



Missouri Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts

MASWCD MINUTES
Regular Meeting
USDA Service Center
Jefferson City, Missouri
September 13, 2011

President

STEVE RADCLIFF
NACD Board Member
P. O. Box 571
Chillicothe, MO 64601
(660) 247-1255
stevenr@greenhills.net

1st Vice President

KENNY LOVELACE
2605 County Road 325
Palmyra, MO 63461
(573) 769-4544
kennyll@centurytel.net

2nd Vice-President

BEVERLY DOMETRORCH
Alternate NACD Member
2670 Highway 240
Fayette, MO 65248
(660) 248-2645

3rd Vice-President

BRUCE BIERMANN
1529 Sunset Blvd.
Mound City, MO 64470
(660) 442-5262

Past President

FRED FELDMANN
Route 1, Box 62
Richards, MO 64778
(417) 966-7289
fredswcd@live.com

AREA DIRECTORS

Area I

BRUCE BIERMANN
1529 Sunset Blvd.
Mound City, MO 64470
(660) 442-5262

Area II

TOM LAMBERT
15214 123rd Street
Pattonburg, MO 64670
(660) 367-2448

Area III

KENNY LOVELACE
2605 County Road 325
Palmyra, MO 63461
(573) 769-4544

Area IV

BEVERLY DOMETRORCH
2670 Highway 240
Fayette, MO 65248
(660) 248-2645

Area V

GEORGE ENGELBACH
3489 Linhorst Road
Hillsboro, MO 63050
(636) 475-6328

Area VI

BEN GORDEN
2282 E. 460th Road
Half Way, MO 65663
(417) 445-2596

Area VII

DAN GREESON
29 Pin Oak Road
Eldon, MO 65206
(573) 392-3208

Area VIII

MIKE KELLEY
RR 1 Box 211A
Elsinore, MO 63937
(573) 322-5725

Executive Director

PEGGY LEMONS
1209 Biscayne Drive
Jefferson City, MO 65109
(573) 893-6790 or 893-5188
peggyl@maswcd.net

Treasurer

DAVID DIX
PO Box 756
Eminence, MO 65466
(573) 226-3787
davidix@socket.net

Present

Steve Radcliff, President
Bruce Biermann, Area I
Tom Lambert, Area II
Kenny Lovelace, Area III
Beverly Dometrorch, Area IV
George Engelbach, Area V
Ben Gorden, Area VI
Dan Greeson, Area VII
David Dix, Treasurer
Peggy Lemons, Executive Director

Drenda Williams, NRCS
Sandy Hutchison, Employees Assoc
Roger Ankrom, Polk SWCD
Bonnie Pryor, Miller SWCD
Connie Luttrell, Camden SWCD
Ernie Calvert, Camden SWCD
Pat Lambert, Harrison SWCD
Frankie Coleman, St. Charles SWCD

Not Present

Fred Feldmann, Past President
Mike Kelley, Area VIII

President Steve Radcliff welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m. Introductions were made around the room. Quorum established by roll call.

The Board reviewed the highlights from the hearing earlier today.

The minutes from the May 10, 2011 meeting, the May 25, 2011 MASWCD-DNR Meeting, the June 22, 2011 Conference Call, and the July 25, 2011 Conference Call were approved as printed and presented. Motion for approval made by Tom Lambert, Bruce Biermann seconded. Motion carried unanimously (7-0).

A treasurer report was given by David Dix. He stated that 96 districts have paid dues in full for this year, 2 have paid partial dues and 16 have not paid. Areas III, IV and V have all paid 100%. David provided a list of the districts in the other areas that have not paid dues. Kenny Lovelace motioned to approve the treasurer report. Bruce Biermann seconded. Motion carried unanimously (7-0).

MDC Report: Clint Dalbom is attending the Women in Ag meeting in Boonville so there was no MDC report.

NRCS Report: Drenda Williams gave an update on J. R. Flores medical condition. . She stated he hoped to get into rehabilitation in the next few days and was hoping to be back to work in 30 days or so. She said he is receiving e-mails and cards, and will let everyone know when he will be able to have visitors. Drenda said that NRCS is working on funding through DNR for technical assistance. They still have to establish the parameters, but cost-share will be included. The request for approval for NRVS employees to attend the Training Conference will be re-submitted for approval. A new EQIP sign-up will start on November 1 and run through January 1. There have not been any EQP funds for disasters yet. The freeze on technical positions has been lifted, but not the administrative positions. There will be a meeting on September 27 to work more on the MOU. The issue of NRCS building leases may be brought into the discussion due to the district purchases of cleaning supplies for the buildings being questioned by the Program Office.

