



## Missouri Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts

# MASWCD DRAFT MINUTES Regular Meeting Missouri Soybean Association Jefferson City, Missouri June 13, 2022

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## Present

Ron Willis, President  
Ryan Britt, Past President  
Beverly Dometrorch, Area IV  
Gary Bonacker, Area V  
Harold Lampe, Area VI  
Henry Heinze, Treasurer  
Sandy Burd, Executive Director  
Jim Boschert, Executive Director

Jim Plassmeyer, DNR Soil and Water Program  
Scott Edwards, NRCS  
Greg Collier, MDC

## Not Present

Jim Carlson, Area I, Steve Radcliffe, Area II, Scot Shively, Area III, David Hutsell, Area VII and Kenny Spooler, Area VIII

President Ron Willis welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 10:05 am with a quorum established by roll call. After review of the agenda, Harold Lampe made the motion to approve the agenda as submitted. It was seconded by Gary Bonacker. Motion carried unanimously (4-0).

## **Minutes from 03/28/2022 and 4/11/2022**

The minutes from the March 28, 2022 and April 11, 2022 were presented for approval. Gary Bonacker made the motion to approve the March 28, 2022 and the April 11, 2022 minutes. It was seconded by Beverly Dometrorch. Motion carried unanimously (4-0).

## **Treasurer Report**

A financial report was given by Sandy Burd through the end of May. She reported there was over \$96,000 in the checking account, over \$17,000 in the legislative account, over \$250,000 in each of the MDC incentive accounts and over \$34,000 in the training conference registration account. She reviewed income and expenses from the beginning of the year. She reported \$38,250 has been received as dues. She reported over \$61,000 has been paid out as MDC incentives. The board discussed how the funds have changed over the past couple of years due to lack of expenses because of COVID. Henry Heinze presented a list of districts that have

paid dues. Harold Lampe made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented and it was seconded by Beverly Dometrorch. Motion carried unanimously (4-0).

The board discussed credit cards and signature authority on checking accounts. The board discussed leaving Sandy Burd on all accounts until after the training conference. The board discussed adding Jim Boschert and removing Sandy Burd at the same time when all authorized signers are present. Beverly Dometrorch made a motion to approve a credit card for Jim Boschert. The motion was seconded by Gary Bonacker. The motion carried unanimously (4-0).

### **MDC Report**

Greg Collier with MDC discussed a signup announcement for the Precision Ag RCPP this week. Greg also mentioned the biodiversity pilot. This pilot provides funding for buffers around crop fields. This is a two-year pilot. MDC Director is holding a Director's Roundtable September 28 and 29 in Springfield. This is an opportunity for the Director to bring in many partners. Agriculture will be discussed on the 29<sup>th</sup>. Greg mentioned the Deer Management Assistance Program which allows landowners with 500 acres or more to allocate antlerless deer tags. Greg stated there have been 3491 feral hogs eliminated this year. Feral hog elimination is still continuing. MDC is providing funding for equipment to SWCDs in southeast and southcentral Missouri. This equipment will be made available to landowner to repair fields that have been damaged by feral hogs.

### **NRCS Report**

Scott Edwards with NRCS stated NRCS is at 100% staffing at the NRCS offices. Scott mentioned SWCD boards are now allowed to hold their board meetings at the USDA office. Scott stated USDA now has office space leased in St Louis for urban office to serve the entire St Louis City and County. He mentioned space is available in this office for SWCD staff if needed. Scott mentioned NRCS should be able to fully support the training conference this year. Scott requested meeting room at the training conference so he can offer training for his staff.

