



## Missouri Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts

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## MASWCD Draft Meeting Minutes Tuesday June 6, 2023 Missouri Soybean Association 734 S Country Club Drive Jefferson City, Missouri

### Present

Ron Willis, President  
Ryan Britt, Past President  
Scot Shively, Area III  
Beverly Dometrorch, Area IV  
Jeff Deshon, Area V  
Tim Neely, Area VI  
Kenny Spooler, Area VIII  
Harold Lampe, Treasurer  
Jim Boschert, Executive Director

Jim Plassmeyer, DNR Soil and Water Program  
Nate Goodrich, NRCS  
Greg Collier, MDC  
Melissa White, MSWCDEA,  
Davin Althoff, Farm Bureau

### Not Present

Jim Carlson, Area I, Steve Radcliffe, Area II, David Hutsell, Area VI

President Ron Willis welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 10:02 am. A roll call was done and it was determined a quorum was present.

Ron Willis asked for a motion to approve the agenda. Jeff Deshon made a motion to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Beverly Dometrorch. Motion carried unanimously (5-0).

### Minutes

The minutes from March 8, 2023 meeting were reviewed. Scot Shively made a motion to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by Jeff Deshon. Motion carried unanimously (5-0).

### Treasurer's Report

Jim Boschert presented the treasurer's report. Jim reviewed the balances in each account. Jim also reviewed the activity in each account. Jeff Deshon made a motion to approve the treasurer's report. The motion was seconded by Tim Neely. Motion carried unanimously (5-0). Harold Lampe mentioned 99 district have paid their dues. It was decided the Area Directors would contact the districts that have not paid their

dues. Harold presented a budget he developed. The budget detailed expenses and year to date expenses for each item.

### **Farm Bureau Report**

Davin Althoff reported the Farm Bureau resolution committee was meeting later today. He mentioned one item Farm Bureau is keeping an eye on is labeling for any agriculture products sold. He also mentioned that private property rights are also very important to Farm Bureau and their members. The past legislative session Farm Bureau worked on a couple private property bills. These bills did not make it through the legislative process. Farm Bureau is also working on legislation to reform the Public Service Commission. The legislation would require more agricultural representation on the Commission. Davin mentioned the Farm Bureau Commodity Conference is scheduled for August in Jefferson City. Davin also briefly discussed the issue with black vultures in the southern part of the state.

### **MDC Report**

Greg Collier reported through the Feral Hog Eradication Program equipment has been made available to several districts. The equipment is available to landowners that have had damage from feral hogs. Greg next discussed a feral hog report. He said the report shows the feral hog numbers in Missouri are decreasing. Greg also reported Native Forage Initiative has had some interest. Greg also mentioned that MDC has entered into an agreement to support a marketing position with MFGC. Greg mentioned black vultures and the issues with them. The next Conservation Commission meeting is scheduled for July 13-14. CWD is increasing, MDC is seeing more cases of this.

### **NRCS Report**

Nate Goodrich reported NRCS has approved all request for computers for districts. Nate reported NRCS is in the process of filling all critical vacancies. Nate also reported NRCS is also looking to add additional staff. Nate mentioned NRCS is having difficulty filling engineer positions. Nate mentioned NRCS is currently around 330 staff in the state. Nate mentioned NRCS is considering buying handheld GPS units. Nate talked about the drought and the Native Forage Initiative. 300 applicants have signed up for the Native Forage Initiative through EQIP. Nate discussed the grant proposal submitted by MASWCD for a training coordinator. He mentioned another option available for funding that could extend funding for the position for up to 4 years instead of the 3 years in the original proposal. Nate mentioned NRCS has hired a training coordinator for NRCS at the state office and will be hiring a training coordinator in each NRCS area office.

