

**MASWCD MINUTES
Regular Meeting
USDA Service Center
Jefferson City, Missouri
June 16, 2010**

Present

Steve Radcliff, President
Tom Lambert, Area II
Kenny Lovelace, Area III
Beverly Dometrorch, Area IV
George Engelbach, Area V
Dan Greeson, Area VII
David Dix, Treasurer
Peggy Lemons, Executive Director

Henry Heinze, Area III Alternate
Richard Hoelscher, Area V Alternate
Sandy Hutchison, Employees Association
Dwaine Gelnar, NRCS S
Bryan Hopkins, DNR SWCP Director
Bill Wilson, DNR Soil & Water Program

Not Present

Fred Feldmann, Past President
Bruce Biermann, Area I
Ben Gorden, Area VI
Steve Huber, Area VIII

President Steve Radcliff welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

NRCS Report: Dwaine Gelnar was in attendance representing NRCS. J. R. Flores was attending a meeting in Washington, D.C. Dwaine distributed information on the approved MRBI proposals from Missouri. The funding approved for these proposals for 2010 needs to be obligated by October 1. Dwaine stated NRCS will have to figure out ways to get the people to the workload. Most of the watersheds had already had some kind of assessment information. There may be some 319 money made available for this as well. Dwaine also distributed information on another new initiative – Migratory Bird Habitat. Waterfowl migrating from the north to the gulf would have an alternate shallow water winter habitat created by this initiative. He also discussed the recent Rural Summit held in Hillsboro with the Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack. Dwaine said they were impressed with the Secretary's knowledge in all areas discussed. NRCS and DNR are working on ways to accomplish data sharing or transfer of data between the computer systems. They both stated the big issue in this is the security mandates of the information. The State Technical Committee will be meeting on June 23 in Columbia.

Commission Report: Bryan Hopkins stated the Governor is very engaged on the MRBI initiative and there is significant value in having a positive story like that. He stated the Work Group meeting went well. He felt it was a modest beginning for multiple workshops. We need to look at how we manage our self and the environmental benefits of our program. He stated a summary of the Work Group meeting should be sent to the Work Group members next week. Farm Bureau is holding its resolution meeting next week and Richard Fordyce will be attending representing the Soil and Water Program. They are working on the schedule for the Area Meetings, hoping to be able to double and not use the full 2 weeks time frame. They are also working on workshops for the Training Conference. He stated he wanted to make sure it provides training and professional development. Anything that has a connection to land stewardship or water stewardship is relevant to our program. The Technician II training will be starting again and Bryan Hopkins said he also wants to start on the specialty training as well.

Bruce Biermann joined the meeting by telephone at 2:00 p.m.

Missouri River Team Meeting: Bruce Biermann reported by telephone on the meeting he attended for the Missouri River Team in Wichita, Kansas. He said there were 16 members present from Indian Tribes and states along the river. A couple of days prior to the meeting the Corps of Engineers stated they would not have anyone attending the meeting even though they had known about the meeting for several weeks. They said they were busy doing the public forums on the Missouri River and had no staff available, but the group found out there were no Corps hearings scheduled the week of the meeting. The Corps has been charged with acquiring another 20,000 acres of Missouri river bottom ground, which they plan to study over the next 5 to 7 years and then implement over the next 15 to 20 years. The committee

questioned why so much time would be spent on the study. Wyoming and Iowa were the only 2 states not in attendance, all others there support natural flood control and the importance of navigation. Bruce stated the committee had heard that the Corps feels some soil and water districts are doing too good a job controlling sediment loss into the river and it is affecting the habitat of the river. Bruce left the meeting at 2:20 p.m.

Commission Report continued: The discussion on the Area Meetings continued. Bryan Hopkins stated he was looking at the week of August 23 and the end of the week of August 16. Some of the dates are being determined by availability of facilities, and they are also trying to arrange the dates so there is less impact from the State Fair. Bryan Hopkins then talked about the time accounting system. He stated he plans to go statewide with this shortly after the start of the fiscal year. There will also be a new accounting plan to roll out during the next fiscal year. There will be no advance allocation this year, so Districts will need to get their quarterly reports in on time in order to get their next quarter allocation of funds. The SAMS rollover for the state will occur between June 25 and July 7, during this time there will be no payments sent out. Bryan Hopkins also stated the Commission would be discussing the Nutrient Management and Pest Management practices during their July meeting. He hopes to get a clear direction on what they want to change in the program, do we use federal rates or continue with the state rates. The Commission has also expressed some level of interest in a 10% flexibility mid-year adjustment for the cost-share allocations. They are looking at adding to resource concern funding instead of moving funds around. He stated that the cost-share will probably be under-spent this year and they will be able to use this unspent cost-share for the mid-year adjustment. They will still need to stay within the budget authority.

Employee Association Report: Sandy Hutchison stated their board had its first meeting after the new rules requiring some form of training during the meeting for employees to be eligible to claim mileage for attending. She stated the training was on the Employee Assistance Program and Cafeteria Plans. Their next meeting will be held in August. She also reported on the Work Group meeting she attended. Sandy stated she will be attending the North Central Region Employee meeting on June 28 and 29 in Illinois. So far 30 districts have paid dues for the Employees Association.

Steve Radcliff introduced Dan Greeson, the new Area Director for Area VII replacing Sharon Gifford. Dan is from Miller County.

Quorum established by roll call.

