



## Missouri Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts

# MASWCD DRAFT MINUTES Regular Meeting Missouri Farm Bureau Jefferson City, Missouri September 12, 2022

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## Present

Ron Willis, President  
Ryan Britt, Past President  
Beverly Dometrorch, Area IV  
Gary Bonacker, Area V  
Jim Carlson, Area I  
Scott Shively, Area III  
Kenny Spooler, Area VIII  
Harold Lampe, Area VI  
Sandy Burd, Executive Director  
Jim Boschert, Executive Director

Jim Plassmeyer, DNR Soil and Water Program  
Nate Goodrich, NRCS  
Greg Collier, MDC  
Dan Engemann, Farm Bureau  
Melissa White, MSWCDEA, (by phone)

## Not Present

Henry Heinze, Treasurer, Steve Radcliffe, Area II, and David Hutsell, Area VII

President Ron Willis welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 10:00 am. Beverly Dometrorch presented a document that was developed in the past on the history of MASWCD. She mentioned in two years it would be the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of MASWCD and thought it would be a good idea to update the document. The board agreed. Beverly Dometrorch and Jim Boschert will work on updating the document.

After review of the agenda, Beverly Dometrorch made the motion to approve the agenda as submitted. It was seconded by Gary Bonacker. Motion carried unanimously (6-0).

## **Minutes from 06/13/2022**

The minutes from the June 13, 2022 were presented for approval. Harold Lampe made the motion to approve June 13, 2022 minutes. It was seconded by Scott Shively. Motion carried unanimously (6-0).

## **Treasurer Report**

A financial report was given by Jim Boschert through the end of August. He reported there was over \$80,000 in the checking account, over \$17,000 in the legislative account, over \$223,000 in one MDC Incentive account and over \$279,000 in the other MDC Incentive account and over \$34,000 in the training conference registration account. He

reviewed income and expenses from June 1st. Scott Shively made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented and it was seconded by Jim Carlson. Motion carried unanimously (6-0).

The board discussed auditing the financial records. It was decided to audit the records at the training conference on Sunday evening. Jim Boschert reported he has received three checks, one from the Litton Foundation for the FFA contest, one from NACD and one was a refund from a credit card company.

The board also discussed adding Jim Boschert to the checking account. It was decided to meet after the training conference at the Mid America Bank and Central Bank at Osage Beach.

### **MDC Report**

Greg Collier with MDC mentioned there have been several retirements recently at MDC. With turnover they are focused on training. The Department is celebrating the 80<sup>th</sup> year of the Pitmann-Robinson Act. This Act generates 14% of the department's budget which helps restore habitat in Missouri. Greg mentioned CWD monitoring will take place opening weekend of deer season. Greg mentioned free fishing dates for women at Bennett Springs. Greg mentioned the department has workshops on invasive species, brush and burn workshops and hunter education classes coming up. Greg mentioned the biodiversity program will be opening back up. Greg mentioned a bill currently going through Congress called the Recovering American Wildlife. This bill if passed would work to protect those species that are close to being on the endangered species list. MDC is hosting the 2022 Partner Roundtable in Springfield in late September.

### **NRCS Report**

Nate Goodrich with NRCS mentioned he recently changed positions; he is now the Assistant State Conservationist for Partnerships. Nate stated NRCS is finishing up their fiscal year and everything is looking good. Nate mentioned as Scott Edwards participated in area meetings he discussed SWCD staff utilizing CD and CART to enter conservation planning information. NRCS is providing training to SWCD staff on these software applications. Nate mentioned the Inflation Reduction Act. This Act will bring \$20 billion dollars to support conservation efforts across the nation. This is funding in addition to the Farm Bill Funds. A native warm season grass initiative is currently being developed. Nate mentioned NRCS will fully support the training conference this year and asked for a meeting room for NRCS during the conference.

### **Commission Report**

Jim Plassmeyer with the Soil and Water Conservation Program mentioned the next Commission meeting will be October 12<sup>th</sup> in the Joplin area. They are planning to tour some streambank projects. He mentioned the drought assessment came out last week and it still shows drought conditions in the southwest part of the state. The northeast part of the state is starting to show some drought conditions. The Drought Assessment Committee meeting is this Friday. This includes partners from several federal and state agencies. Jim mentioned testing for the progression line is now available on-line through MoSWIMS. Jim mentioned meal per diems have increased for state employees. This increase is also available for SWCD board members and employees. Jim mentioned an additional 15 vehicles have been ordered for SWCDs. Jim mentioned as of today there is \$22.4 million obligated in the cost-share program.

