



## Missouri Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts

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## MASWCD Draft Meeting Minutes Wednesday, March 8, 2023 Capital Plaza Hotel 415 W McCarty St Jefferson City, Missouri

### Present

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

Jim Plassmeyer, DNR Soil and Water Program  
Scott Edwards, NRCS  
Greg Collier, MDC  
Melissa White, MSWCDEA,  
Ashley Fisk, Hickory SWCD  
Tina Dulaban, Benton SWCD

### Not Present

Steve Radcliffe, Area II,

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. Beverly Dometrorch made a motion to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Jeff Deshon. Motion carried unanimously (7-0).

### Minutes

The minutes from November 27, 2022, November 29, 2022, December 14, 2022 and February 23, 2023 were reviewed. Jeff Deshon made a motion to approve all of the minutes. The motion was seconded by Tim Neely. has agreed to be Area VI director. Tim introduced himself to the board. Motion carried unanimously (7-0).

### Treasurer's Report

Harold Lampe presented the treasurer's report. Harold mentioned Henry's account was closed out. Harold mentioned that 88 have paid their dues this year. Harold mentioned a \$100,000 CD has been set up with Edward Jones. Scott Shively made a

motion to approve the treasurer's report. The motion was seconded by David Hutsell. Motion carried unanimously (7-0).

### **MDC Report**

Greg Collier reported the Feral Hog Eradication Program has \$300,000 available for SWCDs to purchase equipment in the feral hog areas. Some of this equipment has already been purchased. Money is available for the purchase price and also maintenance of the equipment. Deer regulations have changed some for the upcoming season. MDC is working with NRCS on several different agreements.

### **NRCS Report**

Scott Edwards mentioned the Native Forage Initiative and using the ACT Now process. This was launched December 4<sup>th</sup>. 2.5 million was funded through this initiative. Scott mentioned the Inflation Reduction Act. He stated the funds are now available. He stated 3.6 million is available this year in IRA funding. Next year 23.4 million is available and then 40 million the following year. The funding this year will be targeted toward nutrient management. All of the practices in this program must target climate smart practices. Scott said current grant proposals are out and close May 1<sup>st</sup>. He mentioned that he was made aware that other state associations and the number of employees they have. He said he is aware that training is lacking and he wants to make that a priority. He mentioned working with MASWCD to fund a position to help facilitate training for all SWCD staff. He said NRCS could pay 50 or up to 75% and the maximum years could be 5 years. He also mentioned he would like MASWCD to consider submitting a grant proposal for a new position as a training coordinator and also include in the proposal that MASWCD consider being the administrative agency for SWCD information/education grant proposals. Jeff Deshon made a motion for MASWCD to proceed with getting another employee to help with training for MASWCD through the NRCS grant. Beverly Dometorch seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously (7-0).

### **Commission Report**

Jim Plassmeyer gave a staff update. Program Office has hired an archeologist and 3 district coordinators. March 29<sup>th</sup> is the next Commission meeting; the meeting will be held in Jefferson City. The June meeting will be June 7<sup>th</sup> in Jefferson City. Jim discussed the current budget. He mentioned since January 20<sup>th</sup> no new cost-share contracts are being allowed. Jim mentioned an additional 3.5 million has been requested for cost share for fiscal year 24. He also mentioned an additional 4 million has been requested for district grants for fiscal year 24. He mentioned Governor Parson approved an 8.7% increase in salary for state employees. Jim would like to pass that increase on to SWCD employees. The current allocation does not provide enough funds to sustain the increase for an entire year. The current budget for both cost-share and district grants were discussed. Jim also mentioned a budget amendment for \$75,000 to fund a matching grant program for SWCDs to purchase no till drills. Jim also mentioned an additional budget item, a \$500,000 feasibility study on the Gasconade River. Jim also mentioned the Executive Order for the drought has expired.

### **Farm Bureau Report**

No report given.

### **Employee Association Report**

Melissa White reported the MSWCDEA held a meeting yesterday and officers were elected. Melissa also mentioned MSWCDEA would like to see the resolutions move forward. She mentioned there are currently 14 vacancies with SWCD employees across the state. Fourteen applicants were received for MSWCDEA scholarships.

### **Envirothon Report**

Ashley Fisk and Tina Dulaban discussed the Missouri Envirothon. They answered questions from the directors. Beverly Dometorch is the MASWCD rep to the State Envirothon Committee. They discussed

the turnover that has occurred with the members of the State Envirothon Committee. Tina and Ashley asked for year-to-year support from their sister agencies. Beverly Dometorch made a motion to provide \$3500 yearly to the Missouri Envirothon to help with cost associated with Envirothon committee members going to the NCF Envirothon. Kenny Spooler seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously (7-0).

