



Missouri Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts

MASWCD MINUTES Regular Meeting Missouri Soybean Association Jefferson City, Missouri October 4, 2021

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Executive Director

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Present

Ron Willis, President
Ryan Britt, Past President
Jim Carlson, Area I
Beverly Dometorch, Area IV
Mike Haeffner, Area V
Harold Lampe, Area VI
David Hutsell, Area VII
Kenny Spooler, Area VIII
Henry Heinze, Treasurer
Sandy Burd, Executive Director

Jim Plassmeyer, DNR Soil & Water Program
Lisa Potter, MDC
Kelly Smith, Farm Bureau
Melissa White, MSWCDEA via phone

Not Present

Steve Radcliff, Area II
Scot Shively, Area III

President Ron Willis welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. with a quorum established by roll call. After review of the agenda, Kenny Spooler made the motion to approve the agenda. It was seconded by Mike Haeffner. Motion carried unanimously (6-0).

The minutes from the August 23, 2021 meeting were presented for approval. David Hutsell made the motion to approve. It was seconded by Mike Haeffner. Motion carried unanimously (6-0).

A financial report was given by Henry Heinze. He said there was about \$63,000 in the bank account that he has. He reported there about 88 districts have paid their dues. Sandy Burd reported on the balances in those accounts as of the last entries. Mike Haeffner made the motion to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented and it was seconded by Mike Beverly Dometorch. Motion carried unanimously (6-0).

Lisa Potter visited with the board on the MDC Incentive funds. She discussed Peggy Lemon's role in the past on how the funds were tracked and administrated. There is a 2% administrative fee that goes to MASWCD. It was suggested to have a booth or do a workshop at the Training Conference to explain to the districts once again about the programs that are available. Lisa will work on getting a handout together to put in the bags for the Training Conference.

Beverly Dometrorch asked Sandy Burd on the status of her taking over the Executive Director position. She said that she received approval with an addendum that she cannot do anything for the legislative activities or the Envirothon. However, they also had her name as Sandy and not Sandra. She sent it back to them to correct. Jim Plassmeyer said it was received back today so Sandy said then she was approved.

The agenda was altered to allow Melissa White the opportunity to give her report as she was on the phone. The Employees Association last met on July 15th and have another meeting scheduled for October 20th. She discussed a training opportunity that they are looking into for employees through a company called AAIM. Harold Lampe made the motion to donate \$2,000 to support the fee for the study. It was seconded by Kenny Spooler. The motion carried (5-1)

Melissa White updated the board on the FFA Speech Contest. She is working on getting judges. She also discussed the mapping tool and its problems and has shared these with Josh Poynor. She also mentioned the concerns about the vaccine mandate and how it may affect employees.

Jim Plassmeyer announced that the next Commission meeting is set for October 13th in the Strafford/Marshfield area. There is a meeting in the morning followed by a tour after lunch. Landry Jones with MFA will be speaking at the meeting. Beverly Dometrorch said that she heard that NRCS may not be funding the shared technician positions. Jim said they still have the agreement in place to continue with those positions. In reference to the insurance that was discussed previously, Jim said they sent in the requested information they received from the districts. Pay raises were discussed and employees are concerned that if they get an increase in their pay, an insurance increase would also take place. Jim said that is always a concern. One concern is maintaining a good ratio with cost-share.

In reference to the Mapping Tool, DNR is working with NRCS. Josh Poynor and Jennifer Pellett are the department staff working on the tool. They have been working with Katie Philbrick and Andrew from McDonald County. Jim said that they hope to have something by the training conference to let staff know about the updates. It is planned to have the NRCS and Mapping Tool work together so the work isn't having to be done twice. There is a lot of work being done that Missouri NRCS is not getting credit for which affects staffing and being able to hire more employees.

The new election process was discussed. The Operations Committee looked at different options and this is the one that was approved by the Commission. A person can live in one area of their county and also own land in another area, they can run as board member in either area. That rule has been in place for a long time. The only qualification that changed was that a person had to be 18 years of age.

The ration of the cost-share to administrative funds, sales tax earned from online sales and funds balance was discussed. Melissa White asked about information on the administrative breakdown comparing districts employees versus Program Office staff. Jim said that it has been presented to the Commission so that information is out there for anyone to look at. He offered to send a copy to anyone wanting to see it.

Kelly Smith was thanked for the meeting space last month at Farm Bureau. He discussed the Black Vulture Program. There is an application process through Farm Bureau to participate and landowners have to report whether they have had a kill or no kills. He is the administrator for that program.

Kelly also advised the board that there will be a cattle processing company in one of three states and Missouri is one option that they are looking at to build the plant. The company will be making a decision before Thanksgiving which state is chosen.

The School Lunch Program is having problems with supplies mainly because of labor issues. This is a problem in a lot of industries of not having enough people to work.

Committee Reports

The committee members were announced. The Budget Committee is Kenny Spooler and Beverly Dometrorch. The Bylaws Committee is Steve Radcliff and Jim Carlson and the Strategic Committee was Sandy Burd, Andrea McKeown, Kenny Lovelace and Tiffany Scott. Replacements are needed for Sandy, Andrea and Kenny. Ron Willis said that he could be on that committee and Rayanna Hopper was going to be asked.

