



Missouri Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts

MASWCD MINUTES
Regular Meeting
USDA Service Center
Jefferson City, Missouri
August 22, 2017

President

RYAN BRITT
11764 Hwy 3
Clifton Hill, MO 65244
(660) 676-4898
ryan.britt@farms@gmail.com

1st Vice President

RON WILLIS
23127 Hwy 48
King City, MO 64463
(816) 383-3875
ronandnancywillis@gmail.com

2nd Vice-President

BEVERLY DOMETRORCH
NACD Alternate
2670 Highway 240
Fayette, MO 65248
(660) 248-2645
(673) 864-5697

3rd Vice-President

DAVID MORRIS
3454 Highway A
Chillicothe, MO 64601
(660) 646-9397
davidm@grm.net

AREA DIRECTORS

Area I

RON WILLIS
23127 Hwy 48
King City, MO 64463
(816) 383-3875
ronandnancywillis@gmail.com

Area II

DAVID MORRIS
3454 Highway A
Chillicothe, MO 64601
(660) 646-9397
davidm@grm.net

Area III

HENRY HEINZE
Treasurer
RR 1 Box 76
Williamstown, MO 63473
(660) 988-3901
hjh@marktwain.net

Area IV

BEVERLY DOMETRORCH
NACD Alternate
2670 Highway 240
Fayette, MO 65248
(660) 248-2645
(573) 864-5697

Area V

DERRICK COPE
1288 Hwy DD
Bellflower, MO 63333
(573) 257-0209
dcfarms23@gmail.com

Area VI

KATHRYN BRADEN
4210 Blair Road
Bradleyville, MO 65614
(417) 335-0671
SWMOKATHRYN@aol.com

Area VII

DAN GREESON
29 Pin Oak Road
Eldon, MO 65026
(573) 392-3208
dangreeseon@sbcglobal.net

Area VIII

KENNY SPOOLER
1788 Co Rd 347
Jackson, MO 63755
(573) 270-4145
lawbuf@aol.com

Executive Director

PEGGY LEMONS
1209 Biscayne Drive
Jefferson City, MO 65109
(573) 893-5188 or (573) 353-1417
peggy@maswcd.net

Past President

KENNY LOVELACE
NACD Board Member
2605 County Road 325
Palmyra, MO 63461
(573) 822-2545
kenny@centurytel.net

Present

Ryan Britt, President
Kenny Lovelace, Past President
Ron Willis, Area I
David Morris, Area II
Beverly Dometrorch, Area IV
Charlie Stieferman, Area V Alt
Kathryn Braden, Area VI
Dan Greeson, Area VII
Kenny Spooler, Area VIII
Peggy Lemons, Executive Director

J. R. Flores, NRCS State Conservationist
Karen Brinkman, NRCS Partnerships & Initiatives
Colleen Meredith, DNR Soil & Water
Jim Boschert, DNR Soil & Water Program
Brent Vandeloecht, MDC Private Lands
Matt Blansett, Employees Association
Kelly Smith, Farm Bureau
Steve Radcliff, Livingston SWCD

Not Present

Henry Heinze, Area III/Treasurer
Derrick Cope, Area V

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

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

The minutes from the 6-13-2017 meeting were reviewed. Name correction for Elizabeth Althoff was identified. Dan Greeson made a motion to approve the minutes with the correction. Kathryn Braden seconded. Motion carried unanimously (7-0).

Henry Heinze was not able to attend but he did provide a list of districts that have paid MASWCD dues for 2017. Printouts for the accounts in Jefferson City were reviewed. Henry did state that the bank balance is quite a bit more than the same time last year. Beverly Dometrorch made a motion to accept the treasurer report and file it for audit. Ron Willis seconded. Motion carried unanimously (7-0).

MDC Report: Brent Vandeloecht stated that MDC continues to work with MASWCD on the CRP and Monarch incentives. He stated that HB19 has held up some of their budget this year which will affect the incentive funding.