A motion was made by Tom Lambert to approve the revised agenda, Beverly Dometrorch seconded. Motion carried unanimously (5-0).

The minutes from the March 29, 2010 meeting were approved as presented. Motion for approval made by George Engelbach, Tom Lambert seconded. Motion carried unanimously (5-0). The minutes from the April 12, 2010 conference call were approved as presented. Motion for approval made by Tom Lambert, Beverly Dometrorch seconded. Motion carried (4-0) with George Engelbach abstaining from the vote.

A treasurer report was given by David Dix. He stated the mileage rate is now at 37 cents per mile. To date 89 Districts have paid their MASWCD dues in full and 3 have paid partial dues. A list of who has and has not paid by area was distributed. The bank balance is quite a bit less than this time last year (\$12,000), but the amount of funds in CD's is increased a similar amount (\$10,000). George Engelbach motioned to approve the treasurer report and file for audit, Beverly Dometrorch seconded. Motion carried unanimously (5-0). Treasurer report for the MDC CREP grant was also presented. The current CREP agreement will end June 30, 2010. There will be an administrative fee of 5% to be retained from the CREP funds less the \$10,000 pre-payment for administration received last year. A motion was made by Kenny Lovelace to approve the CREP account report. George Engelbach seconded. Motion carried unanimously (5-0).

MDC Report: No report.

Old Business: The Area Meetings have already been discussed and there was nothing further to add.

There will be election in every area this year. Information has been sent out to the districts each of the Area Directors are from to help them get started on nominating committees. Information has also been put in recent newsletters and will also be sent out to all the Districts letting them know how to submit a name for nomination.

The Board reviewed a draft agenda for the 2010 Training Conference. The agenda has the main meetings separated so they do not overlap. Kenny Lovelace motioned to approve the draft agenda with the addition of the MASWCD Reorganization meeting. Tom Lambert seconded, motion carried unanimously (5-0). Several theme and logo designs were reviewed. A motion was made by George Engelbach to approve the Cooperative Conservation theme and logo for the 2010 conference. Beverly Dometrorch seconded, motion carried unanimously (5-0). The Board discussed what type of speaker/entertainment to have at the banquet on Tuesday evening. It was decided to check out local entertainment from Branson to see who might be available. Another possibility is Tom Stevens from Brownfield Network as a speaker. NRCS Chief Dave White is being invited to speak at the Opening Session. A reminder will be sent out to the Districts about award

nominations. Also the call for resolutions will be sent out. The Board discussed how to get items for the live auction. It was decided to first ask the Districts for donations, then after Area Meetings to contact local businesses for donations for the live auction. Beverly Dometrorch stated she knew an auctioneer that might be able to do the live auction. Henry asked about the resolution from last year's meeting on building ponds in wooded areas. This resolution has not come up before the Commission yet.

New Business: Monsanto has contributed \$500 toward the speech contest for this year. Steve Radcliff had contacted the Litton Foundation about the possibility of funding from them for the speech contest. A grant was submitted and approved for \$1500 for the contest and they are discussing sponsoring this as a permanent endowment. The Area Directors need to line up judges for the FFA District contests for the speeches.

Peggy reported on the NACD Executive Director meeting she attended in Olympia, Washington. Copies of handouts from the meeting were distributed. One was a survey of the dues structure used in other states, the other was information on scoring the board certification training that was developed by NASCA and NACD. The Board discussed the board certification and Bryan Hopkins stated that if they wanted to move forward on the issue it should probably be taken to the Commission and ask for support from the Commission, then he could have staff approved to work on it, but the lead on this needed to come through MASWCD.

George Engelbach reported more on the Rural Summit meeting. There are videos of the meeting on the NRCS web site.

No additional discussion on the Work Group / Task Force meeting. Bryan Hopkins stated he will be sending out a report to the committee members in the next few days.

AREA Reports: Tom Lambert reported a lot of his area is under water, he feels a lot of landowners will want to do conservation practices this fall.

Kenny Lovelace said his area is real wet. He said there will probably be a lot of disease in the soybeans and they expect a lot of prevented planting.

Beverly Dometrorch said she had received a call from a District Manager who was concerned about MOSWIMS being set up to run continuous. She said about $\frac{3}{4}$ of her districts are waiting to see how things go, most are too wet to get any field work done.

George Engelbach said the southern part of his area is not as wet and they are getting some planting done. There is a field day set up for stream bank erosion in his area at the end of the month.

Correspondence: An e-mail was received with an invoice for dues to the Missouri River Team that provides input to the MRRIC committee for Missouri River issues. The invoice was not available for review and the amount of the dues is thought to be \$200 to \$300. A motion was made by Bruce Biermann to approve up to \$350 for dues to the Missouri river Team. Tom Lambert seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously (5-0).

Other Business: The information for the quilt block for the NACD quilt was received. The theme this year is forestry and they are requesting blocks representing state trees. Peggy will get the block done and sent on to NACD.

The next regular meeting will be September 7 in Jefferson City. Bryan Hopkins indicated he would like to meet with some of the board before the next Commission meeting. He said maybe the week before the Commission meeting instead of the day before would work better. He will have Theresa work with Steve Radcliff on getting a date set. He feels it is beneficial to go over items coming up on the Commission meeting agenda. The next commission meeting is scheduled for July 14. There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 5:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Peggy Lemons, Executive
Director

Steve Radcliff, President