**MASWCD BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**Draft MEETING Minutes**

**Tuesday, March 12, 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

Steve Radcliffe, Area II Scott Edwards, NRCS

Henry Heinze, Area III Alt Melissa White, MSWCDEA

Beverly Dometrorch, Area IV Charlie Ebbesmeyer, Missouri

Jeff Deshon, Area V Soil and Water Outcome Fund

Tim Neely, Area VI

David Hutsell Area VII

Harold Lampe, Treasurer

Jim Boschert, Executive Director

**Not Present**

Jim Carlson, Area I 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. Jeff Deshon made a motion to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Beverly Dometrorch. Motion carried unanimously (6-0).

**Soil and Water Outcome Fund**

Ron Willis introduced Charlie Ebbesmeyer from Missouri Soil and Water Outcome Fund. Charlie explained the Soil and Water Outcome Fund program and asked for support from MASWCD for the program. After answering questions Charlie left the meeting. Steve Radcliffe made a motion to send an email out to all SWCDs regarding the Soil and Water Outcome Fund. The motion was seconded by Jeff Deshon. Motion carried unanimously (6-0).

**Minutes**

The minutes from the November 26, 2023 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. David Hutsell made a motion to approve the treasurer’s report. The motion was seconded by Jeff Deshon. Motion carried unanimously (6-0).

Harold Lampe presented the 2024 budget.

Harold Lampe presented the soil and water conservation districts that have paid their 2024 dues. There are currently 90 SWCDs that have paid their dues.

**MDC Report**

Greg Collier joined by phone to give his report. Greg mentioned the Grassland Summit that will be held on April 9-11 in Jefferson City. Greg mentioned that approximately 1500 more feral hogs have been killed this year over last year. He also suggested having a warm season grass drill workshop at the upcoming training conference. Greg mentioned there are several new publications out on MDC website.

**NRCS Report**

Scott Edwards presented the document that will be given to the legislators at the NACD Fly-In next week. Scott discussed reductions in the NRCS budget specifically in the Watershed Program and in Conservation Technical Assistance. Scott also mentioned the support NRCS gives toward the state cost-share program. The group discussed different ways to provide technical assistance for state cost-share.

**Commission Report**

Jim Plassmeyer discussed the cooperative agreement that the Soil and Water Program Office has with NRCS. This agreement ends in September and a new agreement is being worked on. Jim mentioned if a FOSA shared position becomes vacant the Program Office is not allowing SWCDs to refill those positions at this time. Jim mentioned the next Commission meeting is March 27th in Jefferson City. Jim discussed the 2025 Program Office proposed budget. He mentioned the 2025 Program Office budget was part of the Governor’s proposed budget except for the requested new Program Office positions.

**Farm Bureau Report**

No report given.

**Employee Association Report**

Melissa White stated the Employee Association next meeting will be held tomorrow March 13th. Melissa stated she felt things were going well in the SWCD. She stressed the need for continued training. Melissa also mentioned she thought the conference went well.

**NACD Report**

Ryan Britt gave a recap of the February NACD Annual Conference. Ryan, Ron Willis, David Hutsell, Jim Boschert, Rayanna Hopper and a technician from Randolph SWCD attended from Missouri. Ryan also discussed the NACD Fly-In next week to Washington DC and the NACD Summer meeting in Boston. The summer meeting is August 10-13. Ryan mentioned NACD has revamped their education material and the information is available on the NACD website. Ryan also mentioned there are currently several grant opportunities available on the NACD website.

**Committee Reports**

**Budget Committee**

Nothing to report at this time.

**By Laws Committee**

Steve Radcliffe asked if there were any changes needed to the By Laws.

**Strategic Plan Committee**

Jim Boschert mentioned this group would get together prior to the June meeting to discuss the 2024 training conference.

**Envirothon Committee**

Beverly Dometrorch stated she attended an Envirothon Committee meeting the previous week. The theme for this year’s Envirothon is “Renewable Energy for Sustainable Future”. The state competition is May 1st in Jefferson City.

**Old Business**

**2023 Training Conference Review**

Jim Boschert mentioned there were 411 in attendance at the 2023 training conference. The board reviewed the evaluation comments from the past conference. Jim Boschert reviewed a summary of income and expenses for the past conference. A discussion was held on transferring part of the registration account funds to the general fund. Steve Radcliffe made a motion to transfer $23,500 from the registration account to Harold’s account. The motion was seconded by Jeff Deshon. Motion carried unanimously (6-0).