The bill appropriates funding for capital improvements which affects MDC's plans for their facilities improvements. He said they are actively hiring for the feral hog positions. MDC has one of the approved RCPP projects approved this year on grazing lands. There are currently about 127 elk plus the calves for this year on Peck Ranch. When asked about the reason seniors need to purchase trout stamps but don't need to purchase fishing license he responded that the trout stamps are federal, not controlled by the state.

NRCS Report: J. R. Flores, State conservationist, stated he was on a tour last month with some of the state directors. They enjoyed seeing farms and hearing about their experience with both state and federal cost-share. Missouri is about 99% complete with EQIP obligations this year for approximately \$30.5 million. The sign-up deadline for FY-2018 EQIP is November 17, 2017. J. R. stated they are trying to expand the technical capacity in the state by working with other partners. There are currently 134 existing positions throughout Missouri due to these partners and they are hoping to expand that number to 145. He stated he appreciated the input that was provided at the State Technical Committee meeting recently. They are working on getting the District Conservationists approved to attend the Training Conference. Vehicles may need to be reduced this year, he is working with DNR to try to help address the reduction of vehicles. The Senate version of the federal budget includes less funding for EQIP. When asked more about the vehicles, Jim Boschert explained that DNR is looking at allowing vehicle expenses from the Administrative funds.

Commission Report: Jim Boschert reported the Commission met last week and made the decision to increase the supplemental cost-share for Sheet Rill & Gully Erosion to \$100,000 each time starting with September and look at this again at their November meeting. The Commission also made the decision that on Cover Crop appeals the Program Staff could approve them if the board agrees with the appeal. If the board does not agree, then the appeal will go to the Commission for consideration. The next Commission meeting will be early October. Every FOSA now has a shared FOSA technician position. They are developing a check-out sheet for the Cover Crop practice to help cut down on issues with the paperwork and approvals. The total attendance at the recent Area Meetings was 345 – 76 Board members, 185 employees, 53 NRCS and 31 others, with only 17 districts having no representation attending. Copies of the Area Meeting sign-in sheets were given to the Area Directors.

Employees Association: Matt Blansett stated their last meeting was June 28. They discussed the Training Conference, cover crops, and certified conservation planner. He said they have concerns about that being part of the pay scale since it could be a moving target with the criteria changing. They also question why the cover crop practice does not use the NRCS standards. They have 152 paid dues members and 80 associate members as of June 28.

Farm Bureau: Kelly Smith stated that Farm Bureau and the Department of Ag contracted with Decision Innovative Solutions to do a study of land use in Missouri comparing 3 periods – 2007-2012, 2012-2016 and 2007-2016. Hopefully the study will be completed by mid-October. He stated that broadband is a high priority right now, they are working with the Governor's office and Extension to make this a priority. They continue to work on the Farm Bill. Farm Bureau looks at it from a 360 degree view to represent all producers. Transportation still needs to be addressed. The highway department has dipped into their reserves to maintain roads. It is turning into a rural vs urban issue. Missouri has the 7th largest mileage of roads in the nation.

Committee Reports:

Budget — Kenny Spooler said they plan to meet at the Training Conference.

Bylaws — Ron Willis said the proposed Bylaws changes are ready to be sent to the districts for their action on them at the Training Conference.

Strategic Plan – Kenny Lovelace said they plan to meet at the Training Conference. He said he has information from Illinois on their strategic plan.

Old Business: Ryan Britt stated he felt there was good discussion on LAGERS at the Area Meetings and has received positive feedback. The districts appear supportive, they all want to see figures. Some districts have volunteered to do one of the early actuarial studies. Ron Willis made a motion to proceed with the legislative action to make districts eligible for LAGERS. Dan Greeson seconded. Motion carried unanimously (7-0). The legislation change will be in the general statutes of the state in Chapter 70, not in the LAGERS state statutes or the soil and water state statutes.

