



Missouri Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts

**MASWCD MINUTES**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**USDA Service Center**  
**Jefferson City, Missouri**  
**September 16, 2015**

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**Present**

Kenny Lovelace, President  
Steve Radcliff, Past President  
Bruce Biermann, Area I  
David Morris, Area II  
Beverly Dometrorch, Area IV  
Richard Hoelscher, Area V Alternate  
Ben Gorden, Area VI  
Dan Greeson, Area VII  
Mike Kelley, Area VIII  
Henry Heinze, Treasurer  
Peggy Lemons, Executive Director

Dwaine Gelnar, NRCS  
Colleen Meredith DNR SWCP Director  
Bill Wilson, DNR Soil & Water Program  
Sandy Stratman, Employees Assn. Pres.  
David Hale, Area VI Alternate

**Not Present**

Ryan Britt, Area III  
George Engelbach, Area V

President Kenny Lovelace welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m. Quorum established by roll call. No revisions to the agenda. He read a Thank You he received from the 2015 National Envirothon committee.

The minutes from the 3-17-2015 meeting were approved as printed and presented. Motion for approval made by Bruce Biermann, Mike Kelley seconded. Motion carried unanimously (7-0).

A treasurer report was presented for Henry Heinze. An update on the MDC Incentive funding was also given. A new agreement is being worked on that will add another \$500,000. There is currently a waiting list for \$300,000 of those funds. Henry also distributed a list of those districts that have paid MASWCD dues this year. Bruce Biermann made a motion to approve the treasurer report, Steve Radcliff seconded. Motion carried unanimously (7-0).

**MDC Report:** No one from MDC was able to attend.

**NRCS Report:** Dwaine Gelnar attended for J. R. who is on vacation out of state. In 2015 EQIP dollars were \$25 million which was up about \$4 million from previous years. More funding is now going to national initiatives. Based on the budgetary talks they are expecting about \$4 million less for 2016 which puts it back at the level of previous years. If sequestration kicks in it will affect CTA (conservation technical assistance). RCPP had 6 projects approved in 2015, for 2016 there were 8 proposals with 2 of those invited to submit a full proposal. One of those proposals is from MO Department of Agriculture and one from Atchison-Worth-Nodaway counties. CSP funding is going down, this year there was \$1.6 million which was down from previous years and will most likely continue to decline. MDC is starting a new program (Voluntary Public Access) program which provides private landowners initiatives to make their land available for public access. Toolkit 8 appears to be going smoother, they expect to have everyone trained soon. The Obama administration recently released a national strategy initiative for pollinators. The federal programs will be focusing a lot more on pollinator habitat. The northern long-eared bat has been listed as a threatened species, the entire state of Missouri is affected by this. The no-cut period has been extended until the end of October. There are 11 MRBI proposals for next year covering the northern part of the state and going down the Mississippi River. Only 1 CIG grant was approved which is for a multi-state project that covers the southeast part of the state. There are 2 state CIG projects, both from the University of Missouri. The WRP (wetland reserve program) is now the ACEP (Agricultural Conservation Easement Program). There are plans for a couple of CRP sign-ups, one is going on now and another possibly in January. Dwaine said they hope to expand the number of shared technical positions in the state, which currently has 12 positions. He also said that they are going to have to continue to use the new terrace design tool which means a longer draw down time. He said landowners and contractors may need to look at larger pipe to help the draw down time, but this also increases the cost.

**Commission Report:** Colleen Meredith reported a new Commissioner has been appointed to replace Tom Bradley. His name is Tim Martin from the southeast part of the state. He should be at the October Commission meeting which will be held at Mark Twain Lake. Many people have names submitted for the vacant positions, just has been no action from the Governor's office on them. Rob Kallenbach will be replacing Dave Baker from University of Missouri Extension on the Commission. Colleen expressed her gratitude to the Area Directors for their help in the recent Area Meetings. There are 2 new DNR coordinators, Tammy Cody a former district employee from Adair County and Jake Wilson from Lincoln University. She stated the cover crops have gone wild. This was a perfect year for the Commission to open up the cover crop practice. There have already been 4500 contracts this year. A few districts have missed the supplemental allocation for one reason or another. In order to get the supplemental, the contracts have to be board approved. The only cap right now is a maximum of \$500,000. Colleen said the more we can put on the ground the better. Overall there has been \$33 million allocated for cost-share. 43 districts were approved for the supplemental in August and 38 in September. The resource concern with the largest amount of supplemental is sheet, rill & gully erosion. Of the \$33 million allocated, \$16 million has been obligated to landowners and approximately \$2.2 million already paid. She discussed the Area Meetings with the Board, if DNR pays for the meal at the Area Meetings it has to continue the current way. MASWCD could provide the meal and there would be fewer restrictions. Options were discussed and further information will be gathered before a decision is made. The Progression Line for district employees was discussed, how it will work and the testing and conservation modules required. Most of the conservation modules (1-8) will mostly be refresher information for current employees that have been with

a district for several years. There are plans to have some of the testing offered at the Training Conference.