### **Commission Report**

Jim Plassmeyer reported on cost-share. He stated cost-share payments initialed by the districts total \$39.3 million. Payments have been processed is over \$30 million. Currently cost-share obligations are over \$46 million. Jim stated the program office is currently working on the state cost component list for cost-share. The districts have entered over 4000 costs into the database. He stated he appreciated the efforts made by district staff to enter this information. Jim discussed the FY24 budget. The budget has not been signed by the Governor yet. The legislators did pass the increase in grants to the districts. The program office did offer an 8.7% increase in salaries to district staff starting April 1<sup>st</sup>. The planning process is beginning for the FY25 budget and the program office is discussing with DNR management the possibility of asking for another increase in district grants for FY25. Jim discussed the revenues for the current year. He mentioned that revenues for the year are still over 7% above the previous year. Jim mentioned the FY24 budget approved by the legislators also includes an increase of \$10 million to cost-share. Also included in the FY24 budget approved by the legislators is a \$75,000 grant for no-till drill purchases for the districts. A district is limited to \$7,500. Jim mentioned tomorrow is Commission meeting and they will discuss drought. The Governor did sign another executive order on the drought.

### **Employee Association Report**

Melissa White reported the MSWCDEA held a meeting yesterday and are working to fill the vacancies on their board. The board decided to raise their dues to \$15 per employee and also \$100 for a board.

Melissa also mentioned that she encouraged the reps to visit with their districts to see why they are not paying their dues. MSWCDEA will get their apparel store on-line soon. Melissa said the employees' association talked about if there was a quicker way to work the resolution process. Melissa stated the employees' association would support an increase in district grants for the FY25 budget.

## **Committee Reports**

### **Budget Committee**

Ron Willis thanked Harold Lampe for putting the budget together.

### **By Laws Committee**

No report given.

### **Strategic Plan Committee**

The Strategic Plan Committee held a meeting in June to discuss training conference.

## **Old Business**

### **NACD Summer Meeting**

Ron Willis mentioned the NACD summer meeting will be held in Bismarck, North Dakota from July 15-18. Ryan Britt and Ron Willis will be attending. Jim Boschert mentioned he would be attending also.

### **STAR Program**

Jim Boschert mentioned emails have been received on the CRCL Program. A budget narrative was presented that was included in the grant proposal. The document showed what is expected of MASWCD and what MASWCD will be paid for their participating in the project. The main focus of MASWCD in this project is to start and promote the STAR program in Missouri. Jim has contacted individuals about participating on the STAR steering committee. Jim is working on setting up a Webex meeting with the steering committee. Discussion on how the CRCL program and the MASWCD training coordinator position through NRCS will work. A motion was made by Scot Shively to work with NRCS on a 5-year grant for the training coordinator position. The motion was seconded by Jeff Deshon. Motion carried unanimously (5-0).

### **2023 Area Meetings**

Ron Willis mentioned the area meetings will be held in August. Also, there was discussion held on if there should only be four meetings held where they need an election. Beverly Dometrorch mentioned that she typically presents the area award winners at her area meeting. The group discussed the week of August 21<sup>st</sup> or the week of August 28<sup>th</sup> to hold the meetings. Jeff Deshon made a motion to hold four area meetings in the four areas holding elections either the week of August 21<sup>st</sup> or August 28<sup>th</sup>. The motion was seconded by Scot Shively. The motion passed 4-1 with one opposed.

### **Elections (Areas 1,3,5,7)**

Ron Willis mentioned to review bylaws on how elections need to be conducted in their area. He asked they look for alternates in each of the areas.

### **Missouri Envirothon**

Beverly Dometrorch stated Central High School from Springfield won the Missouri Envirothon. The winning team will be traveling to the National Envirothon in New Brunswick, Canada.

### **MDC Incentive Payments Update**

Jim Boschert mentioned MDC has sent \$250,000 to MASWCD for the Native Grass Initiative. Jim also mentioned since the last meeting he has made 26 payments totaling \$35,004 to landowners. Jim also mentioned he has approved applications for 121 landowners totaling \$200,671.