The Board reviewed the recent Area Meetings. They all felt the attendance was good and the locations worked well.

New Business: The grant through NRCS for the Contractor workshops has been finalized. Information will be sent to the districts about getting these set up.

The 2017 Training Conference draft agenda was reviewed. A general session was added on Monday to report on the actuarial studies of LAGERS for Districts to get an idea of what the 7% retirement funding will cover. A list of workshops was reviewed. Several of the workshop speakers have been confirmed. The resolution slate will be sent out to the Districts by September 1 which will include the proposed Bylaws changes. Door prizes and auction items were discussed. A motion was made by Ron Willis to get a Henry .22 rifle for the main door prize since we are no longer giving the clock. Kenny Spooler seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously (7-0). The Board also discussed the Draw Down. They decided to try it 1 more year. The conference bags for this year will be cooler bags. The motion to approve the purchase of these bags was made by David Morris, seconded by Kathryn Braden. Motion carried unanimously (7-0). The award nominations were reviewed and winners selected. Ryan Britt appointed an Awards Committee with Beverly Dometrorch as chair. Kathryn Braden made a motion to approve this committee, Dan Greeson seconded. Motion carried unanimously (7-0). The Board requested photos of conservation practices again this year to show during the conference.

AREA Reports: Area 1 – Ron Willis reported they have had rain but everything looks good.

Area 2 – David Morris stated his area had experiences some flooding, the crops look fair and he has not heard any complaints from the districts in his area.

Area 3 – Kenny Lovelace reported for Henry Heinze. They have had some rain. He said he went on a tour near Novelty to look at new ways to control the nitrate run-off from terrace fields. Ryan Britt said one district in the area is concerned about bat habitat and its effect on cost share eligibility and construction.

Area 4 – Beverly Dometrorch stated parts of her area are dry and other parts are on their 3rd planting of beans. She said her districts have indicated they appreciated the heads up on the cost-share supplemental.

Area 5 – No report.

Area 6 – Kathryn Braden said they have had very spotted rain throughout her area. She attended the employees meeting for Area 6 and hopefully can increase the number of districts in her area that pay their dues.

Area 7 – Dan Greeson stated they have had rain every 4 to 5 days, everything looks real good. He said he has not heard any complaints.

Area 8 – Kenny Spooler said there is quite a diversification of hills and flatland in his area. Everyone appears to have been getting plenty of rain. The eclipse was a big deal in his area due to being in the path of totality.

Correspondence: Ryan Britt presented a request from Sandy Stratman for support to attend the NACD Annual Meeting in Nashville. He said MASWCD has supported part of her travel for the past several years starting when she was President of the Employees Association. She works in the live auction for NACD and they waive her registration fee for that. Ron Willis made a motion to approve up to \$2000 for Sandy to attend the NACD meeting. Beverly Dometrorch seconded. Motion carried unanimously (7-0). Dan Greeson indicated he might attend, but he will only need registration though because of having family in Nashville. Kenny Lovelace made a motion to approve paying the registration for Dan, Kathryn Braden seconded. Motion carried unanimously (7-0). Ron Willis indicated he might attend if the Soil Health Champions are doing something during the meeting.

Other Business: The auction item for the NACD live auction was also discussed. Ron Willis made a motion to purchase 2 Henry 22 rifles, one for the MASWCD auction and one for the NACD auction. Beverly Dometrorch seconded. Motion carried unanimously (7-0).

Ryan Britt stated he had discussed with some of the Board the idea of getting shirts with the MASWCD logo on them. During the discussion it was decided to order green and tan shirts, polo and long sleeve button front, and that they would each pay for their shirts their self.

The next meeting date will be Sunday, November 26 at 6:00 pm at Tan-Tar-A Resort, Room 60/61. Motion for adjournment was made by Dan Greeson, seconded by Kenny Lovelace. Motion carried unanimously (7-0). The meeting was adjourned at 4:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Peggy Lemons, Executive Director

Ryan Britt, President