**Employee Association Report:** Sandy Stratman stated that there are 275 employees currently on the roster and 199 have paid employee association dues. This is down from what has been in the past. There are currently 108 associate members which is up a little from the past. Each of the areas plans to have a meeting or training this year. They are having a raffle for a fund raiser at the Training Conference. They plan to raffle a 9mm handgun. Raffle tickets cannot be sold in the district offices.

**Committee Reports:** Budget Committee - Ryan was not able to attend. Peggy reported that the agreement with the credit card merchant company has been canceled. This was costing \$35 per month just to be able to offer the service plus the percentage charged for items purchased. Conference registration will still be able to be paid by credit card through a different process through PayPal which has no monthly fee for offering the service. They also offer a card reader that can be used with a smart phone or tablet to accept payments on site as well.

Beverly reported the Policy/Resolution Committee is on hold as they felt they should coordinate with the budget committee. They plan to meet at the Training Conference.

**Old Business:** Peggy Lemons gave a brief review of the 2015 National Envirothon and thanked all the Board for their involvement.

The 2015 Area Meetings were discussed. Each of the Directors commented on their Area Meeting, consensus is that this format was more informative which is what everyone is wanting. They were some requests that hand-outs be provided, especially when items on the screen are difficult to read. There were several comments on the meal again this year. As mentioned earlier, options are being looked into to improve on the meal at these meetings. The Area Meetings for 2016 were discussed along with the need to hold them earlier in the year due to the sales tax renewal vote in 2016. The Citizens Committee held its first official meeting at the end of August and indicated they want to do a survey to help them see how to focus their efforts. Their next meeting will probably be late November. After discussion a motion was made by Bruce Biermann to hold the Area Meetings the week of March 28<sup>th</sup> in 2016. Mike Kelley seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously (7-0).

**New Business:** Kenny Lovelace reported there is a new program through Missouri Department of Agriculture called Agriculture Stewardship Assurance Program. Landowners that sign up for the program will receive signs to put at their farm indicating their participation in the program.

Information was distributed to the Area Directors on the times and locations for the District FFA speech contests. The Area Directors need to line up 3 judges for each of the District contests. The winner of each of these District contests will come to Tan-Tar-A to compete for the state speech winner. The Litton Foundation has renewed the agreement to sponsor the FFA Speech contest for the next 3 years,

The Training Conference date for 2015 will be November 30 through December 2. Several theme and logo designs were distributed for the Board to select one for this year. After review Ben Gorden made a motion to select the Building for the Future theme and logo. Beverly Dometorch seconded. Motion carried unanimously (7-0). Next they were given

several conference bags to choose from. David Morris made a motion to select the red conference bag, Ben Gorden seconded. Motion carried unanimously (7-0). Steve Radcliff stated since the bags were on close-out prices a second alternative might be useful and suggested the bag with red handles as a backup. Dan Greeson seconded Steve's motion. Motion carried unanimously (7-0). Menus for the meals at the conference were the next item for selection. After review the following menus were selected. Steve Radcliff made a motion for Fried Chicken and Ham Slices at the Monday dinner, Beverly Dometrorch seconded. Motion carried unanimously (7-0). Mike Kelley made a motion for the Lightly Breaded Chicken Breast for the Tuesday lunch, Bruce Biermann seconded. Motion carried unanimously (7-0). David Morris made a motion to have the Roast Beef and Pork Loin for the banquet, Ben Gorden seconded. Motion carried unanimously. They also discussed the issue of whether to have the reception immediately proceeding the Monday dinner again. Mike Kelley made a motion to continue with the reception again this year, Bruce Biermann seconded. Motion carried unanimously (7-0). There were no resolutions received this year, districts can still bring resolutions from the floor at the business meeting at the conference. The Board discussed award nominations and made selections for award winners. Steve Radcliff made a motion to recognize the supervisors' length of service on their boards with lapel pins starting at 10 years at increments of 5 years. Bruce Biermann seconded. Motion carried unanimously (7-0).

