



Missouri Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts

MASWCD MINUTES
Regular Meeting
USDA Service Center
Jefferson City, Missouri
September 11, 2018

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Present

Ryan Britt, President
Kenny Lovelace, Past President
Ron Willis, Area I
David Morris, Area II
Beverly Dometrorch, Area IV
Kathryn Braden, Area VI
Kenny Spooler, Area VIII
Peggy Lemons, Executive Director

J. R. Flores, NRCS State Conservationist
Jim Boschert, DNR Soil & Water Program
Melissa White, District Employees Assn.
Sandy Stratman, Maries County SWCD
Brent Vandeloecht, MO Dept. Conservation

Not Present

Henry Heinze, Area III/Treasurer
Derrick Cope, Area V
Dan Greeson, Area VII

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

The minutes from the 6-5-18 meeting were approved as presented. Beverly Dometrorch made a motion to approve the minutes, Ron Willis seconded. Motion carried unanimously (5-0).

A copy of the financial report that shows the income and expenses for all accounts in Jefferson City for 2018 was reviewed. Henry Heinze provided a report of dues paid to date. The balance in his account is just over \$64,140. Kathryn Braden made a motion to accept the treasurer report and file it for audit. David Morris seconded. Motion carried unanimously (5-0).

MDC Report: Brent Vandeloecht stated they are moving right along on the feral hog hunts. There have been 6500 trapped this year with a lot of success around the Truman Lake area. They are located primarily south of I-44 except for the Truman Lake area. They are also asking for public comment on a potential elk season.

NRCS Report: J. R. Flores reported the field offices have been extremely busy working on EQIP with a September 14 national deadline. They have requested another week. He stated it is probably going to take a couple more months to get the 51 positions filled; these will mostly be new employees not re-assignments.

The \$2 million of drought funding through EQIP for cover crops was obligated very quickly. In August 2 new watershed reservoirs were approved for additional funding, East Locust Creek Reservoir and Little Otter Creek Reservoir both in the north central part of the state. Due to the drought landowners are allowed to cut up to 50% of wetland reserve easements for hay.

Commission Report: Commissioner Kenny Lovelace stated he appreciated MODOT's help on easing off on transportation rules for moving hay during the drought. He re-emphasized we need to plan ahead. He also stated the need for continued support of education of the students with programs like the Envirothon. Jim Boschert reported the Soil & Water Commission meeting is tomorrow, September 12 at 11:30 am and there is also a conference call scheduled on September 26 for approval of the rules changes. For FY-19 there has been \$51.4 million in cost-share funds allocated with \$25.6 of that already obligated and \$4.2 claimed. For the drought there have been 2,114 contracts for \$5.467 million with the majority being for cover crops. Jim stated that the last of the FOSA Tech vehicles should be delivered this week. The joint engineer positions have both completed interviews with offers made to start in October. There will be District Specialist training the first part of October with conservation planning training also in October. The 2019 health insurance rates have been received and the Program Office has decided the amount they will pay for either plan will be the same amount. A few districts have used the Technical Funds provided. Two of the resolutions from the MASWCD business meeting last November will be on the Commission agenda tomorrow. These are the Ozark and Lafayette SWCD resolutions. Both have been discussed by the Plan for the Future committees and their recommendation is not to make any changes. There have been 64 districts request the actuarial study for LAGERS. They are completing 10 at a time. When the next 10 are received back the decision on which plan they will fund will be made. They expect that to be before the end of September. The Area Meeting attendance was similar to last year – 349 total this year and 345 last year. Of these 64 were board members, 187 district employees and 48 NRCS employees. There were 15 districts not represented at the Area Meetings by either a board member or staff.

Farm Bureau: Kelly Smith was not able to attend.

Employees Association: Melissa White reported there are some new Area Reps this year. At their last meeting on June 19 they had training on cyber security and Conservation Desktop. They are currently busy planning the trade show for the Training Conference. This year there is a possibility of approximately 35 vendor booths due to moving the location of the Trade Show to Salon A. They made a little over \$1000 on their recent shirt sales which will go to help fund their scholarship fund. Some of the issues they are currently discussing include an increase for employees in January 2019, creating a state-wide pool for sick leave, improving the Progression Line and the district Accounting program. The current Accounting Program will not work in Windows 10 so the total release of Windows 10 to the districts has been delayed. Jim B0oschert stated if the cost is over \$75,000 then they have to do a RFP (Request for Proposals) which will take approximately a year.

Committee Reports:

Budget — No report at this time, they plan to meet at Tan-Tar-A. The Budget Committee is Kenny Spooler, Beverly Dometorch, Henry Heinze and Kathryn Braden.

Bylaws — The elections appeared to go okay with the new election rules. It was commented that the voting prior to the meeting needs to be better understood. The Bylaws Committee is Ron Willis, David Morris and Kathryn Braden.

Strategic Plan – The committee provided recommendations for the Training Conference which are being included in the plans for the 2018 conference. The Strategic Plan Committee is Kenny Lovelace, Sandy Stratman and Andrea McKeown.

Old Business: Ryan Britt gave an update on LAGERS. The actuary studies are being submitted in groups of 10 with the first group already received and the second group should be back next week. The Program Office plans to make a decision on the plan level they will provide funding for by the end of September.

