



Missouri Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts

**MASWCD MINUTES  
Regular Meeting  
USDA Service Center  
Jefferson City, Missouri  
September 11, 2013**

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**Area VIII**  
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**Present**

Kenny Lovelace, President  
Bruce Biermann, Area I  
Tom Lambert, 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

J. R. Flores, NRCS State Conservationist  
Colleen Meredith, DNR Soil & Water  
Bill Wilson, DNR Soil & Water Program  
Clint Dalbom, MDC  
Sandy Stratman, Employees Association  
Kelly Smith, MO Farm Bureau  
Richard Hoelscher, Area V Alternate  
Kathryn Braden, Taney County SWCD  
Jennifer Lewis, St. Louis County SWCD

**Not Present**

Steve Radcliff, Past President

President Kenny Lovelace 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 6-26-2013 meeting were approved with 2 grammatical changes to pages 2 and 3 (line 5 in the Commission report on page 2 correct the word She and line 2 in the Employee Association report on page 3 and the word said). Motion for approval with the minor corrections made by Tom Lambert, Bruce Biermann seconded. Motion carried unanimously (8-0).

A treasurer report was given by Henry Heinze. Henry reported he opened 2 CD's both maturing in March 2014. One CD is at .75% and the other at 1%. He will send the report on dues payments to the Area Directors that request it. Mike Kelley motioned to approve the treasurer report. Bruce Biermann seconded. Motion carried unanimously (8-0). A report was also included on the funds in the accounts in Jefferson City showing income and expenses for the year.

**MDC Report:** Clint Dalbom reported Bill White is the new Private Lands Section Division Chief. They will now be working to fill the position Bill had prior to his promotion. Most of the cost-share funding is obligated out. There are just under 50 Private Lands Conservationists across the state now. MDC is working with NRCS and the University of Missouri on soil health promotion. Clint responded to questions from the Board on chronic wasting disease, emerald ash borer, and MDC involvement in the Missouri Waters Initiative.

**NRCS Report:** J.R. Flores stated he attended all of the Area Meetings this year. He said the field offices are all busy getting conservation on the land. He stated he had received several comments from the State Technical Committee meeting and from those who could not attend the meeting. The House still has not named the conferees for the Farm Bill which leaves things up in the air for fiscal year 2014 and the Farm Bill. There will be a cover crop workshop at the Plant Materials Center in Elsberry on November 7<sup>th</sup>. Each of the areas will be getting a rainfall simulator that will be available for offices to check out and use for education activities. J. R. stated the NRCS Chief Jason Weller is still tentatively scheduled for the Training Conference.

**Commission Report:** Colleen Meredith reported that the attendance at the Area Meetings was good. She thanked everyone for their assistance with the meetings. The state employee pay increase was part of the restricted funds by the Governor so it may or may not happen. If the state employees get the pay increase, so will the district employees. She reported there will be 2 health insurance plans available to the districts for 2014 the PPO-600 and the PPO-1000. The state employees will have a health savings plan available to them but it will not be available to districts in 2014. DNR could only select 2 plans to be made available to the districts. The premiums will be a \$41 co-payment for either plan to be paid by the employee. The supplemental cost-share allocation will be determined by the cost-share obligations and pending amounts on October 15<sup>th</sup>. 70% is the level they are looking for. The December 13<sup>th</sup> supplemental will be determined by those that have 80% obligated funds. The district employees' calendars in Outlook will have some deadlines automatically entered for them in an effort to help them remember the deadlines. The next Commission Meeting will be October 30<sup>th</sup> at the Lincoln University south campus near the football stadium in Jefferson City. Commissioners Fordyce and Gaw were recently re-appointed. The Commissioners are actively working to get the vacancy on the Commission filled. In response to questions about the Our Missouri Waters Initiative, Ms. Meredith stated that the department does want the districts to be involved in the meetings, tours and field days set up by this initiative.

**Employee Association Report:** Sandy Stratman reported she enjoyed going around to the Area Meetings. She said there are 5 new Area Representatives and their next meeting will be September 24<sup>th</sup> in Jefferson City at the Farm Bureau headquarters. The new Area Reps will take effect after the Training Conference. The training at their meeting on the 24<sup>th</sup> will be on disaster plans. Kenny Lovelace read a letter he had received from Sandy about assistance for her travel costs to attend the NACD National meeting in Anaheim, California. A motion was made by George Engelbach, seconded by Mike Kelley to approve \$2,000.00 toward her travel costs. Motion carried unanimously.

**Old Business:** Peggy Lemons reported on the MDC Incentive Program funds. There have been approximately 150 applications received to date with about \$65,000 of the original

funding still available for obligation. The agreement is being revised and will include another allocation of funding for 2014

The Board gave a review of how their felt the Area Meetings went. Most agreed there was positive feedback. Beverly Dometorch reported she had received several comments about wanting a hot meal instead of sandwiches, however her meeting was an evening meeting. Some of the employees felt their part of the meeting was rushed.

