

**Minutes**  
**MISSOURI ASSOCIATION OF SOIL**  
**AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS**  
**63<sup>rd</sup> ANNUAL MEETING**  
**TAN-TAR-A RESORT**  
**OSAGE BEACH, MO**  
**November 29, 2011**

The 63<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting of the Missouri Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts was called to order by President Steve Radcliff at 8:00 a.m. at the Tan-Tar-A Resort in Osage Beach, MO. Guests in attendance were introduced, Kelly Smith of Farm Bureau, Colleen Meredith acting director of the DNR Soil & Water Program and her staff.

**Roll call:** A quorum was established by voting card pickup with 55 voting districts present.

**Minutes:** Motion was made by Callaway County and seconded by Jackson County to approve the 2010 minutes as presented by email, posted on the Internet, and on screen. Motion passed unanimously.

**Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer's report for November 2010 to November 2011 was presented, copies were included in conference packets. Internal audit was done Sunday night with no issues identified. Camden County moved to approve the treasurer report and file for audit, seconded by Jackson County. Motion passed unanimously.

**President's Report:** Steve Radcliff thanked everyone for attending. He stated we can be as strong as we want or as weak as we want. 114 can move mountains to save soil.

**NRCS Report:** J.R. Flores, State Conservationist, gave an update on the accomplishments for the past year: \$29.4 million for EQIP, \$32 million for CSP, \$13.8 million for Wetland Reserve and \$358,000 for WHIP. There were over 30 grazing schools. 4,100 acres enrolled in the Grassland Reserve Program and 129,000 acres enrolled in CRP. It has been a very busy year for the employees and this next year they will be working on the backlog of sign-ups. He stated he took a tour of the flooded areas, nationwide \$215 million has been allocated for EWRP (Emergency Watershed Restoration Program). We should know shortly the amount of that funding Missouri will receive. Secretary Vilsack has stated the number of federal programs needs to be reduced to help lessen the confusion to landowners. J.R. said he agreed that some of the programs needed to be combined. He stated he feels real honored to be part of the partnership and appreciates the strong partnership with the districts.

**COMMISSION REPORT:** Colleen Meredith reported that FY-11 was the third highest year in the history of the sales tax for the cost-share dollars claimed with a total of \$24.3 million. She stated 66% of the funding went to the landowners. For FY-2012, 99% of the districts received supplemental allocations. The Commission meeting was held yesterday, they have some pretty tough issues to deal with. The meeting was well attended. They have approved a pilot practice for cover crops and Chariton County will be the pilot for this practice. The WQ-10 demo days were well attended. There were 27 audits this past year.

She thanked those districts who helped with the testing of the new time accounting program. There was no increase in the health insurance costs for district employees this year. They are still gathering information from the districts on the impact of disasters. DNR partnered with NRCS on the MRBI positions with DNR contributing 25% and NRCS contributing 75%. She stated that she was looking forward to the Partner Forum later in the day.

## **SOIL AND WATER RESOLUTIONS**

Steve Radcliff introduced Ben Gorden, Resolutions Chair, to handle the resolutions. Ben reported on the resolution from the 2010 Business Meeting. He read the letter of response from the Program Office stating the resolution would be included with the information being gathered for review of the N472 practice. Ben then reminded everyone that the sponsoring district must be present and is required to read the resolution and move for acceptance

**Resolution #1:** presented by Lawrence County, on requiring SWCD experience to be a Soil & Water Commissioner. Lawrence County moved approval of the resolution, Camden County seconded. Gasconade County expressed caution, doesn't feel it is a good idea to open the statute for changes; a lot of people would like to get their hands on our money. Vote on the resolution passed with 33 yes and 16 no.

**Resolution #2:** presented by Livingston County, on changing the funding type authority between the Commission and DNR and the requirement of district experience to be a Commissioner. Livingston County moved approval of the resolution, Marion County seconded. Vote on the resolution failed with 16 yes and 17 no.

**Resolution #3:** presented by Livingston County, on cost-share funding paid back by landowner staying with the respective district. Livingston County moved approval, Daviess County seconded. Vote on the resolution passed with 53 yes and none opposed.

**Resolution #4:** presented by Carter County, on DSL-2 cross fencing practice not being required to meet the 528 guidelines in order to qualify. Carter County moved approval, Perry County seconded. Vote on the resolution passed with 31 yes and 10 no.

