



Missouri Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts

MASWCD MINUTES
Regular Meeting
USDA Service Center
Jefferson City, Missouri
August 02, 2016

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Present

Kenny Lovelace, President
Bruce Biermann, Area I
David Morris, Area II
Ryan Britt, Area III
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

Curt McDaniel, NRCS Asst. State Cons.
Bill Wilson, DNR Soil & Water Program
Jim Boschert, DNR Soil & Water Program
Matt Blansett, Dist. Employees Association
Richard Hoelscher, Area V Alternate
David Hale, Area VI Alternate
Ron Willis, Andrew SWCD
David Hutsell, Wright SWCD
Kenny Spooler, Cape Girardeau SWCD
Kathryn Braden, Taney SWCD
Sandy Stratman, Maries SWCD
Kelly Smith, Farm Bureau

Not Present

Steve Radcliff, Past President

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

Mike Kelley made a motion to go into closed session at 1:00 pm to discuss the recent Area Director elections. Bruce Biermann seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Bruce Biermann – yes, David Morris – yes, Ryan Britt – yes, Beverly Dometrorch – yes, George Engelbach – yes, Ben Gorden – yes, Dan Greeson – yes, Mike Kelley – yes. Motion carried unanimously (8-0).

Bruce Biermann made a motion to come out of closed session at 1:40 pm, David Morris seconded. Roll call vote: Bruce Biermann – yes, David Morris – yes, Ryan Britt – yes, Beverly Dometrorch – yes, George Engelbach – yes, Ben Gorden – yes, Dan Greeson – yes, Mike Kelley – yes. Motion carried unanimously (8-0).

Introductions were made around the room. Quorum established by roll call. No revisions to the agenda.

The minutes from the 2-17-2016 meeting and the 5-26-2016 conference call were reviewed. A motion was made by Dan Greeson to approve both sets of the minutes, Beverly Dometrorch seconded. Motion carried unanimously (8-0).

Henry Heinze distributed a treasurer report for the accounts he manages, a report for the accounts in Jefferson City was included in the meeting packets. Ryan Britt stated all of the accounts are being entered into an on-line accounting program so there will be a better accounting of total income and expenses. There will be 3 people with full access to the on-line accounting program. MDC has just submitted a revised agreement for the MDC Incentive funds for this year for another \$500,000. Ryan Britt made a motion to approve the treasurer report, Mike Kelley seconded. Motion carried unanimously (8-0).

MDC Report: Lisa Potter was not able to attend today.

NRCS Report: Curt McDaniel, Assistant State Conservationist, attended representing J.R. Flores. J.R. was not able to attend, he was meeting in St. Louis with the Associate Chief. Curt did say that J. R. wanted him to offer his thanks for the support MASWCD and the districts have offered to NRCS this year. Curt said they are still getting landowners to sign up for Client Gateway. The offices tried to do some conservation planning for EQIP this year prior to the obligations which has made the process a little slower but better. He stated there was a much better job of publicizing the Local Working Group meetings this year. There were 2 urban grants awarded to Missouri for Greene and Boone counties. Beverly Dometrorch asked about RC&D's status. The State Technical Committee was attended by 72 people this year which was up slightly from last year. The notices for the meeting were sent by email and Gov-delivery instead of regular mail. Ben Gorden discussed some staffing challenges they were experiencing. Curt McDaniel said the next round of the 12 joint FOSA technicians is in process.

Commission Report: - Bill Wilson and Jim Boschert attended for the Program Office. Bill Wilson stated the next Commission Meeting will be August 17th at 9am at the Lowell Mohler Assembly Hall at the State Fair. He said they had received a request to add small ruminants to the animal waste cost-share and now those are in with the beef waste management practice. Bill stated \$33.4 million of cost share was claimed in FY-16 for 7252 contracts. He said this was the second best year, only the drought assistance cost-share claimed more. There is \$40 million for this year's cost-share appropriation and a \$3 million expansion in the grants for districts. The first cost-share supplemental starts this month. Bill said that he, Colleen Meredith, Kenny Lovelace, Ryan Britt and Peggy Lemons met to discuss the Training Conference expenses for supervisors. It has been decided that the Program Office will work to set up direct payment to MASWCD for the registration and meals for the supervisors and will work with Tan-Tar-A to set up a direct bill for the hotel rooms for 2 nights for the supervisors. It was discussed that some supervisors might need 3 nights, which will need to be discussed further. They have hired a new coordinator that will start next week. Jim Boschert reported that the 2% salary increase started in July for districts employees and that it was applied to the progression line, not actually given to each employee so not all employees received the 2% increase.

Employee Association Report: Matt Blansett is the new Employees Association president. He reported they have 214 of the 272 employees as members representing 89 of the 114 counties. They also have 108 associate members. He stated he did not have any major issues to report or discuss other than what has already been discussed. Their next meeting will be next week, August 8.

Kelly Smith, Farm Bureau, talked about the sales tax renewal and the Citizens Committee. He stated part of the Citizens Committee will be meeting the following day to fine tune the approach for the tax renewal which will be on the November ballot. They have a goal of \$100,000 half from the parks side and half from the agriculture side. The donations from those representing agriculture groups have reached their half of the goal. There is also substantial in-kind contribution especially from Farm Bureau. The plan for the funding is 30% to be used for literature and yard signs. Yard signs will cost approximately \$1.69 each and should be available by the first part of September. 30-40% will be spent on a radio ad campaign, 10-20% on newspaper ads and 10% on polling. The last poll was 70% positive. Social media is also being worked on. He said there is a lot of editorial work planned especially for urban areas. They are also working on message talking points. The Ethics Commission requires Farm Bureau to keep track of the time they spend talking and promoting the sales tax. He said they are not aware of any organized opposition yet. The renewal will be Amendment #1 on the November ballot. There may be some opposition come from those opposed to the new biking trail for the parks. The supply of Soils brochures that were printed earlier this year is almost gone. A motion was made by Mike Kelley to print another 50,000 of the brochures, Dan Greeson seconded. The motion carried unanimously (8-0). Dan Greeson made a motion to contribute another \$1,000 to the campaign. Bruce Biermann seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously (8-0).