### **Commission Report**

Jim Plassmeyer with the Soil and Water Conservation Program mentioned the Soil and Water Director position has not been filled yet. Jim mentioned the program office is dealing with several vacancies just like the soil and water conservation district. He mentioned the program office has 22 position and currently 6 are vacant. Jim mentioned the program will be hiring an archeologist. This position will be jointly funded between NRCS and the program office. This position will be the lead person reviewing cultural resource issues with both state and federal cost-share and be the lead trainer on cultural resources. Jim discussed resolutions from last year's training conference. The three resolutions were presented to the Soil and Water Districts Commission last week. The commission approved to increase the caps on grazing systems for fence, water distribution and water development. The Commission also approved increasing the maximum for animal waste barns to \$100,000. Jim said as of this morning it appears there is \$31,500,000 in cost-share payments. He also mentioned program office staff are working to process cost-share payments. Jim also mentioned the Office of Administration has not changed the mileage rate or per diem allowed for state employee so the amount allowed for SWCD employees from state funds for mileage or per diem for meals will not change.

### **Budget Committee**

An audit of the MASWCD financial records will take place at the September meeting. Gary Bonacker agreed to be part of this committee.

### **By Laws Committee**

The board discussed changing the bylaws to allow proxy voting. Proposed changes to the by laws must be sent to members 30 days prior to the training conference.

### **NACD Summer Meeting**

Ron Willis mentioned the NACD Summer meeting will be held from July 16 – 20 in Puerto Rico. Ron Willis and Ryan Britt will be attending.

### **Soil Health Bill 2833**

Ron Willis mentioned Soil Health House Bill 2833 and he has not heard anything new on this bill. This bill includes some information on storm drains in urban areas.

### **S.T.A.R. Program**

Ryan Britt mentioned the STAR program and he have not heard anything regarding their proposal. They do not expect to hear anything until August.

### **Request from Missouri Association**

Sandy Burd discussed the request from the Missouri Envirothon. The request was originally presented at the MASWCD March meeting. At that time the board asked Sandy to determine what MASWCD had donated in the past. In past years MASWCD paid the travel cost for one or two individuals to attend the national Envirothon competition. This year's national competition will be held in Ohio. Harold Lampe made a motion to reimburse up to \$2500 for registration and travel expenses once reimbursement claim form and receipts are received for 2 people to attend the national Envirothon competition. Henry Heinze seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (3-0) one abstained.

### **2022 Area Meetings**

Area meetings will be the week of August 22<sup>nd</sup>. The program office will start to contact locations for the meetings. The agenda will include partner reports, elections, presentation by Scott Edwards on conservation planning, resolutions and bylaws.

### **Elections**

Elections will be held in areas 2,4,6 and 8. Harold Lampe mentioned he has an election committee for his area. Beverly Dometrorch said she has contact an SWCD employee regarding the election committee in her area.

### **Website**

Jim Boschert discussed the process to update the MASWCD website. Jim contacted Ethan Miller with the Boone SWCD regarding updating the website. The current website host is GreenEarth host.com. Ethan suggested switching the site to Dream Host. The current domain MASWCD.net is owned by GreenEarth so the association may have to change the domain. Harold Lampe made a motion to get a new website setup, allow the current website to continue and hire Ethan Miller to help get the website setup. Gary Bonacker seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (4-0).

### **MSWCDEA Report**

Melissa White was contacted by phone to provide the Missouri Soil and Water Conservation District Employee Association report. Melissa mentioned the MSWCDEA meeting will be June 29<sup>th</sup>. Melissa thanked the board for their support of the wage study that was recently completed and presented to the board. Melissa mentioned there are still 14 vacancies in the SWCDs. She still would like some employee representatives to meet with the program delivery committee at their next meeting to go over the results of the wage study. Melissa stated that losing trained staff will affect the amount of cost-share dollars spent this year. Melissa mentioned SWCD staff now have the opportunity to attend training at Linneus for grazing. Melissa discussed some concerns with recent SWCD vacancies. Melissa suggested ideas for training conference workshops. These included FMLA, what should be in your personnel handbook and transferring information from the state mapping tool.

