**MASWCD BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**Draft MEETING Minutes**

**Tuesday, June 11, 2024, 10:00 a.m.**

**Missouri Soybean Association**

**734 South Country Club Dr**

**Jefferson City, Missouri**

**Present**

Ron Willis, President Rayanna Hopper, Trng Coor

Ryan Britt, Past President Jim Plassmeyer, DNR SWCP

Scot Shively, Area III Scott Edwards, NRCS

Beverly Dometrorch, Area IV Dan Engemann, Farm Bureau

Jeff Deshon, Area V

Tim Neely, Area VI

David Hutsell Area VII

Harold Lampe, Treasurer

Jim Boschert, Executive Director

**Not Present**

Jim Carlson, Area I, Steve Radcliffe, Area II and Kenny Spooler Area VIII

President Ron Willis welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 10:00 am. A roll call was done and it was determined a quorum was present.

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

**Minutes**

The minutes from the March 12, 2024 meeting were reviewed. With no corrections made the minutes stand as approved and will be filed.

**Treasurer Report**

Jim Boschert presented the Treasurer’s Report. He presented reports showing the beginning balance income and expenses since the last meeting and then the ending balance. Jim then presented the expenses in each account. Tim Neely made a motion to approve the treasurer’s report. The motion was seconded by Jeff Deshon. Motion carried unanimously (5-0).

Harold Lampe presented the soil and water conservation districts that have paid their 2024 dues. There are currently 101 SWCDs that have paid their dues.

Harold Lampe reviewed the 2024 budget.

**MDC Report**

No report given

**NRCS Report**

Scott Edwards mentioned NRCS would be hiring an additional 20 Soil Conservationist and 15 Soil Conservationist Technicians. Scott mentioned the issues with security checks for new employees. He asked that SWCDs provide new employees names to NRCS as soon as possible to allow an initial security check can be done of the employee before they actually start working in the office.

**Commission Report**

Jim Plassmeyer mentioned the Commission meeting will be held tomorrow June 12 in Northeast Missouri at Greenly Research Farm. Jim stated cost-share is currently at $48.4 million paid. Jim mentioned the 2025 budget is still waiting to be signed by the Governor. The budget awaiting his signature does include an increase for District Assistance. The matching grant for no-till drills is not included in the budget. Jim stated his staff will soon be working on the FY2026 budget. Jim said one thing they are working on for the FY2026 budget is to ask for funding for engineers for the Program Office staff. Jim mentioned his staff is working on a new NRCS Contribution Agreement. In the new agreement they are proposing hiring five engineers, four other support positions and continue funding for the FOSA shared positions. Jim mentioned the new District Specialist IV positions that will soon be announced. He stated they will be allowing 16 of these positions, two in each MASWCD area. He asked for input from the MASWCD Area Directors on what the specialty should be for the individuals hired in each area.

**Farm Bureau Report**

Dan Engemann discussed the upcoming renewal of the Parks, Soils and Water Sales Tax. The tax is set to be up for renewal in 2026. Dan stated Farm Bureau is committed to co-leading the efforts for the tax renewal. He said at this time Farm Bureau thought there was plenty of time to engage in this effort and they thought it would be best to wait until after the new administration is in place.

**Employee Association Report**

No report given

**NACD Report**

Ryan Britt mentioned NACD has been working with legislators on the Farm Bill. A major part of this is to get the IRA funds into the Farm Bill. The House did pass a version of the Farm Bill out of committee that did include many of NACD recommendations. Ryan mentioned there are many grant opportunities available through NACD. Ryan stated the NACD Summer Meeting will be held in Boston August 9-14. He also mentioned the NACD National Meeting will be held in Salt Lake City in February. Then next summer the NACD Summer Meeting will be in Wisconsin. Ryan and Tim Neely discussed the NACD Fly-In that was held in Washington DC in March.

**Committee Reports**

**Budget Committee**

Budget was discussed earlier.

**By Laws Committee**

Nothing to report at this time

**Strategic Plan Committee**

Jim Boschert mentioned this group met in late May to discuss the 2024 training conference. Comments from the committee will be discussed later in the meeting.

**Envirothon Committee**

Beverly Dometrorch stated Rockwood Summitt High School from St Louis won the state Envirothon this year. This team will attend the National Envirothon in New York in late July.