Old Business

Executive Director – Further discussion was held from earlier in the meeting on the Executive Director position and in addition whether it should be full-time. Ryan Britt said that he had sent out an email and commented that all other states in the region have a full-time director. Sandy Burd commented that she is going to have to see how much time this job takes if she can continue to do it part time. Peggy Lemons was available every day of the week if someone wanted to talk to her by email or by phone. She said that she cannot do that. If the board decides that they want someone more available, the contract states it can be voided at any time. Jim Plassmeyer stated that the Outside Employment request through DNR has to be reviewed every year and Sandy said that she has to put in that request to continue. Discussion was held on an assistant. Ryan asked if the association would like to visit with Darrick Steen. He said that the association could be better represented by going to other meetings and that we are missing out on grant opportunities.

There will be communication sent out on the availability of Sandy for direct communication. She gave out the new association phone number and address. Ron Willis asked if the board wanted Sandy to be able to sign the MDC Incentive checks and for the expenses of the Training Conference. Mike Haeffner made the motion to approve Sandy to be put on the accounts for the MDC Incentives and the Training Conference. It was seconded by David Hutsell. The Legislative Account will stay with Ron, Kenny or Henry. Motion carried unanimously (6-0).

Henry Heinz asked about needing to pay Sandy rent. She said that she has her own internet so they will not need to pay for that. She said it would be up to the board if they wanted to continue to pay her office rent. Peggy was also paid retirement. The Envirothon duties that Peggy had were already taken over by other people that Peggy had asked to do them with Andrea McKeown doing the National Envirothon and Ashley Fisk in Hickory County doing the jobs that Peggy and Judy Stinson were doing. It was decided to table the amount of Sandy's compensation and make it retroactive. A conference call may be done. Discussion was had on getting Sandy a credit card. Beverly Dometrorch made the motion to approve getting a credit card for Sandy. Mike Haeffner seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously (6-0).

2021 Training Conference – Hotel reservations need to be made by October 30th. Getting notebooks or totebags donated was discussed. The logo options were reviewed. Harold Lampe made the motion for the logo without a year. It was seconded by Mike Haeffner. Motion carried unanimously (6-0).

Ryan Britt showed some options for notebooks. Corn and Soybean may donate the books. Kenny Spooler made the motion for the yellow and blue notebook. It was seconded by David Hutsell. Motion carried unanimously (6-0). This is pending Corn and Soybean approval of the donation. Ryan will follow up with the request.

The board was reminded to bring items for the tote bags. Candy and pens are already being donated. Sandy Burd asked if she should purchase masks. Ron said he could bring some. She has been in contact with Margaritaville. They would charge a small corkage fee if the board wants to offer the wine tasting. The price of having a web meeting for the business meeting was given. Sandy will check with the Department of Agriculture to see what the cost of the wine tasting and if it works out, make the registration cost enough to cover it.

The board reviewed the Agenda schedule for the conference. The meeting with Margaritaville is prior to the start of the conference. The Awards nominations were reviewed. Harold Lampe made the motion to approve Ron and Valerie Dent for the Cooperator of the Year and Jennifer Chambers for the Conservation Educator. It was seconded by Jim Carlson. Motion carried (5-0) with Mike Haeffner abstaining.

The Resolutions that were submitted from Gasconade, Knox, two from Pettis and Washington were reviewed. Harold Lampe made the motion to present all the resolutions at the Annual Meeting. It was seconded by David Hutsell. Motion carried unanimously (6-0).

The workshops this year will be done by all the Program Office staff with a few additional people. The Trade Show has not had much commitment yet. A few suggestions were noted to let Jacky Martin know to contact them.

A request was received from the Grassland Council to donate to the State Grassland Evaluation Contest. Beverly Dometorch made the motion to donate \$300. It was seconded by Jim Carlson. Motion carried unanimously (6-0).

It was noted that there has been \$100 prize for the 1st time attendee at the Training Conference and \$400 prize at the closing. David Hutsell made the motion for the cash prizes and

Sandy Burd stated a few items need to be cleaned up from the last meeting. There was not a vote on the \$500 memorial scholarship in honor of Peggy Lemons. Harold Lampe made the motion to approve the annual \$500 memorial scholarship. It was seconded by Beverly Dometorch. Motion carried unanimously (6-0).

The Area Elections were discussed. Area 5 is done but Areas 1, 3 and 7 still need to be completed.

The next board meeting for the MASWCD Board was set for Sunday, November 28, 2021 at 2:00 p.m. It will be at Margaritaville prior to the beginning of the Training Conference. It was decided to invite Darrick Steen to the next regular board meeting with discussion on a full-time Executive Director.

There being no more business, a motion for adjournment was made by Mike Haeffner. It was seconded by Jim Carlson. Motion carried unanimously (6-0). The meeting was adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandy Burd, Executive Director

Ron Willis, President