

Minutes
MISSOURI ASSOCIATION OF SOIL
AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS
62nd ANNUAL MEETING
TAN-TAR-A RESORT
OSAGE BEACH, MO
November 30, 2010

The 62nd Annual Meeting of the Missouri Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts was called to order by President Steve Radcliff at 8:08 a.m. at the Tan-Tar-A Resort in Osage Beach, MO.

Liz Brown, Howard SWCD Supervisor and former Soil & Water Commissioner made an announcement about the death of Steve Hopper. Steve was a Board Supervisor for Livingston County, served on the MASWCD Board and as President, and also served on the NACD Executive Board. Information about arrangements will be provided as they become available.

NRCS Report: J.R. Flores, State Conservationist, stated that Missouri had hosted several national conferences this past year. There was a proclamation signing for RC&D at the Governor's office recently. It is the 75th anniversary of NRCS, and there have been some new initiatives put in place this year. There was a significant expansion in the organic initiative with EQIP funding. By statute 60% of the EQIP funds are directed toward livestock producers and the rest is split between cropland, pastureland and forestland. Missouri led the nation in the number of CSP contracts. The new initiatives are the MRBI (Mississippi River Basin Initiative and MBHI (Migratory Bird Habitat Initiative). Twelve states in the Mississippi River region were eligible to submit proposals for MRBI funding. Six gulf states were eligible to submit proposals for MBHI funding. Missouri was included in both these initiatives. No cropland was taken out of production for the MBHI projects, it is implemented on harvested crop fields. J.R. stated he appreciated the relationship NRCS has with the partners, especially the districts.

COMMISSION REPORT: Richard Fordyce, chair of the Soil & Water Commission reported 3 of the Commissioners were in attendance at the conference – Charles Ausfahl, Kathryn Braden and himself. He briefly reviewed the requirements to be a Commissioner. He stated he appreciates the issues brought to the Commission's attention that they may need to look at. He talked about the budget and the reserve fund, why some funds are needed in reserve for cash flow of the program. He stated this program has been insulated to budget problems due to our management, they will do their very best to maintain the cost share funding as it is. With the implementation of HB250 more emphasis was put on water quality. He stated there were flaws in the allocation process and that is why they went to the Needs Assessment. MoSWIMS allows them to track allocations, obligations and payments. Landowner surveys are sent out with every payment. Over 40% of the surveys have been returned. Some work groups have been initiated to study the program which included some groups from outside the program. The election voter turn-out continues to be a concern. The WQ-10 practice is currently under review. After the public comment time they will look at the comments and may make policy changes

based on the review and comments. The advanced cost share allocation allows districts to keep working through the spring and early summer.

Roll call: Roll call and establishment of a quorum, 54 of 100 paid districts were present, (51 needed for a quorum).

Minutes: Motion was made by Daviess County and seconded by Johnson County to approve the 2009 minutes as presented by email and on screen. Motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer's report for November 2009 to November 2010 was presented. Internal audit was done Sunday night with no issues identified. Carroll County moved to approve the treasurer report and file for audit, seconded by Callaway County. Motion passed unanimously.

SOIL AND WATER RESOLUTIONS

The resolutions from the 2009 Business Meeting and information on how they were addressed is in the conference packets. Steve Radcliff introduced Ben Gorden, Resolutions Chair, to handle the resolutions.

Resolution #1: presented by Morgan County, on additional cost share components for the use exclusion practice. Morgan County moved approval of the resolution, Callaway County seconded. Motion passed with only 1 no vote.

There were no resolutions from the floor.

Peggy Lemons, Executive Director, reported on the officer election held yesterday. President is Steve Radcliff, 1st Vice President is Kenny Lovelace, 2nd Vice President is Beverly Dometorch, and 3rd Vice President is Bruce Biermann. David Dix was appointed as treasurer again.

President's Report: Steve Radcliff reported he had received notice from NACD that Missouri is one of 13 states being recognized for its supervisor training program at the NACD National Meeting in Nashville. He talked about the need for board training and stated ideas had been discussed on how to track the hours of training such as gold-silver-bronze levels. A motion was made by Daviess County to bring the issue of board training/certification from the floor for discussion. Polk County seconded. Motion carried. Discussion from the floor, Ste. Genevieve County asked how far down you could go to count the training – the answer was all the way down to the local level. MU sponsored field days, etc., should be considered, any training or time where you can bring something back to your local district. Gasconade County asked if this would be beneficial legislatively – the answer was yes. Jefferson County stated the group needs to have a vote to have certification or not have it, and if so what constitutes certification. DNR has stated they will be available to help with training. Kathryn Braden suggested appointing a committee to look into a training/certification program and bring ideas back to the MASWCD Board to make it timely. Gasconade County reminded that it is difficult to find supervisors to serve,

We need to be careful not to demand too much. Taney County motioned to set up as voluntary basis and set up a committee to come up with a plan. Vernon County seconded. Buchanan County questioned on how ranking would work and what would happen when new board members replaced trained board members. There are 57 new legislators this year, it would be beneficial to say we have so many certified board members, adds credibility to the program. Bates County stated with the difficulty in getting people to serve he was concerned about the term certification, it may scare some off. Kathryn Braden stated that when the committee comes up with an idea, the Area Directors need to communicate it out to the districts and get their feedback on how they should vote on the issue when the MASWCD Board votes on it. Benton County stated that they didn't think it should be a competition between districts. The motion was approved by voice vote. Steve Radcliff appointed Kenny Lovelace to chair the committee and will ask for volunteers to serve on the committee.

Information will be in the next MASWCD newsletter on income and expenses. The auction last night raised \$5100.00 for the legislative fund.

Steve Radcliff announced the new Board, Mike Kelley will be replacing Steve Huber as the Area 8 Director.

Kenny Lovelace asked all supervisors to stand, and then sit down by the number of years they have served on their local board. The board member who has served the longest number of years is Steve Huber with 38 years.

Other Business

Steve Radcliff thanked all who helped make the conference a success.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:40 am.