### **MSWCDEA Report**

Melissa White was contacted by phone to provide the Missouri Soil and Water Conservation District Employee Association report. Ron Willis mentioned to Melissa the association will need an area director for area 6 and he asked Melissa for assistance with finding a replacement. Melissa mentioned the next employee association meeting is September 27<sup>th</sup>. Melissa also stated she had not received any feedback from the area meetings. Melissa mentioned the Employees Association keeps a focus on

recruitment, retention, recognition, development and promotion of SWCD employees. She mentioned training is very important especially with the number of new employees. She mentioned the need for training for board members to assist them with their duties as a board member. She mentioned communication is vital to having good working relations between the partners. Melissa stated the roles and responsibilities for partners need to be communicated. She mentioned the association would like to see further development and discussion of the progression line. Melissa stated LAGERS would be a vendor at the training conference and available for new employees.

### **Farm Bureau Report**

Dan Engemann from Farm Bureau introduced himself to the board. Dan stated Farm Bureau has had several retirements recently. Dan mentioned there is a legislative special session starting this week. Dan mentioned WOTUS 2.0 is currently being discussed. Dan mentioned EPA wants to reduce the amount of Atrazine applied and there is a comment period currently open on this issue. He mentioned Farm Bureau worked during last legislative session to have the funding for the Rock Island Trail stopped. Farm Bureau also supported funding for rural broadband and rural highways.

### **Budget Committee**

The board discussed having an audit done of the MASWCD financial records on Sunday at the training conference.

### **By Laws Committee**

The board discussed changing the bylaws to reword how a quorum is determined at the annual training conference. The proposed language was passed out to the board members. The proposed change states "At the Annual Meeting of the MASWCD a majority of the voting membership that have registered and are present at the meeting shall constitute a quorum for the transactions of business and a simple majority vote of the members present shall be decisive". The proposed change to the by-laws must be sent to the SWCDs 30 days prior to the annual meeting. Jim Carlson made a motion to present the revision of the by-laws at the annual meeting. Scott Shively seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously (6-0).

### **Strategic Planning Committee**

No report given

### **Old Business**

#### **Area Meetings Review**

The board commented the meetings went very well and were very informative. Jim Plassmeyer reported a total of 380 attended the area meetings. Of the 380, 92 were board members.

### **MASWCD Election Results**

Ron Willis went over the election results from the area meetings. He mentioned Steve Radcliffe won in Area II, Beverly Dometorch won in Area IV, Harold Lampe won in Area VI, and Kenny Spooler won in Area VIII. Harold Lampe did not get reelected to the local SWCD board. Harold will retain his position on the MASWCD board until training conference. The board will appoint someone to the board at the training conference. Scott Shively made a motion to certify the election results. Gary Bonacker seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously (6-0). The board directed Jim Boschert to send an email to all Area 6 SWCDs asking for nominations to the MASWCD Board of Directors. Any board member interested must submit a bio. The deadline to submit nominees is October 31<sup>st</sup>.

### **MASWCD Website**

Ethan Miller from Boone SWCD joined the meeting by phone. Ethan went over what he has developed for the new website and asked what the board thought of the color scheme and the layout. Ethan mentioned he could host the new website for a fee. Jim Boschert would be trained on how to do updates to the website. The board like the design and layout of the webpage. Jim Carlson made a to pay Ethan

for hosting the website. Beverly Dometrorch seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (6-0).

### **Fidelity and Crime Bond Insurance**

Jim Boschert discussed the crime bond insurance. Jim mentioned the application has been lost by Naught/Naught Insurance. Naught/Naught Insurance said they have another application to fill out. Once this application is completed, they will submit to another company. The board suggested checking with some other insurance companies including Farm Bureau and Shelter.