**Old Business**

**STAR Program**

Jim Boschert mentioned a claim for $4650 was recently submitted and had recently been received. This was for the months of January, February and March. Jim mentioned the STAR steering committee has been meeting monthly. Jim also mentioned the STAR affiliate agreement with Champaign Illinois has been cancelled and a new affiliate agreement will need to be signed with the STAR National Organization.

**NRCS Grant**

Ron Willis mentioned Meghan Cook, the Archeologist has resigned and accepted a job with NRCS. Her last day will be this Friday. The question was asked if there is enough workload in cultural resources that MASWCD needs to refill the Archeologist position. Jim Plassmeyer mentioned he felt the need was still there on the state cost-share side. The Area Directors agreed to try and refill the position. Jim Boschert mentioned he had submitted a grant proposal to NRCS for funding for an engineer. Jim said the proposal has been returned to him for additional information. Jim provided a list of SWCDs that stated they would provide a contribution to be used as the match for this grant. Jim also presented a letter from Missouri Land Improvement Contractors and they said they would contribute toward the match. MASWCD board stated if a SWCD contributes to the match then the engineer would make it a priority to work in those SWCDs. MASWCD has received funds from NRCS for the Training Coordinator, the Executive Director position and also some SWCD information/education projects. The funds received totaled $33,224.76. This covered the time period of February 1 – March 31.

**Area Meetings and Elections (Areas 2,4,6, and 8)**

Ron Willis mentioned Area Meetings would be held the week of August 26-30. Jim Plassmeyer stated his staff is still working on securing locations for the meetings. The elections for each area were discussed.

**MDC Payments**

Jim Boschert stated he had met with a CPA from Jefferson City. The CPA said his recommendation was that MASWCD should be issuing 1099s for MDC payments. In order to issue 1099s a landowner needs to fill out a W-9. The W-9 is then sent to MASWCD and MASWCD uses the information from the W-9 to complete the 1099. Jim stated if more then ten 1099s are issued in a year they would have to be filed electronically. There was also discussion regarding requesting an additional fee from MDC for administrative cost. Jeff Deshon made a motion to start to issue 1099s. The motion was seconded by Beverly Dometrorch. Motion carried unanimously (5-0). The board also asked Jim to talk to the CPA to see what the cost would be for him to issue the 1099s for MASWCD.

**MASWCD Historical Document**

Beverly Dometrorch said a copy of the MASWCD Historical document had been emailed to the MASWCD Area Directors prior to the meeting. Beverly said the plan was to include a copy of this document in the bags at the conference. Jeff Deshon made a motion to approve printing 600 copies of the MASWCD Historical document. The motion was seconded by Tim Neely. Motion carried unanimously (5-0).

**New Business**

**Parks, Soils and Water Tax Renewal**

No further discussion on this.

**2024 Training Conference**

Jim Boschert stated the 2024 training conference will be held Dec 2-4. Jim mentioned the Strategic Planning Committee met in late May to discuss the 2024 Training Conference. A page summarizing their recommendations was included in the packet. Jeff Deshon made a motion to have the theme for the conference be “80 Years and Still Growing”. The motion was seconded by Tim Neely. Motion carried unanimously (5-0). Jim discussed registration cost and if the MASWCD board wanted to increase the registration fee. Jim mentioned meal cost will be increasing for the conference. David Hutsell made a motion to increase the registration fee to $325 for full registration, $175 for registration with no meals/volunteers and speakers, and $50 for one day. The motion was seconded by Scot Shively. Motion carried unanimously (5-0). Jim presented several options for conference bags. Scot Shively made a motion to purchase 500 of the “Boat Tote Cooler” bags in black. The motion was seconded by Jeff Deshon. Motion carried unanimously (4-0). The board discussed several different options for a supervisor give-away item. Tim Neely made a motion to purchase binoculars for a supervisor give away item. The motion was seconded by Jeff Deshon. Motion failed unanimously (2-2). Jeff Deshon made a motion to purchase first aid kits for a supervisor give away item. The motion was seconded by Tim Neely. Motion carried unanimously (4-0). Jim presented an updated agenda with the suggestions from the committee. Tim Neely made a motion to hire Tom Brand as the speaker for the banquet. The motion was seconded by Beverly Dometrorch. Motion carried unanimously (4-0). Jim presented information on the awards to be given at the training conference. Jim discussed a new award called the Missouri Conservation Partnership State Award. The board also discussed presenting a legislative award. Jeff Deshon made a motion to start the Missouri Conservation Partnership State Award. The motion was seconded by Scot Shively. Motion carried unanimously (4-0). Scot Shively made a motion to award a legislative award. The motion was seconded by Tim Neely. Motion carried unanimously (4-0). Jim mentioned he would send a letter to the SWCDs later this week on the resolution process. Resolutions must be submitted by August 30th. Jim mentioned the list of workshops discussed at the May meeting. Ron Willis discussed the auction. Ron suggested the board purchase a Henry rifle with special engravement for an auction item. Tim Neely made a motion to purchase a Henry 22 Golden Boy rifle for an auction item. The motion was seconded by Jeff Deshon. Motion carried unanimously (4-0). Jim mentioned the MASWCD banner had several tears in it. Jim researching to see what the cost would be for replacing the banner.