## **Fidelity and Crime Bond Insurance**

Jim Boschert discussed the crime bond insurance. Jim mentioned the application has been completed. He asked the board the amount of coverage they wanted on the policy. Gary Bonacker made a motion to have \$500,000 be the amount of coverage for the bond insurance. The motion was seconded by Beverly Dometrorch. The motion passed unanimously (4-0).

## **Training Conference**

Ron Willis started discussion on the training conference. The board was presented notes from the Strategic Planning Committee. The board discussed the theme for this year's conference. Gary Bonacker made a motion to have this year's theme be "Together Toward Tomorrow". Henry Heinze seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (4-0). The board discussed the cost of registration. The board discussed the need for a one day registration with lunch included for those board members that only want to attend the annual meeting. The board decided to continue with the all-inclusive registration at \$250, registration with no meals \$125, and speaker and volunteer registration at \$125. The board also decided to add a one day registration for supervisors only for \$25 which includes lunch. The board discussed tote bags for the conference. Harold Lampe made a motion to purchase 250 tote bags and to spend up to \$4.00 per bag for insulated bags. The motion was seconded by Henry Heinze. The motion passed unanimously (4-0). The board discussed speakers for opening session and the reception. The board decided to try and get Governor Mike Parson as the speaker for the opening session and Terry Cosby with NRCS as the reception speaker. Michael Crowder with NACD and Derrick Steen with Missouri Corn Growers was also discussed as possible speakers for general sessions. The board discussed continuing with the partner panel. Options for workshops were also discussed. The board decided to look into having a "Taste of Missouri" event for the reception on Tuesday evening before the auction. The board decided not to hold District Specialist testing at the training conference if the program office will be offering the testing online. The board discussed the agenda. The board decided to change the agenda to not have area meetings at the training conference and instead have workshops at that time. The board also decided to hold the employee association meeting first on Tuesday and then hold the MASWCD business meeting right before lunch on Tuesday. The board also decided for Wednesday morning to have one set of workshops, one general session and then the closing session. This would end the conference at 11:15.

## **Area Reports**

Area I – Ron Willis stated they are wet and can't get hay put up.

Area III – Henry Heinze reported they are wet. Some crop have been planted, some crops replanted, and some replanted twice. No hay put up.

Area IV – Beverly Dometrorch said they have the same water problems as other areas. She also reported concerns and presented questions from her area.

Area V – Gary Bonacker reported they have missed a lot of the rains. A lot of corn and beans planted. Just in the last week hay has started to be put up. He reported his SWCD just purchased a lime spreader to rent to landowners.

Area VI - Harold Lampe stated they have received a lot of rain. A lot of the corn has had to be replanted. Hay is being put up.

## **Correspondence**

Ron Willis went over a letter from Ashley McCarty with Missouri Farmers Cares. Missouri Farmers Cares are asking the association support the action the Commission took regarding nutrient management and the beef houses.

Ron Willis stated they have received a thank you letter from MSWCDEA for supporting the wage study.

## **Other Business**

Ron Willis stated Ryan Britt is on the Farm Bill Task Force. This task force is starting discussion on the 2023 Farm Bill and will be holding a meeting in Arkansas. Ryan asked the association support him attending the Farm Bill Task Force Meeting. Harold Lampe made a motion to support Ryan Britt going

to the Farm Bill Meetings. The motion was seconded by Beverly Dometrorch. The motion passed unanimously (4-0).

Ron Willis discussed the past year's Governors Conference n Ag. He would like to request the association support two individuals going to this in the future.

The board discussed the Leopold Award. Harold Lampe made a motion to sponsor the Leopold Award this year up to \$2500. The motion was seconded by Gary Bonacker. The motion passed unanimously (4-0).

**Next Meeting Date**

The next meeting will be held on September 12, 2022. The location will be determined later.

There being no further business a motion for to adjourn the meeting was made by Harold Lampe and seconded by Gary Bonacker. The motion passed unanimously (4-0). The meeting adjourned at 2:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

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Jim Boschert, Executive Director

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Ron Willis, President