



## Missouri Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts

# MASWCD MINUTES Conference Call August 17, 2020

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## Present

Ryan Britt, President  
Kenny Lovelace, Past President  
Ron Willis, Area I  
David Morris, Area II  
Scot Shively, Area III  
Beverly Dometrorch, Area IV  
Mike Haeffner, Area V  
Kathryn Braden, Area VI  
David Hutsell, Area VII  
Kenny Spooler, Area VIII  
Peggy Lemons, Executive Director  
Henry Heinze

Scott Edwards, NRCS  
State Conservationist  
Jim Boschert, DNR SWCP  
Harold Lampe,  
Area VI Alternate  
Melissa White,  
Employees Association  
Sandy Burd,, Maries SWCD

## Not Present

President Ryan Britt welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. Quorum established and the agenda was approved.

MASWCD minutes from the 3-3-2020 meeting were reviewed and approved. Motion for approval made by Kathryn Braden, seconded by Ron Willis. Motion approved (6-0) with abstention by David Morris and Kathryn Braden since they neither had attended. The MASWCD Conference Call minutes from 6-3-2020 were reviewed and approved. Motion for approval made by Beverly Dometrorch, seconded by Ron Willis. Motion carried (6-0) with abstention by Scot Shively and Kathryn Braden since they neither attended.

A brief treasurer report was provided. Henry Heinze stated there is approximately \$60,000 in the checking account which is a little less than last year. 80 districts have paid their 2020 dues so far. The accounts in Jefferson City which includes the incentive program funds are just over \$600,000 total. An additional \$200,000 for the incentive program was recently received and is included in the total. Motion for approval of the treasurer report made by Kathryn Braden, seconded by David Hutsell. Motion carried unanimously (8-0).

Ryan Britt asked for an update on the elections for Areas 2-4-6-8. Nominating committees have been selected. It was decided that ballots need to be sent out to the districts in those areas by October 1 with completed ballots returned by December 1. Nominating committees will then submit report of election results to Peggy Lemons.

Ryan Britt stated he would like for any of the board interested in being an officer or being on the officer nominating committee to let him know.

The Board then discussed the Training Conference for this year. Peggy reviewed the current COVID-19 guidelines provided by Tan-Tar-A which would require some modifications to the current Training Conference agenda. After discussion on possible options for a virtual conference and limitations of Internet availability to local board members and limitations to what programs could be used on district computers, Kathryn Braden made a motion to cancel the in-person conference for 2020. David Morris seconded the motion. Roll call vote – Ron Willis – yes, David Morris – yes, Scot Shively – yes, Beverly Dometrorch – yes, Mike Haeffner – yes, Kathryn Braden – yes, David Hutsell – yes, Kenny Spooler – yes. Motion carried unanimously (8-0).

How to handle resolutions for 2020 was discussed. Ron Willis made a motion to handle resolutions through mail/email for 2020. Kathryn Braden seconded. Motion carried unanimously (8-0). David Morris then made a motion to have resolutions submitted to Peggy Lemons by October 1, then votes on resolutions slate due by December 1 to Peggy. Kathryn Braden seconded. Motion carried unanimously (8-0).

The Board then discussed how to handle the speech contest for this year since the conference is cancelled. Funding for the contest has been received from the Litton Foundation. Ron Willis made a motion to support the speech contest this year, David Morris seconded. Motion carried unanimously (8-0). We will still need to line up judges for the district contests. Ron Willis made a motion to use the same format as the district contests for our state speech contest. David Hutsell seconded. Motion carried unanimously (8-0).

Beverly Dometrorch made a motion to continue with the Poster Contest also with posters submitted digitally and certificates and \$50 awards mailed to the districts for presentation to the students locally. Kathryn Braden seconded. Motion carried unanimously (8-0).

Scott Edwards, NRCS State Conservationist stated he had held some listening sessions around the state and he had heard some challenges with district employees due to the COVID-19 office operations. He suggested further discussion with the MASWCD Board on this. He also stated that NRCS is way behind on Farm Bill Program progress and he is under a lot of pressure to get the funds obligated.

Melissa White said the Employees Association Board did meet in person in late July. See the attached report from her. When asked if their association had done any surveys on employee salary across the state she replied they had not. Jim Boschert said the Program Office should have that information and he would check to see if years of service could be included.

Jim Boschert stated the Commission Meeting will be August 26 and will be virtual. Since the July revenue was at \$4.2 million which was 9% over last July they decided to go ahead with filling vacancies. Letters were sent out recently to about half of the districts with vacancies. In response to a question on local board elections, Jim said the District Operations committee had not been able to have a meeting to discuss that. There is concern that having a virtual meeting for this committee would not allow candid discussion. They are still hoping to have a meeting this fall. He reminded the board that if a local board member wanted off the board they could resign and a replacement could be appointed to finish their term.

Ryan Britt stated he would be involved in the interviews for the Soil and Water Program Director at DNR this afternoon. He said they are interviewing 4 candidates and hope to have a selection by the August Commission meeting

There being no further business a motion for adjournment was made by Beverly Dometrorch, seconded by Ron Willis. Motion carried unanimously (8-0). The meeting was adjourned at 9:40 a.m. The next meeting for the MASWCD Board will be October 6 at 9:30m a.m., place and format to be decided. The conference call with Scott Edwards to discuss further the COVID-19 effect on district employees will be Monday, August 24 at 8:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Peggy Lemons, Executive Director

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Ryan Britt, President