## **Committee Reports**

### **Budget Committee**

Harold Lampe asked if the board wanted him to put a budget together. Ron Willis asked Harold to put a budget together.

### **By Laws Committee**

Jim Boschert stated the updated bylaws have been posted to the new MASWCD website.

### **Strategic Plan Committee**

The Strategic Plan Committee will meet prior to the June board meeting to discuss training conference.

## **Old Business**

### **2022 Training Conference Review**

The MASWCD reviewed a document showing the income verses the expenses from the training conference. The auction brought in \$4678 which will be placed in the legislative account. The conference brought in an additional \$12,641.80 which has been placed in the legislative account. The board also reviewed the evaluations. Harold Lampe asked if the board ever asked why board members did not come to the conference. It was suggested to send a survey out to ask the board members why they didn't come to the conference.

### **Resolutions**

Resolutions from the 2022 training conference were discussed. Jim Carlson made a motion to forward the approved resolutions to the Soil and Water Districts Commission. The motion was seconded by David Hutsell. Motion carried unanimously (7-0).

### **Education Seminar**

The schedule for the Education Seminar was discussed. The evening activities start at 6 pm with a reception. Fifty SWCD staff and board members have signed up for the conference. Ron Willis mentioned House Bill 1124. Ron mentioned concerns with the bill and wording that includes stormwater mitigation.

### **NACD National Meeting Review**

Ron Willis reviewed the NACD Nation meeting. Ron, Ryan Britt and Jim Boschert attended. Ron Willis mentioned who the new NACD officers are. Ryan Britt was elected as the NACD representative for the North Central Region. Next years NACD National meeting will be in San Diego. Ryan Britt mentioned NACD membership is down. He mentioned membership is down but financial numbers are up. It was suggested to invite Kim Lafleur with NACD and Terry Cosby to the 2023 Training Conference.

## **New Business**

### **Climate Smart Project**

Ron Willis mentioned that University of Missouri had contacted MASWCD about the expenses MASWCD would have toward the Climate Smart Grant. MASWCD part of the Climate Smart would be to administer the STAR program.

### **NACD Summer Meeting**

Ron Willis mentioned that the NACD summer meeting will be in Bismark, North Dakota from July 15<sup>th</sup> - 19<sup>th</sup>.

### **2023 Area Meetings and Elections**

The MASWCD board discussed 2023 area meetings. Areas 1,3,5, and 7 will have elections this year. A discussion of dates and also do they need to hold 8 area meetings each year or only hold a meeting in the areas that are having an election. It was decided to try and schedule the meeting during the week of August 21<sup>st</sup>.

### **2023 Training Conference**

Ron Willis mentioned the conference this year will be at Margaritaville again this year. Ron asked if any board members wanted to be involved in the phone call prior to the next meeting. Beverly Dometrorch stated she would like to be involved in the phone call.

### **WEBEX Subscription**

Jim Boschert mentioned the yearly Webex subscription and asked if the board wanted to continue the subscription. Jeff Deshon made a motion to continue to pay the Webex subscription. Scott Shively seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously (7-0).

### **House Bill 1124**

Ron Willis mentioned the board was against this House Bill due to the language related to stormwater mitigation.

### **Area Reports**

Area 1 – Jim Carlson reported that the weather is good all over his area.

Area 2 – No report

Area 3 – Scott Shively reported it has been really dry until recent. He also reported that farmers are short on hay.

Area 4 – Beverly Dometrorch reported farmers are buying hay.

Area 5 – Jeff Deshon reported rain has been here and there. He also stated that hay is high.

Area 6 – Tim Neely reported they are very wet, hay supplies are tight and wheat looks good.

Area 7 – David Hutsell reported moisture is good, hay is short and things are greening up.

Area 8 – Kenny Spooler reported they have had about the right amount of rain and they have been putting fertilizer on.

### **Correspondence**

None

### **Other Business**

Scott Shively made a motion to pay the \$500 NACD dues for the association. David Hutsell seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously (7-0).

**Next Meeting Date**

The next scheduled board meeting will be June 6<sup>th</sup> and we will try and get the Soybean Association room.

**Adjourn**

Beverly Dometorch made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Jeff Deshon seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously (7-0). The meeting adjourned at 2:17 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

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Jim Boschert, Executive Director

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Ron Willis, President

