



Missouri Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts

**MASWCD MINUTES**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**USDA Service Center**  
**Jefferson City, Missouri**  
**September 9, 2014**

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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  
Jim Boschert, DNR Soil & Water Program  
Sandy Stratman, Employees Assn. Pres.  
David Morris, Area II Alternate  
Clint Dalbom, MDC  
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. Introductions were made around the room. Quorum established by roll call. No revisions to the agenda. He relayed the expression of thanks from Steve Radcliff for the flowers for his mother.

The minutes from the 6-26-2014 meeting were approved with a minor correction on the date of the Casper, Wyoming meeting should be August 18-21. Motion for approval as amended made by Bruce Biermann, Tom Lambert seconded. Motion carried unanimously (8-0).

A treasurer report was given by Henry Heinze and Peggy Lemons. The treasurer report includes the account that Henry has and the 3 accounts in Jefferson City. Henry expressed concern about the bank balance. Following discussion on this a motion was made by Mike Kelley to withdraw \$25,000 of the administrative fee from the MDC Incentive account and deposit it in the general MASWCD account. Ryan Britt seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously (8-0). A list of the districts that have paid dues was distributed and reviewed. The letter for the 2015 dues will be sent shortly after the

Training Conference. George Engelbach asked about the plan for funds to use for the renewal of the Parks and Soils Sales Tax. The Chairs of the Citizens Committee have been identified and the committee should be getting active shortly. Last time MASWCD gave funds to the Citizens Committee from the general account as there was no Legislative Account then. This time it will most likely come from the Legislative Account. Bruce Biermann made a motion to approve the treasurer report, Ben Gorden seconded. Motion carried unanimously (8-0).

**MDC Report:** Clint Dalbom reported there have been several clinics for the fall hunting season. He said the bear study continues, they have identified about 300-320 statewide. The MDC cost-share this year is about \$1.8 million. He said there will be an annual MDC surplus auction on October 18 at Salem. The National Hunting and Fishing Day is September 27. When asked about the total receipts of MDC from their 1/8 cent sales tax Clint stated their total budget was \$160-\$180 million which includes everything, sales tax and fees, etc. George Engelbach asked about the MDC funding and mentioned he was hoping that with the NRCS cut-backs MDC could help fill the gap, especially for stream bank issues.

**NRCS Report:** J.R. Flores stated the employees have been very busy. There was a request of 270,000 acres of CSP for Missouri with 130,000 acres approved. They did receive another 61,000 acres but the contracts still need to be written. EQIP funds area about \$9 million less than the previous year. Missouri has been a top state for seasonal high tunnel contracts and had been receiving an additional \$1 million for that but the designated funding for the high tunnels was cut out this year and those contracts have to come from the general funds. J. R. stated there were 36 RCPP proposals from Missouri (second highest number behind California) and about 10 have gone on to the next phase.

J. R. stated he is trying to weigh all the comments on the FOSA reorganization and hopes to have a final decision by the end of September. The top priority is to provide assistance to landowners but to also make sure employees get paid. The federal government is downsizing and there will be some lean years. In response to a question about cutting employee salary, J. R. stated he did not have the authority to cut salaries or to do furloughs. He said they are looking at building space when leases come due. He said when he came to Missouri he made a commitment to not charge districts for their space but it may come to that if he cannot pay NRCS employees. He stated he is working with the Program Office to hire 15 field staff. He has cut the state office 23% since he came and over the next year will cut another 10% in the state office. When asked about NRCS technical vacancies he stated that any positions to fill have to be approved by headquarters due to the deficit budget. Mike Kelley asked about fax machines for stand-alone district offices. They cannot get approval to purchase a fax machine due to the no equipment purchase policy of DNR and they do not have a copy machine connected to the NRCS shared computer to scan in faxes. Tom Lambert mentioned his area is experiencing issues on getting terraces approved due to lack of NRCS staff to approve and conflict between NRCS and DNR.

The EQIP funding has been 20% to CAFO's and 40% to livestock grazing for the last few years. J. R. said there have been a lot of comments on this and he is looking at 17% for CAFO's this year. There have been comments on reducing the maximum on contracts.

He said they cannot limit the total payment but they can limit components or reduce the cost-share from 75% to 65%. J. R. was asked about the draft standard and specs for the Spring Development practice which will now include the requirement to be part of a grazing system. He stated he did not know the reasoning for this but would work with DNR on this due to the potential to have a practice tie up funds from 2 resource concerns.

