



Missouri Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts

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MASWCD Draft Meeting Minutes Thursday, September 7, 2023 Missouri Farm Bureau Country Club Drive Jefferson City, Missouri

Present

Ron Willis, President
Ryan Britt, Past President
Jim Carlson, Area I
Henry Heinze Area III Alternate
Beverly Dometrorch, Area IV
Jeff Deshon, Area V
Tim Neely, Area VI
Rick Lindemann, Area V Alternate
Jim Boschert, Executive Director

Jim Plassmeyer, DNR Soil and Water Program
Ashley Johnson, NRCS
Nate Goodrich, NRCS
Greg Collier, MDC
Melissa White, MSWCDEA,

Not Present

Steve Radcliffe, Area II, David Hutsell, Area VI, Kenny Spooler Area VIII, Harold Lampe Treasurer

President Ron Willis welcomed everyone and thanked everyone for coming. Ron called the meeting to order at 10:05 am. A roll call was done and it was determined a quorum was present.

Ron Willis asked for a motion to approve the agenda. Jim Carlson made a motion to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Henry Heinze. Motion carried unanimously (6-0).

Minutes

The minutes from June 6, 2023 and August 21, 2023 meetings were reviewed. Beverly Dometrorch made a motion to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by Jim Carlson. Motion carried unanimously (6-0).

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. Jim also presented the year's budget detailing the year-to-date expense. Jim presented a report detailing the districts that have

paid their dues. Jim mentioned 101 districts have paid their dues for the year. Jeff Deshon made a motion to approve the treasurer's report. The motion was seconded by Jim Carlson. Motion carried unanimously (6-0).

MDC Report

Greg Collier thanked the association for their administration of the Biodiversity grant. That grant is now closed. Greg also thanked the association for sending an MDC survey out. The survey was on rental equipment owned by the districts. Greg mentioned there are several deer seasons this year. County burn associations are being developed. Greg reported through the Feral Hog Eradication Program, equipment has been made available to several districts. Greg mentioned a carp round up on the Lower Grand River. If anyone is interested in attending, please let him know.

NRCS Report

Ashley Johnson, Acting State Conservationist for NRCS reported Scott Edwards is doing 120 detail. Scott is planning to be back before the training conference. Ashley said she appreciated the feedback she got during the area meetings. Ashley stated current NRCS has 330 staff and they are looking to add additional staff. Ashley also mentioned that NRCS is getting ready to make a big training push. They have hired a State Training Coordinator and are getting ready to hire area Outreach Coordinators to help with training needs. She also mentioned working with the MASWCD to get funding for our Training Coordinator and also working with University of Missouri Extension to get more staff for training. Ashley mentioned NRCS is getting close to the end of their fiscal year. Missouri is 6th in the nation in states spending EQIP funds. Missouri spent \$43 million this year in EQIP. IRA funds will be on top of EQIP funds.

Commission Report

Jim Plassmeyer mentioned he gave an update on Commissioner Gary Vandiver at the area meetings last week and does not have any new updates. Ryan Britt mentioned he has heard that Commissioner Vandiver is home. Jim mentioned the next Commission meeting is September 27th in Maryville. The meeting will include a tour of Mazingo Lake. During the Commission meeting a report will be presented on funding for targeted watersheds. This is similar to the past AgNSALT projects. Jim reported \$25.2 million has been obligated in cost-share this year. Jim stated \$2 million dollar of payments from last year were deferred to this year due to lack of funds. Jim stated he talked about the program office budget during the area meetings held last week. He mentioned in FY23 the program office utilized the highest percent of their allocation. Jim stated for the FY24 budget there will be \$50 million available in cost-share and an additional \$4 million in district grant appropriation. Jim mentioned they are currently working on the FY25 budget. The program office has asked for an increase in district grants for FY25. Jim stated the program has received 26 requests for no till drills. The program has not determined yet which districts will receive a grant for a no till drill. Jim mentioned the program has submitted a RCPP project related to building capacity to help during droughts. He thanked the association for their support of the RCPP project.

Farm Bureau Report

No report was given.

Employee Association Report

Melissa White reported the MSWCDEA will hold their next meeting on September 26th. The MSWCDEA area reps are in the process of scheduling their annual meetings and elections. Melissa mentioned the resolution timeline and concerns with this. Melissa also mentioned there are still concerns with the partnership and determining roles and responsibilities among partners. She asked that everyone look at ways to improve the workplace culture for all employees. Melissa stated she is hearing frustration from the district employees and she asked that all work to address these frustrations. Melissa said MSWCDEA will be ordering conference shirts once the logo is approved.