**Margaritaville 2026 and 2027 Contract**

Jim Boschert presented an email from Margaritaville regarding an error they made to the meal cost for the 2025 training conference. Beverly Dometrorch made a motion to approve the 2025 meal cost presented by Margaritaville. The motion was seconded by Jeff Deshon. Motion carried unanimously (4-0). Jim Boschert presented an email showing the updates for the 2026 and 2027 training conference contracts with Margaritaville. Jim mentioned he met with Holiday Inn Executive Center in Columbia and they submitted a proposal to host the conference. Jim stated he thought the hotel did not have enough meeting rooms for our needs. Tim Neely made a motion to approve the 2026 and 2027 contracts from Margaritaville. The motion was seconded by Scot Shively. Motion carried unanimously (4-0).

**NACD Summer Meeting**

Ron Willis mentioned the NACD Summer meeting will be held in Boston from August 10-13. Ron Willis, Ryan Britt and Jim Boschert will be attending.

**Request from Women in Ag**

Ron Willis mentioned a letter was received from Women in Ag. Beverly Dometrorch made a motion to donate $250 to Women in Ag. The motion was seconded by Scot Shively. Motion carried unanimously (4-0).

**Missouri Agriculture Stewardship Award**

Information from Missouri Cares regarding the Missouri Agriculture Stewardship Award was presented. Last year MASWCD gave $2500 to Missouri Cares for the Leopold Award. This item was tabled.

**Conservation Federation of Missouri Resolution**

A resolution from the Conservation Federation of Missouri supporting the Parks, Soils and Water Sales tax was presented. The response was also presented.

**Employee Report**

Rayanna presented a report to the board on her recent activities. She gave the board a list of the SWCD employees that volunteered to be mentors. She also gave the dates for the upcoming grazing training. The last item she presented was the results of a survey she recently sent out.

**Area Reports**

Area 1 – Corn is different heights and need rain.

Area 2 – No report

Area 3 – Corn different heights, some corn still being planted and dry in places.

Area 4 – Rain is very sporadic and working on hay.

Area 5 – Central good, rain when we needed it, corn and soybean are looking good.

Area 6 – Corn looks good. Heavy rains lately to the north. Overall look pretty good.

Area 7 – No report.

Area 8 – No report.

**Correspondence**

No correspondence was presented.

**Other Business**

Jim mentioned the Education Seminar. The board asked Jim to see about dates for the Education Seminar for February or March of 2025.

**Next Meeting Date**

The next meeting is scheduled for September 5th at Farm Bureau.

**Closed Session**

Scot Shively made a motion to go into closed session. The motion was seconded by Beverly Dometrorch. Motion carried unanimously (4-0). Scot Shively, Beverly Dometrorch, Jeff Deshon and Tim Neely voted in favor.

Scot Shively made a motion to go into open session. The motion was seconded by Beverly Dometrorch. Motion carried unanimously (4-0). Scot Shively, Beverly Dometrorch, Jeff Deshon and Tim Neely voted in favor.

Scot Shively made a motion to pay $175 toward the meal expenses for the Archeologist. The motion was seconded by Jeff Deshon. Motion carried unanimously (4-0).

**Adjourn**

Tim Neely made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Beverly Dometrorch. Motion carried unanimously (4-0). The meeting adjourned at 3:15 pm.