**Resolution #5:** no one from Mercer County was in attendance to present the resolution.

**Resolution #6:** no one from Mercer County was in attendance to present the resolution.

**Resolution #7:** presented by Gasconade County, on stream bank stabilization cost-share. Gasconade County moved approval of the resolution, Callaway County seconded. Gasconade County stated they had a CCPI grant and appreciated the cost-share assistance on the stream bank practice, however the \$5000 limit is hard to get a project completed on. Clark County stated they were concerned with how much of the cost-share dollars would go to this practice. St. Charles County stated stream bank work should be a watershed issue, piece milling doesn't accomplish the desired results. The vote on the resolution failed with 15 yes and 32 no.

**Resolution #8:** presented by MASWCD, on requesting a yearly detailed financial report from DNR. Bruce Biermann (Area 1 Director) moved approval, Carter County seconded. It was stated this has been requested in the past and received the pie chart numbers, however districts have to account for every penny so should DNR. Vote on the resolution passed with 50 yes and no opposition.

**Resolution #9:** presented by MASWCD, requesting a copy of the current Commission policies. Mike Kelley (Area 8 Director) moved approval. Daviess County seconded. Bates County questioned for more explanation, not sure exactly what the resolution is asking for. It was explained that districts are required to have a written policy and the Commission policy is referenced in cost-share so districts should have a copy. Vote on the resolution passed with 52 yes and no opposition.

**Resolution #10:** presented by Marion County, on salary increase for district employees when state employees receive a salary increase. Marion County moved approval, Bates County seconded. Vote on the resolution passed with 53 yes and no opposition.

**Resolutions from the floor: Resolution #11:** presented by Clark County on increasing the service life of ponds from 10 years to 20 years. The vote to bring from the floor was 41 yes which was over 2/3. Clark County read the resolution and moved approval, Callaway County seconded.

**Whereas,** ponds are known to last for many years. If they are maintained they will last many years past their current stated service life, and

**Whereas,** the service life of a pond is one part of the calculation used to figure the cost of soil saved per acre, and

**Whereas,** if the service life of a pond was increased to 20 years instead of the present 10 years the cost per ton of soil saved would be half of what it presently is on each pond;

**Therefore, be it resolved:** that the Missouri Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts believes the Soil and Water Program Commission should change the service life of a pond to 20 years. This surely would look better to the tax payers of Missouri.

Gasconade questioned would this also change the maintenance agreement on ponds from 10 years to 20 years, if so no one may want to sign up for that. Vote on the resolution passed with 26 yes and 24 no.

Chris Baker of Livingston County stated he would like to reconsider Resolution #2. A 2/3 vote is needed to reconsider a resolution. George Engelbach pointed out that to reconsider the motion must come from the losing side of the vote. Since there was not a roll call vote, it cannot be proved who voted in favor or opposed.

Worth County stated they would like to present the Mercer resolution #5 from the floor, on transferring funds between resource concerns. This will be Resolution #12. The vote to bring from the floor was 47 yes with no opposition. Callaway County motioned approval of

this resolution, Johnson County seconded. Resolution passed with a vote of 50 yes and no opposition.

Grundy County stated they would like to present the Mercer resolution #6 from the floor, on funding for equipment maintenance and upgrading. The vote to bring from the floor was 29 yes, did not get the 2/3 to bring from the floor.

Ben Gorden announced the 2011 MASWCD policy now included the resolutions passed at last year's business meeting. A motion to approve the policy was made by Pettis County, Marion County seconded. No discussion, motion passed with a vote of 22 yes and no opposition.

Polk County stated they did not understand what the type II funding is that was mentioned in Resolution #2, could someone please explain. Steve Radcliff explained he did not want to jeopardize the meeting attendance with a political discussion, a thorough discussion of type II funding would be political. He briefly covered what type II funding is – the amount of authority transferred from the Commission to DNR for the program.

Steve Radcliff stated that the Soil & Water Commission currently has only 1 Commissioner in a legal term, the others are serving in expired terms along with the one vacancy that has not been filled since 2008.

Steve also announced the posters from the state poster contest are available for districts to pick up in the foyer.

A motion was made by Holt County to adjourn, Callaway seconded. Motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 9:35m.