**Commission Report:** Jim Boschert reported that Colleen Meredith, Bill Wilson and Jim Plassmeyer were attending a national NASCA meeting in Montana. He reported that 42 districts hired interns for the summer. They will have a total cost at the end of the quarter. There will be a survey sent to the districts about the summer intern program. He stated DNR is working on an internal control plan to see if there are ways to improve their services. The next commission meeting will be on October 1 starting with a joint Commission Meeting at the Truman Hotel with some other Commissions then starting at 1 pm at the Lewis & Clark building for the regular Commission meeting. He stated they will let the districts know what happens in the Legislative veto session this week as to the sales tax issues. He said there will be 2 conservation planner trainings this year, there are 92 district employees that have finished modules 1-8 and can take the conservation planner training. Tech II testing will be September 17 and November 5. Jim said that with the district technician survey recently sent out they are trying to get a handle on what Tech II's are signing off on. The Area Meeting attendance was down 43 from last year with a total of 367. Area 6 had the largest attendance with 66.

**Employee Association Report:** Sandy Stratman reported the Employees Association Board had their meeting 2 weeks ago. All of the areas plan to have an Employee Area Meeting this fall since all areas have elections this year. They are working on the Trade Show and Silent Auction for the Training Conference. The times for the silent auction have been adjusted to deal with the last minute bidding when the auction closes. Their next board meeting will be at the Training Conference. When asked about the participation membership level being up or down this year Sandy responded that she thought it might be down a little but was still about 80%. She also said that the associate membership might be up slightly. The Employee Association awards announcement was sent out recently with nominations due by October 15<sup>th</sup>.

**Old Business:** The Board discussed the recent Area Meetings. There was some discussion on sending out a survey to the districts on the locations, food, etc., but no decision was made.

Beverly Dometrorch and Kenny Lovelace reported on the NACD Summer Meeting they recently attended in Indianapolis. They went on a tour of the Dow plant and then the NACD meeting was held at the Dow Headquarters. Next year the meeting will be in Spokane, Washington. The 2015 NACD National Meeting will be in New Orleans and the 2016 possibly in Reno.

The North Central Region has been offering a scholarship for new leadership to attend NACD meetings to each of the North Central states. Missouri has already used the scholarships, but some of the other states have not. There is a possibility that we could be approved to use some of the unused scholarship funds.

**New Business:** Kenny Lovelace stated he had received a request from Sandy Stratman for financial support to attend the NACD National Meeting. Last year MASWCD helped her with the cost and she works the NACD Auction so there is no registration fee for her attending. The Employees Association does not pay toward the cost for her to attend. Mike Kelley made a motion to approve up to \$1800 to help Sandy attend the NACD Meeting in New Orleans. Bruce Biermann seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously (8-0).

Bruce Biermann gave a report on the MRRIC meetings he has been attending. His expenses to attend the meeting in Casper, Wyoming were \$812.82. He stated that the paperwork has been completed and submitted for him to fill the 29<sup>th</sup> seat on the MRRIC Committee. There are 2 other organizations also requesting approval to fill that seat. The applications are currently being reviewed by MRRIC and a nomination should be announced toward the end of the month. Bruce stated that the Corps of Engineers is being directed by Congress and if they don't follow the Endangered Species Act requirements they could be fined by Congress. The next meeting will be the first part of November in Omaha. There is a 2024 deadline for land acquisition by the Corps, they still need 100,000 acres with the highest price they can pay being \$5000 per acre. A motion was made by Mike Kelley to pay the \$812.82 to reimburse Bruce for his expenses to attend the MRRIC meeting. Tom Lambert seconded. Motion carried unanimously (8-0).

The resolutions received for the upcoming Training Conference were reviewed. There was some discussion on the intent of the Livingston resolution. A suggestion was made to check with Gasconade SWCD for a clarification of the wording in their resolution. The proposed bylaw revisions were moved to the end of the agenda.

The agenda for the Training Conference was reviewed. Jim Boschert distributed a list of workshops the Program Office suggested. J.R. Flores suggested a workshop by Lauren Cartwright on the Economics of Cover Crops. The agenda has been changed slightly with the Commission Meeting in the morning the first day and MASWCD Area Meetings in the afternoon. This allows for additional time for either another round of workshops or an early round of workshops and a reception prior to the Wednesday evening dinner. Dan Greeson is working with a color guard group from the Osage Beach area. The set-up for the Opening Session and Auction was discussed and it was suggested to use round tables instead of theater seating. The speaker for the Opening Session has been secured as recommended by George Engelbach, as well as the banquet entertainment as recommended by Tom Lambert. It was suggested to ask about later check-out since the Closing Session ends after the check-out time. There was some discussion about whether or not to have a cash bar at the reception on Wednesday and about having a Draw Down game during the Live Auction. It was suggested to send out a survey of the districts to seek their input into this decision.

**AREA Reports:** Area 1 – Bruce Biermann reported it has been raining with cool weather. He had 16 inches of rain in his area. There has been no start to the harvest yet. It appears they will have a busy combine season if not too muddy.

Area 2 – Tom Lambert said it has been a privilege to serve on the Board. He said a lot of hay has been put up in his area. Their first terrace job should get started this week which is about 3 weeks late.

Area 3 – Ryan Britt stated there have been a few challenges in getting cost share out due to staffing restraints and trying to meet the need of the landowners. The Chariton County soil health project is working well; they are starting to get a little knowledge from the project. He stated his county had a landowner/contractor that was upset and he was encouraged to take the issue to the commission.