Those that attended the NACD Legislative meeting in Washington, DC gave a review of the meeting. They said they appreciated J.R. Flores going on the visits to the Congress and Senate offices with them. Those attending were Kenny Lovelace, Beverly Dometorch, Ben Gorden and Ryan Britt.

Kenny Lovelace read a letter received from the Missouri Envirothon requesting support as they host the 2015 North American Envirothon in Springfield, Missouri. Peggy Lemons reported the Missouri team placed 3<sup>rd</sup> at the competition this summer in Montana and placed 1<sup>st</sup> last summer in Pennsylvania. After discussion a motion was made by Mike Kelley to donate \$15,000 in support of the 2015 competition. Beverly Dometorch seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously (8-0).

**New Business:** Dates and locations for the District FFA Speech Contests were distributed. It is the responsibility of the Area Directors to line up judges for these District contests. The winners of these District Contests then compete in the speech contest at the Training Conference.

The resolutions for the Training Conference were reviewed. Jennifer Lewis of the St. Louis County SWCD was in attendance to explain the resolution from that county and answer any questions concerning the proposed resolution. In response to the resolution from Gasconade County, Colleen Meredith stated that they plan to have a Tech II training in November and from then on 2 or 3 a year. The Board also reviewed the proposed changes to the bylaws and did some clarification in a couple of areas. A motion was made by Tom Lambert to approve the proposed changes to the bylaws and present them to the districts for approval at the Training Conference. Bruce Biermann seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously (8-0). The resolutions and proposed bylaw changes will be sent out to the districts so they have time to review them at board meetings prior to the Training Conference. The list of suggested workshops was discussed. Award nominations received were reviewed and winners selected for the Educator of the Year and the Cooperator of the Year. The motion to approve these winner selections was made by Bruce Biermann and seconded by Tom Lambert. Motion carried unanimously (8-0).

**AREA Reports:** Area 1 – Bruce Biermann said it is terribly dry in his area.

Area 2 – Tom Lambert said it is warm and dry in his area, no harvest yet.

Area 3 – Ryan said his county has just finished an audit. He said Ralls had expressed concerns about their cost-share funding. Kenny Lovelace went to their board meeting to discuss and talk about how to get where they want to be.

Area 4 – Beverly Dometorch said her area is very very dry except the southern part where they have experienced flooding. She said some of the districts in her area are concerned

about not having a certification program for the Program Specialists. Some district employees are having issues with the new computers.

Area 5 – George Engelbach said it is very dry in his area. The ponds are about as low as last year. There is a lot of hay this year, several areas have done their 4<sup>th</sup> cutting of alfalfa. There have been some water issues in the eastern part of his area from the Mississippi River back water.

Area 6 – Ben Gorden said he had about 1 inches of rain the end of July and first of August, but it hasn't rained since. Bolivar is having some problems with their sewage system, they are working on a grant for a new system, but have come to the district to see how they can help. His district is going into the second year of their intern program. They already have some applications for the intern program. He stated he feels good about how the supplemental cost-share funds are distributed. There are several people now doing grazing systems after they got a well last summer. They have waiting lists on a lot of projects.

Area 7 – Dan Greeson said this year there is more hay than ever in the hills. They have had some rain and have come back pretty good from the drought. There has been some flooding in some counties where they lost crops and cattle, mostly the Maries and Gasconade River areas.

Area 8 – Mike Kelley said they had steady rains until about the first of July, but have had none since. It is starting to get pretty dry. The combines are working in the fields.

**Correspondence:** A letter received from the Grassland Evaluation Contest committee asking for support for their awards was reviewed. A motion was made by Bruce Biermann, seconded by Beverly Dometorch to approve sending \$300.00 to them. Motion carried unanimously (8-0). Beverly Dometorch also indicated she would be available to attend the contest on October 17<sup>th</sup> and help present the awards.

The letter from NACD offering a scholarship for attendance at the NACD annual meeting to a board member that had not attended before was discussed. A motion was made by Mike Kelley, seconded by Tom Lambert to send Dan Greeson to the meeting on the scholarship. The scholarship will pay part of the expense for travel and registration.

**Other Business:** The names to include in the letter of authorization for Tan-Tar-A were discussed and the letter was approved to be submitted. The Board also approved the purchase of the clock for the main door prize at the conference.

Motion for adjournment was made by George Engelbach, seconded by Beverly Dometorch. Motion carried unanimously (8-0). The meeting was adjourned at 6:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Peggy Lemons, Executive Director

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Kenny Lovelace, President