Committee Reports: Budget—Ryan Britt said he had already mentioned about the on-line accounting which should get all of the funds into one program. The names have been updated on all accounts now.

Resolutions Committee reported that 6 resolutions had been received and none needed to be combined due to being for the same issue. After discussion Livingston withdrew their resolution and will bring it from the floor.

Old Business: The 2016 Area Meetings were briefly reviewed. There were issues with elections at several of the meetings due to no nominees, no quorum, tie vote or an error in determining quorum at one meeting. During the Closed Session discussion earlier today the Board decided that the email balloting may not have been the proper way to handle the elections where there were issues. Due to the bylaws interpretation, the MASWCD Board felt they should vote on the Area Directors for Areas 1, 5, and 7. Area Director for Area 6 needs to be appointed by the Board according to the Bylaws.

Area 1 – Election at the Area Meeting resulted in a tie. Ballots were emailed to all of the Districts in Area 1 with the results of Ron Willis being elected. Bruce Biermann indicated he did plan to resign at the end of his term at the Training Conference this year. A vote of the MASWCD Board resulted in Ron Willis being elected as Area 1 Director.

Area 5 – There was no election at the Area Meeting due to an error in determining a quorum at the meeting. Ballots were emailed to the Districts that had attended the Area Meeting resulting in Derrick Cope being elected as Area Director with Alternates being 1st – Richard Hoelscher, 2nd Charlie Stieffermann, and 3rd Luke Stevens. Due to the bylaws interpretation, a vote of the MASWD Board resulted in George Engelbach being elected as Area 5 Director with Alternates being 1st – Richard Hoelscher, 2nd Charlie Stieffermann, and 3rd Luke Stevens.

Area 6 – Since there were no nominees, the bylaws require the MASWCD Board to appoint an Area Director and Alternates. A motion was made by Ben Gorden to appoint Kathryn

Braden as Area Director, Leon Phipps as 1st Alternate and Sam Schaumann as 2nd Alternate. Ryan Britt seconded. Motion carried unanimously (8-0). Ryan Britt then made a motion to appoint Ben Gorden as a 3rd alternate. Dan Greeson seconded the motion, motion carried (7-0) with Ben abstaining from the vote.

Area 7 – There was no quorum and no official nominees so according to the MASWCD Bylaws, the Board should appoint an Area Director. Since the Area Meeting 2 people have expressed interest – current Area Director Dan Greeson and David Hutsell of Wright SWCD. The Board felt a vote would be in order to decide between the 2 potential Directors. The first and second votes resulted in a tie, the 3rd vote resulted in Dan Greeson being elected with David Hutsell being 1st Alternate.

New Business: The plans for the Training Conference were discussed. The issue of the registration fee being different for supervisors and employees was questioned by DNR. Following discussion a motion was made by Ryan Britt to make the registration fee \$100 for everyone attending and to also make it an all-inclusive registration fee that includes all the conference meals but allow guests to still choose which meals they wish to purchase. That will put the pre-registration fee at \$220 and on-site registration fee at \$245. Beverly Dometrorch seconded the motion, motion carried unanimously (8-0). Bill Wilson had already explained the way DNR will handle the costs for the supervisors for registration, meals and hotel at the conference. The workshops are pretty well settled, DNR is still finalizing the ones they are working on. The award nominations received will be handled by a committee to select the winners. Last year was the first year for the mobile app to be used for the conference. There are other expanded uses available within the mobile app such as loading the documents normally included in the registration bags onto the mobile app so conference participants can bring them up on their phone or tablet. A motion was made by Ryan Britt to reduce the paper in the registration bags as much as possible by using the mobile app and have 100 copies printed to have available for those who do not have a phone capable of using the mobile app, etc. Beverly Dometrorch seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously (8-0). There were some complaints of the seams splitting on the bags for last year's conference. After discussion a motion was made by Ryan Britt to spend up to \$2,000 on the bags and also seek a sponsor for the bags. Dan Greeson seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously (8-0).

Kenny Lovelace and Beverly Dometrorch attended the NACD Summer Meeting in Minneapolis in July. They both felt it was a good meeting. NRCS Chief Weller was one of the speakers at the meeting.

AREA Reports: Due to time the Area Reports were skipped.

Correspondence: There was no correspondence

Other Business: Peggy Lemons reported on the 2016 National Envirothon in Ontario July 24-29. The team representing Missouri was from Pembroke Hill High School in Kansas City, all freshmen students and a new advisor for the team. There were 52 teams there including a team from China. The Missouri team received an award for the highest score in soils with a score of 94.5 out of possible 100. They also received 4th place overall. Pretty impressive for a team of 9th graders.

Beverly Dometrorch reported that the Willis family from Howard County that was the grassland award winner a couple of years ago, also owns land in Kansas as well as Missouri. They recently received the Leopold Award in Kansas.

Kenny Lovelace decided to wait until after the reorganization of the new board at the Training Conference for Committee appointments.

The next meeting date will be Sunday, November 27th at 6:00 pm at Tan-Tar-A, Room 60-61.

Motion for adjournment was made by George Engelbach, seconded by Dan Greeson. Motion carried unanimously (8-0). The meeting was adjourned at 4:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Peggy Lemons, Executive Director

Kenny Lovelace, President