



## Missouri Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts

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## MASWCD MINUTES Regular Meeting Capitol Plaza Hotel Jefferson City, Missouri

March 5, 2014

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### Present

Kenny Lovelace, President

Bruce Biermann, Area I

Tom Lambert, Area II

Beverly Dometrorch, Area IV

George Engelbach, Area V

Ben Gorden, Area VI

Dan Greeson, Area VII

Mike Kelley, Area VIII

Henry Heinze, Treasurer

Peggy Lemons, Executive Director

J. R. Flores, NRCS State Conservationist

Colleen Meredith, DNR Soil & Water

Bill Wilson, DNR Soil & Water Program

Sandy Stratman, Employees Assn. Pres.

David Hale, Area VI Alternate

Richard Hoelscher, Area V Alternate

### Not Present

Ryan Britt, Area III

Steve Radcliff, Past President

President Kenny Lovelace welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 11:14 a.m. Introductions were made around the room. Quorum established by roll call. No revisions to the agenda.

The minutes from the 12-15-2013 meeting had minor changes suggested in the Commission report. The minutes were approved as presented and amended and the minutes of 12-16-2013 were approved. Motion for approval made by Bruce Biermann, Mike Kelley seconded. Motion carried unanimously (7-0).

A treasurer report was given by Henry Heinze and Peggy Lemons. The treasurer report includes the account that Henry has and the 3 accounts in Jefferson City. A list of the districts that have paid dues was distributed. Henry Heinze stated that the 2 CD's will mature soon. Tom Lambert made a motion to approve the report, Beverly Dometrorch seconded. Motion carried unanimously (7-0).

**MDC Report:** No report due to no attendance by MDC.

**NRCS Report:** J.R. Flores stated the Farm Bill was passed and signed by the President. He said they are still analyzing all the details and changes. This is the first year that the conservation title is bringing in more money than the commodity title. Kenny Lovelace noted that all the Missouri legislators except one voted in favor of the Farm Bill and that legislator was not in attendance to vote. J. R. also distributed a copy of the Soil Health Efforts and Accomplishments in Missouri.

**Commission Report:** Colleen Meredith reported the new Commissioner Sam Schaumann was not confirmed by the Senate so the Commission is down to 4 members right now. It appears the legislators want a Republican appointed and then Mr. Schaumann may or may not be confirmed as a Commissioner. They are waiting to see what happens. The next Commission meeting will be March 21 and there will be an election for the Chair and Vice-Chair. Ms. Meredith stated that the Plan for the Future sub-committees are working and the Conservation Practices committee will have their first meeting on March 20. The Technician II testing is getting back on schedule. They are also working on Nutrient Management training and Grazing training and certification. Ms. Meredith stated she had attended a Women and Food meeting, sort of a train-the-trainer meeting. A group in Iowa received a grant to hold several of these trainer meetings to help promote the female role in agriculture. There should be 9 meetings across the state with one possibly at the state Women in Ag meeting. Colleen was asked about the rental policy for drills and the information that was provided at the Training Conference. She stated that the information provided at the Training Conference was by MOPERM and they had offered to review rental policies for the districts. It was suggested that maybe a template could be provided to the districts on what a rental policy should include so each district would not have to send in a policy to MOPERM to have reviewed. George Engelbach made a motion to have the Association request a template for drill rental policy from MOPERM and distribute to the districts. Dan Greeson seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously (7-0).

**Employee Association Report:** Sandy Stratman thanked the MASWCD board for their support in her attendance at the NACD national meeting in Anaheim recently. She stated that Jim Boschert is now a supervisor over some of the district coordinators but will remain as the liaison for DNR with the Employees Association. The next employee board meeting will be the end of March or early April and their training will probably be from Missouri Consolidated on understanding the cost of dependent health insurance coverage. There will be elections for the officers at the next meeting. She stated she has received a lot of questions on the issue of district employees becoming state employees.

**Old Business:** There was a question on the evaluation form for the Training Conference about the best date for the conference. It was pretty clear in the responses that they did not like the week before Christmas. In working with Tan-Tar-A, they have open dates of December 9 (Tuesday) through 12 (Friday). This would get away from holiday weekends and also is after gun deer season. The hotel room rate would remain the same for 2014 and 2015 but will probably increase \$2 in 2016. This still includes the resort fee which includes Internet access in hotel rooms. The Board discussed this and a motion was made by Tom Lambert to hold the conference for 2014 on these dates and amend our contract with Tan-Tar-A for this. Dan Greeson seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously (7-0). The remainder of the evaluation responses were discussed, overall there were very minor negative comments about the conference. The profit from the conference was down this year compared to previous years. Attendance was slightly less and some expenses were

higher. The Board discussed the registration fees and decided since they had not been increased for several years that they would look at that. Mike Kelley made a motion to increase the individual registration for employees to \$60 and supervisors to \$160 starting with the conference for 2014. Dan Greeson seconded the motion. Ben Gorden pointed out that sometimes to help increase attendance you actually decrease registration costs. The motion carried (6-0) with George Engelbach voting no. The resolutions passed at the 2013 conference will be forwarded to the Commission in the next couple of weeks.

