**MASWCD BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**Draft MEETING Minutes**

**Thursday, September 5, 2024, 10:00 a.m.**

**Missouri Farm Bureau**

**Country Club Dr**

**Jefferson City, Missouri**

**Present**

Ron Willis, President Rayanna Hopper, Trng Coor

Jim Carlson Area I Jim Plassmeyer, DNR SWCP

Scot Shively, Area III Scott Edwards, NRCS

Beverly Dometrorch, Area IV Dan Engemann, Farm Bureau

Jeff Deshon, Area V Melissa White MSWCDEA

Tim Neely, Area VI Seth Barrioz, MDC

Kenny Spooler, Area VIII

Harold Lampe, Treasurer

Jim Boschert, Executive Director

**Not Present**

Steve Radcliffe, Area II, David Hutsell Area VII and Ryan Britt, Past President

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. Jim Boschert mentioned MASWCD Travel Policy will need to be added to the agenda. Jeff Deshon made a motion to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Tim Neely. Motion carried unanimously (6-0).

**Minutes**

The minutes from the June 11, 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.

Harold Lampe presented the soil and water conservation districts that have paid their 2024 dues. There are currently 103 SWCDs that have paid their dues.

 Harold Lampe reviewed the 2024 budget.

Kenny Spooler made a motion to approve the treasurer’s report. The motion was seconded by Scot Shively. Motion carried unanimously (6-0).

**MDC Report**

Seth Barrioz presented the MDC report. Seth mentioned that Jason Sumners is the new Director for the Department of Conservation. Seth also mentioned over 4600 feral hogs have been eliminated this year through MDC programs. MDC has purchased 24 no-till drills for soil and water conservation districts. Seth also mentioned with September here the fall hunting seasons are starting.

**NRCS Report**

Scott Edwards discussed the recently completed Area Meetings. Scott also mentioned the new agreement with the Department of Natural Resources. This agreement will provide funds for Engineers, the Archeologist and the FOSA shared employees. Scott also mentioned his staff has 76% of the funds obligated for this year.

**Commission Report**

Jim Plassmeyer also briefly discussed the Area Meetings. Jim mentioned the next Commission meeting is October 2nd. Jim stated the SWCD claimed just under 49.6 million in cost-share for last fiscal year. Jim mentioned revenues for August were down 5% compared to August of last year. Jim stated DNR will be working with NRCS and partner agencies to update the Memorandum of Agreement. Jim also briefly went over the District Specialist VI applications received and what the plans are for interviewing. each area.

**Farm Bureau Report**

Dan Engemann mentioned Farm Bureau is happy with the way the primary elections went in Missouri. He stated Farm Bureau was pleased with the recently completed State Fair. Dan stated Farm Bureau is in the process of working on their policy development.

**Employee Association Report**

Melissa White mentioned the Area Meetings. Melissa mentioned MSWCDEA will be presenting a plaque to the winner of the Missouri Partnership Award. Melissa discussed SWCDs need to be creative and look at different options for providing incentives to SWCD employees in an effort to retain them.

**NACD Report**

Ron Willis mentioned he attended the NACD Summer meeting in Boston along with Ryan Britt and Jim Boschert. Ron discussed the different tour stops at the summer meeting. Ron mentioned the different grants available through NACD specifically the NACD TA Grant. Ron mentioned that the Farm Bill is currently stalled. Ron stated the NACD Regional Meeting will be held in Iowa this January. Ron also mentioned the NACD National meeting will be February 8th-12th in Salt Lake City.

**Committee Reports**

**Budget Committee**

Budget was discussed earlier.

**By Laws Committee**

Ron Willis stated he would like the board to consider a by-laws change that would allow the MASWCD board to appoint an alternate for an Area if someone is interested in the position.

**Strategic Plan Committee**

Nothing to report at this time.

**Envirothon Committee**

Beverly Dometrorch mentioned the Missouri team placed 23rd in the National Envirothon Competition that was recently held in New York. Next year the national competition will be held in Alberta, Canada.

**Old Business**

**Area Meeting Review**

Ron Willis stated he thought the meetings went very well. Jim Plassmeyer presented a report that showed the numbers of attendees at each meeting. There was discussion on how to proceed with the meetings in the future.

**MASWCD Election Results**

Ron Willis mentioned Kenny Reichart has been elected as the Area Director for MASWCD Area II. The Area Directors for the other three Areas will remain the same.

**NACD Summer Meeting Review**

This was discussed earlier.

**CRCL Project-STAR Program**

Jim Boschert mentioned MASWCD was reimbursed $4650 twice during the past quarter. Jim also presented the STAR Affiliated Agreement for the board to review.

**NRCS Grant**

Jim Boschert mentioned he is still waiting to hear back from NRCS on the funding for the Engineer to be approved. Jim presented a list of SWCDs that have stated they will contribute to the match needed for the Engineer position. Jim also mentioned Ben has accepted the Archeologist position but would like a start date of November 25th due to paternity leave. Beverly Dometrorch made a motion to hire Ben with a start date of December 1st. The motion was seconded by Tim Neely. Motion carried unanimously (6-0).