**Climate Smart Project**

Jim Boschert stated MASWCD has received funds from the Climate Smart Project totaling $$12,841. Jim also mentioned the Star Science Committee met in February and the Star Steering Committee is set to meet in mid-March.

**NRCS Grant**

Jim Boschert stated MASWCD has received funds from NRCS for the Training Coordinator and the Executive Director position. The funds received totaled $11,193.70. Jim mentioned that Rayanna Hopper started on January 2nd. Rayanna introduced herself and went over her activities since she started. Jim mentioned Meghan Cook accepted the Archeologist position and her start date will be April 1st. She will be located in the south east part of the state. Jim is working with NRCS to find an office location for her.

**NACD National Meeting Review**

Ron Willis mentioned that him, David Hutsell, Ryan Britt, Jim Boschert and Rayanna Hopper attend the NACD National Conference. All thought it was a good conference.

**MDC Payments**

Jim Boschert mentioned since November 1, 2023 he has sent out 15 payments totaling $33,689.10. Jim also brought up for discussion the issue of if MASWCD should be issuing a 1099 for the landowners that receive over $600. After discussion Henry Heinze made a motion to table the 1099 issue. The motion was seconded by Steve Radcliffe. Motion carried unanimously (6-0).

**MASWCD Foundation Dissolution**

Jim Boschert mentioned he has submitted paperwork to the Missouri Attorney General to start the process for the dissolution of the MASWCD Foundation.

**New Business**

**Parks, Soils and Water Tax Renewal**

Ron Willis mentioned the Parks, Soils, and Water Sales Tax Renewal is up for a vote in 2026. Jim Plassmeyer mentioned he has talked to Farm Bureau and they are planning to have an in-house meeting in June to start the discussion on how to proceed with the renewal efforts.

**2024 Area Meetings and Elections**

Ron Willis discussed the 2024 area meetings. It was discussed to only hold meetings in areas 2,4,6, and 8, these are the areas that will hold elections this year. David Hutsell made a motion to hold area meetings the week of August 26th for areas 2,4,6, and 8. The motion was seconded by Jeff Deshon. Motion carried unanimously (6-0).

**RCPP Proposal**

Ryan Britt discussed a possible RCPP project to address the lack of funds for cattle feeding operations. It was decided not to submit a proposal at this time.

**2024 Training Conference**

Jim Boschert mentioned the 2024 training conference will be held Dec 2-4. Jim mentioned this year will be the 80th anniversary of SWCDs in Missouri. Jim mentioned the current contract with Margaritaville runs through 2025. Jim also mentioned Margaritaville would like confirmation from MASWCD that they would like to keep the current dates after the current contract expires. Steve Radcliffe made a motion to keep the date of the training conference past 2025. The motion was seconded by Tim Neely. Motion carried unanimously (6-0). Jim also asked the board for ideas for speaker, theme, and/or giveaway items.

**NACD Fly-In**

Ron Willis mentioned Tim Neely, Ryan Britt, Jim Boschert and Scott Edwards would be attending the NACD Fly-In next week. Beverly Dometrorch made a motion to pay expenses for Tim Neely and Jim Boschert to attend the NACD Fly-In. The motion was seconded by Jeff Deshon. Motion carried unanimously (6-0).

**NACD Summer Meeting**

Ron Willis mentioned the NACD Summer meeting will be held in Boston from August 10-13. Ron Willis and David Hutsell will be attending.

**Travel Policy**

The MASWCD travel policy was reviewed. It was decided to maintain current policy.

**Area Reports**

Area 1 - Dry

Area 2 - Dry but not to dry. Need help.

Area 3 - Dry but ground is starting to be worked.

Area 4 - Staff turnover and dry.

Area 5 – Dry have gotten some rain.

Area 6 – Not bad got some rain.

Area 7 - Dry but a little rain. Grass is starting to green up.

Area 8 – No report given.

**Correspondence**

A request from NACD North Central region requesting yearly dues was presented. Steve Radcliffe made a motion to pay the dues totaling $500 to NACD North Central Region. The motion was seconded by Beverly Dometrorch. Motion carried unanimously (6-0).

**Other Business**

Jeff Deshon made a motion to make a memorial donation of $100 for both Steve Radcliffe’s father and Tom Lambert. The motion was seconded by Tim Neely. Motion carried unanimously (5-0) with Steve Radcliffe abstaining.

Ron Willis mentioned Jeff Deshon has been selected as an NACD Soil Health Champion.

**Next Meeting Date**

The next meeting is scheduled for June 11th at Farm Bureau.

**Adjourn**

Jeff Deshon made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Tim Neely. Motion carried unanimously (6-0). The meeting adjourned at 2:45 pm.