The information on the attendance at the Area Meetings was already provided in the Commission report. The attendance was similar to last year. Elections results this year are: Area 1—Ron Willis, Area 2—David Morris, Area 3—Scot Shively, Area 4—Beverly Dometrorch, Area 5—Mike Haeffner, Area 6—Kathryn Braden, Area 7—Dan Greeson, Area 8—Kenny Spooler.

New Business: The Board reviewed the draft agenda for the 2018 Training Conference. Mike Brown, NASCA Executive Director has agreed to be the Opening Session speaker. Several workshop topics have been suggested. The registration amount will remain the same as last year which will be \$100 plus the meal costs for a total of \$200. This is slightly less than last year due to no Monday evening meal. The resolutions for the business meeting were reviewed. Ron Willis made a motion to approve the slate of resolutions. Kathryn Braden seconded. Motion carried unanimously (5-0). The potential tours were discussed and the board decided to only offer the tour of the dam this year. Ron Willis made a motion to charge \$5 per person, Kenny Spooler seconded. During discussion the motion was amended to say the price will be either \$5 per person or \$10 per person depending on how many buses are necessary. Amendment approved (5-0). Amended motion carried unanimously (5-0).

Award nominations were reviewed. Next year the Grassland Farmer award will be dropped and replaced with the Hugh Hammond Bennet soil health award. The drawing for supervisors attending for the first time will be continued. Door prizes were discussed. Beverly Dometrorch made a motion to purchase the Henry rifles again this year for the main door prize at the Training Conference and the live auction item for the NACD auction. Ron Willis seconded. Motion carried unanimously (5-0). David Morris will work on arrangements for the purchase of these rifles. The Board then discussed the bags for the conference. After reviewing several different ones they decided on the insulated grocery tote. The motion for the bags was made by Kenny Spooler, seconded by Ron Willis. Motion carried unanimously (5-0). The years of service pins will be presented again this year with a motion made by Beverly Dometrorch to order new pins if needed. Kathryn Braden seconded. Motion carried unanimously (5-0).

Ryan Britt suggested some items he recently saw at the NACD Board meeting such as shirt sales and name tag fun ribbons. He stated there is also some You Tube videos NACD has made that would be good to run during the Trade Show. They also had soil health wrist bands in their conference bags. The employees association just sold t-shirts so maybe next year on shirt sales. A motion was made by Beverly Dometrorch, seconded by David Morris to purchase wrist bands for the conference bags and \$100 worth of the name tag fun ribbons and let the Envirothon sell them and use the funds toward their scholarship. Motion carried unanimously (5-0).

The NACD Annual Meeting will be in San Antonio the first week of February 2019. Kenny Lovelace made a motion to submit Kathryn Braden for the scholarship to attend since she did not get to use the scholarship to attend the meeting in Denver. Kenny Spooler seconded. Motion carried (4-0) with Kathryn abstaining from the vote. Ron Willis made a motion to approve expenses for the NACD Board member and alternate, and Executive Director to attend. David Morris seconded. Motion carried unanimously (5-0). Sandy Stratman submitted a request for support to attend the NACD meeting in San Antonio. The Board has support her attendance in the past. She works at the NACD auction and for that her registration is covered. She requested approximately \$2,000 for travel and hotel expenses. Kenny Spooler made a motion to approve Sandy's request up to \$2,000. Ron Willis seconded. Motion carried unanimously (5-0).

AREA Reports: Area 1 – Ron Willis said they have had very little rain through the summer and appreciate what they got recently.

Area 2 – David Morris said his area is same as Area 1.

Area 3 – Kenny Lovelace reported for Henry Heinze. He stated some areas have had more rain than others but the rain has been very spotty. The beans look pretty good in places.

Area 4 – Beverly Dometorch reported SueAnn Wright is the new Kansas City Envirothon Region chair. SueAnn previously was the advisor for teams from Pembroke Hill High School. The districts in her area have been very busy with the drought; the rain has been very spotty.

Area 5 – No report

Area 6 – Kathryn Braden stated she was invited to a Newton/McDonald meeting, and is looking forward to meeting with more of her districts. She feels the new Alternate for her area will be very good.

Area 7 – No report

Area 8 – Kenny Spooler said they have had plenty of rain, they have plenty of hay.

Correspondence: A request was received from the State Grassland committee asking for support for their awards again this year. Beverly Dometorch made a motion to provide \$250 to them this year. Kathryn Braden seconded. Motion carried unanimously (5-0). There was also a request from Dan Downing of the University of Missouri for a letter of support for an EPA proposal he is submitting about Farmer to Farmer Cooperative Agreements. Ron Willis made a motion to approve providing a letter of support. Kathryn Braden seconded. Motion carried unanimously (5-0).

Other Business: The dates for the 2019 Education Seminar were discussed. The preferred dates would be February 26/27, March 5/6 or March 12/13. The information for the district FFA speech contests has not yet been received but will be sent to the Area Directors as soon as it is received so they can line up their judges.

The next meeting date will be November 25 at 6:00 pm at Tan-Tar-A Resort. Motion for adjournment was made by Beverly Dometorch, seconded by Kenny Spooler. Motion carried unanimously (5-0). The meeting was adjourned at 5:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Peggy Lemons, Executive Director

Ryan Britt, President