**MDC Payments**

Jim Boschert mentioned he has been working with MDC staff on a new agreement for the MDC programs. MDC has agreed to increase the admin fee from 2% to 10%. Jim stated he has mailed letters to all individuals that have received funds this year stating he needs a W-9 completed so MASWCD can issue a 1099 after the first of the year.

**2024 Training Conference**

Jim Boschert stated he is planning to open registration around September 30th. Jim said he has contacted Corn Growers and they will provide notebooks again this year. Jim has also asked MFA if they would be willing to provide something for the bags. Jim presented an agenda for the MASWCD Business meeting. Jim also asked for volunteers for different task at the meeting. Jim discussed the agenda for the conference. Jim mentioned issues he was having with getting a landowner panel together. A suggestion was to see if Addie Yoder would be available for the general session on Wednesday morning. Tim Neely made a motion to contact Addie Yoder to see if she would be available for speaking at the Wednesday session. The motion was seconded by Beverly Dometrorch. Motion carried unanimously (5-0). Tim Neely made a motion to give Charles Benny the Cooperator of the Year Award. The motion was seconded by Jim Carlson. Motion carried unanimously (5-0). Jeff Deshon made a motion to give Alicia Muhm the Educator of the Year Award. The motion was seconded by Tim Neely. Motion carried unanimously (5-0). There were no nominees for Distinguished Service Award. It was decided to give the Legislative Award at the Education Seminar. Tim Neely made a motion to give the Missouri Conservation Partnership Award to Cedar SWCD. The motion was seconded by Beverly Dometrorch. Motion carried unanimously (5-0). The Board reviewed the 6 resolution that have been submitted by SWCDs. It was mentioned that Area Directors should be contacting local businesses for contributions for the MASWCD auction. Jim Boschert presented an option for a new MASWCD banner. The board asked for Jim to look at other options for the banner. Jim stated reprinting the banner would cost approximately $175.

**New Business**

**NACD TA Grant**

Jim Boschert mentioned a call for NACD TA Grants is now open. Jim mentioned in the past Missouri has not taken advantage of the grant opportunities provided by NACD. Jim mentioned that Ron Willis, Ryan Britt, Jim Plassmeyer, Scott Edwards and Jim met to discuss if there is a need for MASWCD to apply for this grant. It was suggested by the group to ask NRCS which counties in the state had the highest federal workload. Scott presented Jim a list of eight counties. Jim also mentioned the National STAR Committee would also like to see Missouri submit a NACD TA Grant application for funding for a STAR Coordinator. Beverly Dometrorch made a motion to submit a NACD TA Grant application for technical assistance for SWCDs and also for a STAR Coordinator. The motion was seconded by Jim Carlson. Motion carried unanimously (5-0).

**Education Seminar**

Jim Boschert mentioned he contacted Capital Plaza Hotel to see what dates were available in February or March for the seminar. The board suggested seeing of the dates of March 11th or 12th is available. The board would like to have the Education Seminar on one of these dates if the legislators are in session during this time.

**North Central Region Meeting**

Ron Willis stated the North Central Region meeting will be held on January 9th- 10th in Des Moines Iowa. If anyone is interested in attending, please let Jim know.

**NACD National Conference**

Ron Willis mentioned the NACD National Conference will be held February 8th-12th in Salt Lake City Utah.

**Executive Director Conference**

Jim Boschert mentioned a conference for the Executive Directors will be held October 1st-2nd in Manhattan, Kansas. Jeff Deshon made a motion to pay the expenses for Jim to attend the conference. The motion was seconded by Beverly Dometrorch. Motion carried unanimously (5-0).

**Travel Policy**

Jim Boschert presented an updated travel policy for both MASWCD board members and staff. Jeff Deshon made a motion to approve the updated travel policy. The motion was seconded by Tim Neely. Motion carried unanimously (5-0).

**Employee Report**

Rayanna Hopper presented a report to the board on her recent activities.

**Area Reports**

Area 1 – Crops look good. Have had some local rains. Corn harvest is starting

Area 2 – No report

Area 3 – No report

Area 4 – Have received rain, water in the ponds. Hay is good.

Area 5 – No report

Area 6 – Could use some rain. August was dry.

Area 7 – No report.

Area 8 – No rain for a while. Corn harvest has started.

**Correspondence**

A letter from the Missouri Envirothon Committee was presented.

An invitation to the Native Grassland Summit was presented. If anyone is interested in attending, please let Jim know.

**Other Business**

None

**Closed Session**

None

**Next Meeting Date**

The next meeting is scheduled for December 1st at training conference.

**Adjourn**

Beverly Dometrorch made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Jim Carlson. Motion carried unanimously (5-0). The meeting adjourned at 2:10 pm.