NACD Report

Ryan Britt presented a NACD report. Ryan stated the NACD summer meeting was held in July in Bismark, North Dakota. Ryan, Ron Willis and Jim Boschert attended. A tour of the Black Leg Farm and a research farm was included. Ryan mentioned that the Farm Bill is the highest priority for NACD. He stated the number one priority for NACD is to get the IRA funding included in the Farm Bill to help fund conservation needs. NACD has submitted a request to increase funding to \$1.2 billion for NRCS. Ryan stated the NACD NGLI is accepting applications for the leadership training program. Ryan mentioned the NACD nation conference will be held February 10-14, 2023 in San Diego. The NACD summer meeting will be held in August 2024 in Boston.

Committee Reports

Budget Committee

Ron Willis mentioned an audit will take place during the training conference.

By Laws Committee

No report given.

Strategic Plan Committee

No report was given.

Old Business

Area Meeting Review

Ron Willis mentioned the four Area Meetings were held last week. Ron thought the meetings went very well. NRCS, University of Missouri Extension, MDC and the Program Office presented reports at the meetings. Jim Plassmeyer stated there were 54 individuals that attended the meeting in Area 1, 48 attended in Area 3, 40 in Area 5 and 35 in Area 7. Ron stated he would like to keep the current format for another year and then reevaluate after that to see if the board wants to continue with 4 meetings each year or go back to 8 meetings a year.

MASWCD Election Results

Ron Willis discussed the election results from the Area Meetings. In Area 1 there was no one placed on the ballot for Area Director. Ron and Jim Carlson will continue to look for someone to be Area Director for Area 1. Scott Shively was elected in Area 3. Jeff Deshon was elected in Area 5. Rick Lindemann was elected as 1st alternate for Area 5. David Hutsell was elected in Area 7. Jeff Deshon made a motion to have Rick Lindemann serve as the 1st alternate for Area 5. The motion was seconded by Beverly Dometorch. Motion carried unanimously (6-0).

NACD Summer Meeting

Ron Willis mentioned Ryan had already discussed the NACD summer meeting that was held in Bismarck, North Dakota. He discussed the tour at the Black Leg Ranch and the research farm.

CRCL Program

STAR Program

Jim Boschert mentioned an initial meeting was held on the STAR program. Fourteen individuals were invited and 10 were in attendance. He also had two individuals from Illinois who work with the STAR program in Illinois. Jim mentioned the group is now compiling names for the STAR Scientific committee. Jim has received some names but needs additional names. Jim also mentioned the group needs to

develop a list of local resource concerns. Jim stated he is planning to send another email to the group asking for additional names.

NRCS Grant – Training Coordinator

Jim Boschert mentioned in the packet is a document that details the expenses submitted for the Training Coordinator position. The document detailed the salary, benefits and travel estimated expenses for the four year grant. Jim mentioned the original grant was intended to be a three year grant with a 25% match from the association. Since the last meeting this has changed to a four year grant with no match required by the association. Jim mentioned he would be developing a job description and asked about advertising and scheduling interviews for the positions. Ron suggested sending the job description out to the board members for approval and then once approved send the job announcement out to all district employees. Once resumes are received Ron suggested sending them to all board members. Tim Neely stated he would be interested in sitting in on the interviews.

MDC Incentive Payments Update

Jim Boschert mentioned since the last meeting 27 payments have been made that total \$51,447. Jim mentioned he will be requesting another \$90,000 for the current grants. Jim is currently holding applications until more funds are received. The applications Jim currently has that are not approved total close to \$90,000. Jim stated once he receives the \$90,000 and gets applications approved he will have to stop accepting new applications. Jim mentioned the Biodiversity grant has been closed. Jim also mentioned the administrative funds have not been requested for some time. Jim will be writing a check for \$3596.09 from the MDC fund to cover the administration funds.