Area 4 – Beverly Dometrorch reported there has been plenty of rain along the Kansas line but east of that is pretty dry.

Area 5 – George Engelbach said he has been attending a few EPA meetings on the Waters of the U.S. He said he was at one meeting where it was stated they are decades behind in moving the rule forward. They are attempting to blame all of the contamination on Doe Run but statistics show a lot of the contamination is from lead paint. He said they are probably going to see some corn getting shelled this week, the beans are turning yellow.

Area 6 – Ben Gorden stated it is dry where is. They had 1 inch of rain in July, 1 inch the first of August and no rain again until September. Because of the wells put in during the drought of 2012 a lot of people are expanding their water systems. His area is experiencing staffing shortages also.

Area 7 – Dan Greeson reported his area had been getting rains but the creeks are not up. The cattle prices are good; the Livestock Assistance Program through FSA is providing payments up to \$100,000.

Area 8 – Mike Kelley said it is dry in his area. They had .2 inch of rain in July, not a whole lot better in August. It is starting to rain some in September. Most of the soybeans are still green and the cotton is starting to come on. The long-term ponds are down to the levels of 2012.

**Correspondence:** Kenny Lovelace stated he had received a request from the Grassland Evaluation Committee for a donation toward their state awards. This was discussed with input from those attending the contest last year. They were concerned about not being part of the awards presentations since the contribution goes toward the awards. A motion was made by Mike Kelley to approve \$300 for the awards for the state Grassland Evaluation Contest and include a letter indicating our desire to be included in the awards presentations and stating we are continuing to support the program because it is for the education of the students. Dan Greeson seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously (8-0).

**Other Business:** Peggy gave an update on the Envirothon. Missouri is hosting the national competition July 27 through August 1 in Springfield on the Missouri State University campus. Fund raising is progressing but still need more funding. Nationally the Envirothon Foundation has sent out the requests for intent to participate which will help us know how many teams will be coming. Those are supposed to be in by January. The first draft of the tests should be ready by mid-October which is right in line with the designated time-line for the event planning. All of the committees are working on their specific areas and the 2015 state committee will begin having monthly meetings/conference calls in January. Right now they are still planning for 58 teams.

Kelly Smith of the Missouri Farm Bureau reported on a campaign against the EPA Waters of the USA called Ditch the Rule. The comment period for the RPA rule ends October 18<sup>th</sup>. He stated there is currently a re-count on Amendment 1 (the Right to Farm amendment). Approximately 50 counties have been re-counted with the yes side gaining a few votes. The biggest issues is in St. Louis County where they have decided to unroll their tapes of the vote count and re-county by hand. There are 1700 roles and it costs a minimum of \$50 per hour for the re-count. There also is a concern of the human error factor with the counting by hand. In response to a question about the veto session he said there is a lot of pressure on the Legislators but he feels there will be some overrides.

Kenny Lovelace asked the Board about approval for attendance at the NACDE National Meeting in New Orleans the first of February. After discussion a motion was made by Mike Kelley to approve attendance by Kenny Lovelace, Beverly Dometrorch and Bruce Biermann. Ryan Britt seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously (8-0). Beverly Dometrorch made a motion to approve attendance by Peggy Lemons also. Mike Kelly seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously (8-0). The auction item for the NACD Meeting was discussed and a motion was made by Bruce Biermann to purchase and donate the clock again this year. Ryan Britt seconded the motion, motion carried unanimously (8-0).

A motion was made at 5:45 p.m. by Beverly Dometrorch to go into Closed Session to discuss legal matters. Bruce Biermann seconded the motion. Motion carried (8-0) – Bruce Biermann – yes, Tom Lambert – yes, Ryan Britt – yes, Beverly Dometrorch – yes, George Engelbach – yes, Ben Gorden – yes, Dan Greeson - yes, Mike Kelley – yes.

A motion was made at 6:20 p.m. by Bruce Biermann to come out of Closed Session. Tom Lambert seconded the motion. Motion carried (8-0) – Bruce Biermann – yes, Tom Lambert – yes, Ryan Britt – yes, Beverly Dometrorch – yes, George Engelbach – yes, Ben Gorden – yes, Dan Greeson - yes, Mike Kelley – yes.

A motion was made by Ryan Britt to settle with the attorney and stop any further litigation at this time. Bruce Biermann seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously (8-0).

A motion was made by Tom Lambert to approve submitting the proposed bylaw changes to the districts for a vote at the Business Meeting during the Training Conference. Bruce Biermann seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously (8-0).

The next meeting will be Tuesday, December 9 at Tan-Tar-A Resort in Room 60-61 at 6:00 p.m. Motion for adjournment was made by Mike Kelley, seconded by Ryan Britt. Motion carried unanimously (8-0). The meeting was adjourned at 6:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Peggy Lemons, Executive Director

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Kenny Lovelace, President