## **New Business**

### **2023 Training Conference**

Ron Willis mentioned the strategic planning committee met in late May. Ron mentioned the proposed themes by the committee. Harold Lampe suggested a theme associated with Climate Smart. Tim Neely made a motion that the theme for the 2023 training conference be Climate Smart Rooted in Conservation. The motion was seconded by Beverly Dometrorch. Motion carried unanimously (5-0). The board discussed registration for the 2023 training conference. Jim Boschert mentioned the full registration for last year was \$260. Jim mentioned that in discussions he had with the hotel meal cost would go up slightly this year. Jim also mentioned the committee discussed adding a lunch for Monday to the conference agenda. Jim suggested a buffet for Monday's lunch. Tim Neely made a motion to increase registration to \$295. The motion was seconded by Jeff Deshon. Motion carried unanimously (5-0). Jim passed around suggestions for bags for the conference. The group likes the cooler bags. Jim mentioned last year 250 bags were purchased. The 250 bags were all used plus all of the old bags from previous years were also used. Scot Shively made a motion to order 500 bags. The motion was seconded by Jeff Deshon. Motion carried unanimously (5-0). Jim mentioned last year the board purchased knives as a give away item for board members that attended the MASWCD business meeting. The board thought this was well received last year. Scot Shively made a motion to spend up to \$10 per item for pen lights as a giveaway item for board members. The motion was seconded by Ryan Britt. Motion carried unanimously (5-0). Jim went over revisions to the agenda that were suggested by the strategic planning committee which included a wine tasting class and a trivia night after the auction. Jim has requested NRCS Chief Terry Cosby and also Kim Lafleur President of NACD attend and speak at this year's training conference. Jim also suggested showing a movie "Wings Over Water" as the entertainment for this year's conference. Jeff Deshon made a motion to pursue getting the movie for Monday's entertainment. The motion was seconded by Tim Neely. Motion carried unanimously (5-0). The group suggested Lt Governor Mike Kehoe or Chris Chinn Director of Missouri Agriculture as possible speakers. Carrie Portal was also suggested, she was a past speaker at Women in Ag. Ron Willis mentioned the need for board members to contact districts to submit award entries for the state awards. Ron discussed resolutions and mentioned the deadline of September 1<sup>st</sup> for submission. A list of proposed workshops was discussed. The group wanted to continue with panel discussions. Other workshops discussed included NRCS discussing Climate Smart participants and a panel of producers discussing climate smart practices. Jim asked if the board wanted to do conference shirts or ask MSWCDEA if they would be willing to do conference shirts. MSWCDEA will look into doing conference shirts. Jim discussed the need to take credit card payments at the conference. Beverly Dometrorch made a motion to purchase what is needed to be able to take credit card payments at the conference. Tim Neely seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously (5-0).

## **Area Reports**

Area 1 – Ron Willis reported it is dry and they have about ½ of the hay crop.

Area 2 – No report

Area 3 – Scott Shively reported it is dry in his area.

Area 4 – Beverly Dometrorch stated it is dry in her area.

Area 5 – Jeff Deshon said it is dry in his area also.

Area 6 – Tim Neely stated it is dry in his area.

Area 7 – No report

Area 8 – Kenny Spooler stated it started good.

### **Correspondence**

Jim Boschert mentioned correspondence he has received from the National Wildlife Federation regarding a “Grow More” initiative. Jim suggested notifying her about the conference and suggesting she participate in the trade show.

Beverly Dometrorch mentioned she has met with Jim Boschert regarding the MASWCD historical document. Jim mentioned with next year being the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary this document could be done and incorporated into the packet for nor 2024 training conference. Jim mentioned he contacted a local printer and it would cost just under \$2500 to print 500 copies of the booklet.

Ron Willis mentioned he received an email from MOSIC. Ron said he would respond to the email that MASWCD supports what they are doing but do not have time to be involved.

### **Other Business**

Ron Willis mentioned the Governor Conference on Ag that was held two years ago. He thought it was good that MASWCD was represented at the conference.

Kenny Spooler made a motion to pay Beverly Dometrorch for her Envirothon expenses. The motion was seconded by Tim Neely. Motion carried unanimously (5-0).

### **Next Meeting Date**

The next scheduled board meeting will be Sept 7<sup>th</sup> and we will try and get the meeting room at Farm Bureau.

### **Adjourn**

Ryan Britt made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Tim Neely seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously (5-0). The meeting adjourned at 2:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

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Jim Boschert, Executive Director

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Ron Willis, President