2023 Training Conference

Jim Boschert discussed the new registration software. Jim first showed the conference logo that was voted on by the board through email. Jim went over the draft conference registration form. Jim mentioned the methods for paying for registration. There are two options available through the system, paying on line or offline. Paying online is using a credit card to pay. Paying offline is paying with a check or paying through PayPal. Jim went over the meal cost for spouse/guests for the past year. The board made some changes to the cost for spouse/guest meals. Jim went over the bags for the conference. Jim also passed around penlight options for the board to purchase as a giveaway item for district board members. Jim mentioned Missouri Corn Growers will do the notebooks again this year. Jim went over the agenda for the conference. Jim mentioned he has sent invitations to Terry Cosby, Mike Kehoe, Chris Chinn and Kim Lafleur. Jim presented a draft agenda for the business meeting. Jim mentioned the general session on Wednesday morning. The board decided to contact Beth Mason with NACD to see if she would be willing to do a presentation. The board reviewed the nominees for cooperator of the year and conservation educator of the year. Jeff Deshon made a motion to give the conservation educator of the year award to Kylie Shoenberger from Stone County. The motion was seconded by Tim Neely. Motion carried unanimously (6-0). Tim Neely made a motion to give the cooperator of the year award to Daniel Bonacker from Jefferson County. The motion was seconded by Henry Heinze. Motion carried unanimously (5-0) with one director abstaining. Jim Carlson made a motion to present an award for Distinguished Service award. Ryan Britt seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously (6-0). Ron mentioned the resolutions are in the packet. Resolutions were received from 7 districts. The board asked Jim to contact all 7 districts to make sure the resolutions are all submitted in the same format. Jim Carlson made a motion to send all 7 resolutions to the Annual Business Meeting at the Training Conference. The motion was seconded by Jeff Deshon. Motion carried unanimously (6-0). Jim Boschert presented an email from Tiffani Scott an employee with Pettis County regarding the resolution process. The board discussed how to proceed with resolutions once approved at the MASWCD Business Meeting. Ryan Britt made a motion that once resolutions are approved at the MASWCD Business Meeting they be sent to the Program Office. The motion was seconded by Jeff Deshon. Motion carried unanimously (6-0). The expenses for the trade show area were discussed. For the 2022 conference the expenses were paid 100% by MSWCDEA. Jim Carlson made a motion to split the coffee and tea

expenses associated with the trade show 50/50. The motion was seconded by Jeff Deshon. Motion carried unanimously (6-0). Ron asked that all board members contact vendors to see if they would provide items for the auction. Jim mentioned he has recently talked to Sandy Burd and she is willing to help again this year on Sunday and Monday. Jim Carlson made a motion to comp Sandy's hotel room for Sunday and Monday. The motion was seconded by Tim Neely. Motion carried unanimously (6-0).

New Business

NACD Perimeter Fence for Feral Swine

Ron Willis mentioned NACD has a current grant opportunity for districts that have issues with feral hogs. Based on lack of interest the board decided not to pursue a grant.

Executive Director Position

Ron Willis discussed making the Executive Director position a full-time position. The board discussed the need for this and how the position would be paid. Jeff Deshon made a motion to hire Jim as the full-time Executive Director starting October 1, 2023. The motion was seconded by Ryan Britt. The motion carried unanimously (6-0).

North Central Region Meeting

Ron Willis stated the NACD North Central Region meeting will be held January 11-12 in Springfield, Illinois. Ron asked Jim Boschert to look into getting a rental vehicle for the 7 individuals that might be attending.

NACD National Conference

Ron Willis stated the NACD National Conference is scheduled for February 10-14 in San Diego, California. Ron Willis, Ryan Britt, David Hutsell and Jim Boschert will be attending.

Executive Director Conference

Jim Boschert mentioned a conference of Association Executive Directors will be held October 2-3 in Franklin, Tennessee. Jim Carlson made a motion to send Jim to the Executive Director Conference. The motion was seconded by Beverly Dometorch. The motion carried unanimously (6-0).

Area Reports

Area 1 – Jim Carlson reported crops look good but they could use a shower.

Area 2 – No report.

Area 3 – Henry Heinze reported still dry and silage is being cut

Area 4 – Beverly Dometorch stated it is still dry in her area. She mentioned johnson and sudan grants are being tested. She also mentioned districts are having issues with phones and computers and need more training.

Area 5 – Jeff Deshon said on the western side of his area they received 14 inches in 14 days and now it is dry again.

Area 6 – Tim Neely stated they had some timely rains and there has been some hot days. He said crops are moderate to fair.

Area 7 – No report.

Area 8 – No report.

Correspondence

Jim Boschert mentioned he has received an email from NACD asking if states are interested in submitting a proposal to host the 2025 NACD Summer meeting. The board decided not to submit a request.

Other Business

No other business.

Next Meeting Date

The next scheduled board meeting will be November 26th at the training conference.

Closed Session

Ron Willis entertained a motion to go into closed session. Jeff Deshon made a motion to go into closed session. The motion was seconded by Jim Carlson. The motion carried unanimously (6-0).

Jeff Deshon made a motion to end the closed session. The motion was seconded by Beverly Dometorch. The motion carried unanimously (6-0).

Jim Carlson made a motion to forward the list of district concerns to the Program Office, ask the Program Office to schedule a meeting with Ron Willis and Jim Boschert to discuss the issues and solutions to the issues. The motion was seconded by Jeff Deshon. The motion carried unanimously (6-0).

Adjourn

Jeff Deshon made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Henry Heinze seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously (6-0). The meeting adjourned at 3:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Boschert, Executive Director

Ron Willis, President