### **Training Conference**

Ron mentioned Gary Blair with NACD will be attending the training conference. In the past the room and registration was paid by the association for NACD members attending. The board discussed registration and if the board will accept PayPal for registration. By allowing payment through PayPal the SWCDs can use their credit cards to pay for registration. Scott Shively made a motion to raise registration by \$10. Gary Bonacker seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (6-0). The tote bags have been shipped. A total of 250 have been ordered. Corn Growers have agreed to do the notebooks like last year. Farm Bureau, MFA and Soybean Association have agreed to donate items for the bags. Ryan Britt mentioned Missouri Cares would like to present the Leopold Award at this year's training conference. The agenda was reviewed. The auction was discussed. A notice should be sent to the SWCD asking for donations for the auction. It was decided to add NACD report and MASWCD website to the agenda for the business meeting. The board discussed buying an item for all board members that attend the business meeting. Harold Lampe made a motion to spend up to \$10 per item with MASWCD imprinted on it. Kenny Spooler seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (6-0). The number of items to purchase is at the discretion of Jim and Sandy. The board discussed the award nominees. Harold Lampe made a motion to give the Conservation Educator of the year to Melissa Young from Livingston SWCD. Scott Shively seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (6-0). Harold Lampe made a motion to award Leland and Kris Burnett as the Cooperator of the Year from Benton SWCD. Gary Bonacker seconded the motion. The motion passed (5-0) with one abstaining. Beverly Dometrorch made a motion to purchase additional length of service pins. Harold Lampe seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (6-0). The board discussed the Distinguished Service Award. Jim Carlson made a motion to give the Distinguished Service Award to Kenny Lovelace. Harold Lampe seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (6-0). Harold Lampe made a motion to spend up to \$125 for the Distinguished Award. Jim Carlson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (6-0). The three resolutions were discussed. Harold Lampe made a motion to present the three resolutions at the MASWCD annual business meeting. Jim Carlson seconded the motion. The motion passes unanimously (6-0). Sandy Burd requested that her room be provided for the training conference. Scott Shively made the motion to provide a room for Sandy. Jim Carlson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (6-0). Ryan Britt volunteered to be election chair for the upcoming MASWCD board officers election.

### **New Business**

#### **Post Office Box**

The board discussed changing the post office box to Jefferson City. Scott Shively made a motion to purchase a post office box in Jefferson City. Harold Lampe seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (6-0).

### **Executive Director Conference**

Jim Boschert presented information on the executive director conference in Delaware in early October. It was decided not to send anyone to this conference this year.

## **NCR-SARE Partnership Grant Program**

Jim Boschert presented several grant opportunities that have been received in the past 2-3 weeks. These grant opportunities have been forwarded to SWCDs. He has not heard of any interest from any SWCDs.

## **NACD North Central Resolution**

Ryan Britt presented a resolution from NACD North Central Region that the North Central Region will forward to the NACD Annual meeting in February to eliminate the words conservation tillage. Kenny Spooler made a motion that MASWCD support the resolution. Beverly Dometorch seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (6-0).

## **USDA Partnership for Climate-Smart Commodities**

Ron Willis said he has received unofficial word the Missouri proposal will be approved. This will provide \$26.9 million to Missouri. MASWCD is a partner on this proposal. MASWCD signed on to this project to support the STAR program.

## **North Central Region Meeting**

The North Central meeting will be held in Minneapolis, Minnesota on January 5-6. Scott Shively made a motion to provide funds for Ron Willis, Ryan Britt and Jim Boschert to attend. Beverly Dometorch seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (6-0).

## **Form 990**

Sandy Burd mentioned the Form 990 for both MASWCD and the MASWCD Foundation was submitted late. This resulted in a penalty from the IRS.

## **Reimbursement Claim Form and Mileage Rate**

Jim Boschert presented a revised reimbursement claim form to the board. Jim also stated the mileage reimbursement rate has increased to \$.55.

## **Correspondence**

### **Donation Letter from Grassland Counsel**

A letter from the Missouri Forage and Grassland Counsel was presented requesting a donation for the State Grassland Evaluation Contest. In the past year the association provided \$300 as a donation. Scott Shively made a motion to donate \$300 to the Missouri Forage and Grassland Counsel for the State Grassland Evaluation Contest. Beverly Dometorch seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (6-0).

## **Other Business**

### **Shirts for MASWCD Board Members**

Jim Boschert present information on cost of shirts. Jim will send information out to the board members. Ron Willis said he thought the association could purchase one shirt for each member.

## **Atrazine Comments**

Ron Willis mentioned he recently talked to Kurt Boeckmann with Corn Growers concerning EPA's stance on Atrazine. Kurt requested the association send a letter to EPA opposing the proposed changes. Ryan Britt made a motion to send a letter to EPA opposing the proposed changes. Harold Lampe seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (6-0).

## **Next Meeting Date**

The next meeting will be held on November 27, 2022 at Tan Tar A.

## **Area Reports**

Area I – Jim Carlson reported crops don't look too bad in his area.

Area II – No report given.

Area III – Scott Shively stated corn looks good but the beans are suffering due to lack of moisture.

Area IV – Beverly Dometorch stated along Highway 70 it is very dry. Other areas have gotten rain.

Area V – Gary Bonacker reported getting some rain. Corn looks good and beans are suffering

Area VI - Harold Lampe area is dry. All of the corn has been cut for silage and the hay is short.

Area VII – No report given.

Area VIII- Kenny Spooler stated areas north have received rain. In his county no rain since June, ponds are dry. Crops do not look too bad. Hay is very expensive.

There being no further business a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Harold Lampe and seconded by Gary Bonacker. The motion passed unanimously (6-0). The meeting adjourned at 3:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

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Jim Boschert, Executive Director

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Ron Willis, President