honor a stipend request for the next upcoming quarter following a district employee qualifying for an increase in their stipend; and

Whereas, this decision is adverse to our mission statement and budget; and.

Whereas, The Lafayette County Soil & Water Conservation District Supervisors view the retention of our District employees as a necessity to assisting landowners with their conservation needs and the Program Office Policy of withholding salary increases from employees as detriment not only to our district employees, but also to our local budgets.

Therefore be it Resolved, The Lafayette County Soil & Water Conservation District Supervisors urge the Program Office to approve stipend increases the day an employee is eligible so that district employees received their earned salary increases without delay.

Ron Willis presented the proposed changes to the MASWCD bylaws. There was a request for a change to the wording in Article VI, Section 1, Paragraph B on the Board of Directors. The request was to remove the words – extension of their – on the second to last line to read as follows: *Beginning in 2018 Directors and alternates in Areas 1, 3, 5 and 7 shall be elected by members of each respective Area at Area Meetings for a 1-year term, the following odd numbered years Directors and alternates in Areas 1, 3, 5, and 7 shall be elected for a 2-year term.* Motion to approve the amendment made by Cape Girardeau

County, Wright County seconded. Vote on amendment – Yes - 43 / NO – 0. Motion carried. Vote on approval of the Bylaws as amended – Yes – 49 / No – 0. Bylaws as amended passed.

Ron Willis announced the resolutions just passed will be incorporated into the MASWCD policy. A motion to approve the policy was made by Wright County, Ozark County seconded. No discussion, motion passed with 53 in favor, no opposition.

Years of service pins were presented to supervisors serving 10 years or more.

Other Business: None

Ryan Britt stated the Employees Meeting will start in this same room at 10:00 am. He thanked everyone for attending.

A motion was made by Cape Girardeau County to adjourn, Perry County seconded. Motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 9:15 am.