The speakers and entertainment for the conference were discussed. Tom Steever from Brownfield Ag News has agreed to do the Opening Session. He does not charge but an honorarium might be considered. Dan Greeson made a motion to give a \$50 gift certificate to a nice restaurant, Bruce Biermann seconded. Motion carried unanimously (7-0). The Board reviewed the conference agenda and work schedule and made a few final adjustments. They also discussed proposed workshops as well as the live auction and door prizes. A motion was made by Steve Radcliff to try a Draw Down raffle this year like NACD does at their national meeting. \$10 to buy in with 2 winners at \$250 each, but must be there to win. Bruce Biermann seconded. Motion carried unanimously (7-0).

Sandy Stratman submitted a request for assistance with the cost of attending the NACDE National Meeting. She works the live auction at the meeting and for that her registration is waived, but assistance is needed with travel costs. Mike Kelley made a motion to cover travel expenses up to \$2,000, Bruce Biermann seconded. Motion carried unanimously (7-0).

Bruce Biermann reported on his attendance at MRRIC meetings. He stated that the meeting he attended in Omaha was the most interesting he had attended yet. After several issues and heated discussions they finally approved the goal of an Adaptive Management Plan by the end of 2016. The next meeting will be in November. MASWCD has approved the process of Bruce bringing the expenses he incurred to attend the meetings to them for discussion and possible reimbursement. He has re-submitted his name for the vacant seat on the committee for the third time. He is acting as alternate to Jack Majeres representing the 8 states which the Missouri River crosses or borders. The expenses totaled \$656.80 plus mileage. After discussion Mike Kelley made a motion to pay the expenses, Dan Greeson seconded. Motion carried (6-0) with Bruce abstaining from the vote.

**AREA Reports:** Area 1 – Bruce Biermann reported harvest is beginning to start, it has been a very weird year. 27% of his county did not get planted this year. As of yesterday they had 3800 acres in cover crops contracts. Some has been flown on, some broadcast and some drilled.

Area 2 – David Morris reported harvest is starting, close to 30% in his area was not planted. Last week the cover crops really took off.

Area 3 – Kenny Lovelace reported for Ryan Britt. He stated the river bottom has been shelling corn, cover crops are keeping the staff busy. He said the hay is not good this year.

Area 4 – Beverly Dometrorch said she called all the districts in her area except for 2 where no one answered the phone every time she tried to call. They are starting to shell corn. Some districts put a cap on cover crops as they are concerned about running out of sheet, rill and gully erosion money. Districts in her area are concerned about the new proposed pay scale for district employees. Jackson County received a drastic cut in their info/ed funding and they are trying to find ways to get additional funding for their programs.

Area 5 – Richard Hoelscher reported for George Engelbach. He said it had been awful wet this summer with a lot of short beans.

Area 6 – Ben Gorden stated that everything was great in southwest Missouri. The yield for corn and beans has to be a record this year, crops are good, plenty of hay. The summer interns they had this year were really good.

Area 7 – Dan Greeson said his area had quite a bit of water early spring, his area is mostly pastureland. He suggested photos of the fields and landscape as a presentation at some of the conference meetings.

Area 8 – Mike Kelley said his area was dry in August, they have been harvesting since mid-August. Cover crops have not yet taken off. He said there has been more interest in the animal waste practice since the maximum was increased.

**Correspondence:** Kenny read correspondence from the state Women in Ag committee asking for support for their state meeting. Steve Radcliff made a motion to send \$500, Dan Greeson seconded. Motion carried unanimously (7-0). A letter from the state Grassland Committee was read asking for support for the awards for their state grassland contest. Mike Kelley made a motion to send \$300, Dan Greeson seconded. Motion carried unanimously (7-0). Beverly Dometrorch offered to attend and assist with award presentations.

**Other Business:** Kenny Lovelace reminded all the Area Directors that every area has an election in 2016 for Area Director and they need to start working on getting their nominating committee.

The next meeting will be at the Training Conference on Sunday, November 29 at 6:00 pm in Room 60/61.

Motion for adjournment was made by Mike Kelley, seconded by Bruce Biermann. Motion carried unanimously (7-0). The meeting was adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Peggy Lemons, Executive Director

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Kenny Lovelace, President