The MDC Incentive Program update was pretty well covered in the MDC Report. The grant contract is being amended to add another \$240,000 to the grant funds since the first \$500,000 was obligated so quickly.

Those that attended the NACD National Meeting in California gave a review of the workshops and meetings they attended. Kenny Lovelace pointed out that the NCD staff kept those attending informed on the progress of the Farm Bill and would actually give updates in the middle of some meetings. Bruce Biermann stated he attended the session on the last date of the conference that was led by Dave White on leadership capacity. He said it was a very good meeting

**New Business:** Peggy gave an update on the Envirothon. Missouri will be hosting the 2015 national competition. Due to the restructuring of the North American Envirothon program and the lack of funding both from the National Conservation Foundation and the Georgia host group, the 2014 national Envirothon competition scheduled for Atlanta, Georgia this July was canceled. This will likely have some effect on the number of teams attending in Missouri in 2015, but the committee planning the Missouri event will continue to plan for a full attendance in hopes that all the teams do come. Because of some of the changes with the merger of the Envirothon and the National Conservation Foundation (NCF), the Missouri committee feels the need to raise more funding for hosting the event since funds from the NCF may not totally replace all that was received in prior years to cover costs for hosting the event.

The NACD Legislative Fly-In is scheduled for March 25 & 26<sup>th</sup> in Washington, DC. Kenny Lovelace explained that he had originally planned to not attend due to the Farm Bill already being passed, but at the meeting in California it was suggested it was a good idea to attend. However, in checking the cost to attend, the airfare costs were extremely high and Kenny made the decision that he and Beverly would not attend.

The agenda for the Education Seminar was reviewed. The program will consist of Colleen Meredith giving a presentation on the budget in the Legislature and also a short presentation on the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of DNR. The budget introduced and recommended by the Governor does include a new decision item which is an increase in the cost-share funds to \$31 million.

Bruce Biermann reported on his activities with the MRRIC committee. He has attended a couple of meetings at his own expense this year. He stated that originally he was supposed to be appointed to a seat on the committee as the alternate for representative for the soil and water districts, but the Corps of Engineers will have to approve his nomination. MRRIC is funded through a line item on the Corps budget. The next meetings scheduled are for May, July and September. After discussion a motion was made by Tom Lambert to approve paying Bruce's mileage to attend these meetings. George Engelbach offered an amendment to the motion to include all of Bruce's expenses to attend the meetings. Mike Kelley seconded the amended motion. Motion carried with Bruce Biermann abstaining from the vote.

**AREA Reports:** Area 1 – Bruce Biermann reported that the weather took a turn for the worse in his area. They have 18-24 inches of frost in the ground. He said they are all looking forward to spring.

Area 2 – Tom Lambert said his area got a little work done last fall. They have a terrific sign-up for FY-15.

Area 3 – Ryan was not able attend but Henry Heinze reported for the area. He said is dry and frozen. There is some liming going on. There is too much run-off.

Area 4 – Beverly Dometrorch reported everyone in her area says they don't have enough moisture. She said that the Jackson County office does a program at 1 school each week and also does adult workshops and has the blow-up soil tunnel. She said that next week is the Howard County election and open house and invited everyone to attend.

Area 5 – George Engelbach said his area is as dry now as they were last fall. The Jefferson County annual meeting and soils and crop conference is scheduled for March 22.

Area 6 – Ben Gorden stated that everything is going quite well in his area. They are doing a lot of grazing systems and EQIP contracts. He attended the Spring Forage Conference in Springfield. One of the speakers had a good presentation about the perception of agriculture especially in social media. He complimented the Program Office and his District Coordinator Allan Clarke for their assistance with an issue in his district that was resolved.

Area 7 – Dan Greeson reported no complaints. His districts have a low participation in the Envirothon and Grassland contest, etc. He suggested bringing the ag teachers to the Training Conference to see what these kids can do. He also suggested MASWCD look into advertising on the conference bags to help with some funding to pay for the conference.

Area 8 – Mike Kelley said they had ice and snow several times. Even when the ice does melt off the moisture is not coming back.

**Correspondence:** None

**Other Business:** The web page for MASWCD has experienced some software issues and is in need of new software to get it back on track and keep it updated. After discussion a motion was made by Ben Gorden to approve the purchase of Dreamweaver for managing the web page. Dan Greeson seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously (7-0).

The next meeting will hopefully be scheduled the day before the Soil & Water Commission meeting probably in May. Motion for adjournment was made by Beverly Dometrorch, seconded by Tom Lambert. Motion carried unanimously (7-0). The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Peggy Lemons, Executive Director

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Kenny Lovelace, President