Commission Report: No one from DNR was in attendance. The Commission conference call last Friday and it was stated that there were only a limited number of lines available for the call. It was questioned if this was legal by the Sunshine Law. MASWCD offered to use our conference call number and group some on one phone line to link into the Commission conference call; however they did not utilize the offer. It is assumed that everyone who desired to be on the conference call was able to. On the conference call the Commission approved \$342,653 for disaster assistance and will extend the deadline for districts to respond with the estimates of disaster assistance needed until November 1. The amount approved covers the estimates from the 7 districts who have responded so far. They did approve that the districts needed to have a minimum of obligation or pending at 70% or greater in order to receive the disaster assistance funding. The Commission also approved a supplemental cost-share allocation of \$5 million to be available somewhere around mid-October. The Board discussed the various reasons for the differences in the amount of cost-share funding utilized in districts. This varies from the amount of NRCS assistance, the availability of contractors, whether they use contractor lay-out or not, and whether they use a lower percentage of cost-share. After further discussion a motion was made by Ben Gorden to investigate retaining an attorney to help us through our troubled times. Beverly Dometrorch seconded the motion. On a roll call vote the results were: Bruce Biermann – yes, Tom Lambert – yes, Kenny Lovelace – yes, Beverly Dometrorch – yes, George Engelbach – no, Ben Gorden – yes, and Dan Greeson – yes. Motion carried on a vote of 6-1. George Engelbach stated he was concerned that using an attorney will cut out the legislators having a chance to solve the issues.

Employee Association Report: Sandy Hutchison reported their board had met the end of August. They are going to fund any Area Meetings that are going to be held because their by-laws call for them to hold Area Meetings and their elections to occur at Area Meetings. They are making some minor changes in the booth cost at the Trade Show for the Training Conference. Some of the pricing will also offer the vendors or sponsors the opportunity to sponsor breaks or have an ad in the conference program.

Old Business: Steve Radcliff stated he had received requests for donations to the state Grassland Evaluation Contest and the Missouri Women in Ag meeting. Since the response was needed prior to the meeting date for the MASWCD board, he made the decision to donate an amount similar to what had been done in the past. George Engelbach made a motion to approve those donations of \$250 for Grassland Evaluation and \$550 for Women in Ag. Bruce Biermann seconded the motion, motion carried unanimously (7-0).

Peggy Lemons provided a report on the Canon Envirothon in New Brunswick in July. The Missouri team did quite well, placing 11th overall and having the high score for aquatics testing. A letter of congratulations will be sent to the team along with the invitation to the Training Conference for the award presentations.

Steve Radcliff, Kenny Lovelace, Beverly Dometrorch and Dan Greeson reported on the NACD Legislative meeting in Washington, D.C. in July. Steve Radcliff stated he felt they had just as good visits without set appointments as in the past with the set appointment times. Kenny Lovelace stated that after listening to representatives from other states about their financial struggles with their soil and water program right now, he was proud of our program and the sales tax. Missouri is still envied by the rest of the nation for our funding.

The Commission August meeting and September conference call were pretty well covered in the Commission Report.

New Business: Steve Radcliff stated the statute resolutions will be 2 separate House bills for this Legislative session. One bill will be requesting to change the type II transfer of funding of the Soil & Water Commission to DNR be changed to a type III transfer. The other bill will add the requirement of present or past experience on a Missouri SWCD board in order to be a Soil & Water Commissioner. These bills will be pre-filed early in order to get a low number which should help them move through the session easier. He said he is unsure how any information on these bills can be handled at the Training Conference.

The Board then reviewed the revised agenda for the Training Conference and the workshops planned for the conference. The workshops that NRCS and DNR are doing are being finalized and as soon as that information is complete the registration can be put on-line. The Opening Session speaker will be Randy Frazier, retired park ranger and motivational speaker from Arkansas. A motion was made by George Engelbach to approve the \$2500 fee for him. Bruce Biermann seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously (7-0). The judges for the speech contest were discussed. Drenda Williams agreed to be one of the judges, Judy Stinson from the Program Office will be asked to be one of the judges and Tanya Tiemeyer from Livingston SWCD will be the third judge. The Board will need to come up with judges for the FFA District speaking contests. As soon as the list of contact names and dates of the District contests is received, it will be passed on to the Board. The nominations for the Teacher of the Year and the Cooperator of the Year were reviewed and winners selected. Tom Lambert motioned the nomination for Kim Buck from Morgan County be selected as the winner for Teacher of the Year. George Engelbach seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-1 with Beverly Dometrorch abstaining from the vote. George Engelbach motioned the nomination for Everett and David Williams

from Livingston County be selected as the winner for the Cooperator of the Year. Kenny Lovelace seconded the motion. Motion carried 60-1 with Beverly Dometrorch abstaining from the vote. There were no nominations for Grassland Farmer of the Year. There were no nominations for Distinguished Service Award, however, there was a motion made by Kenny Lovelace, seconded by Tom Lambert to present the Distinguished Service Award to Steve Huber.

The Board then discussed the issue of Area Meetings and could they be worked into the Training Conference. There was discussion if the by-laws need to be amended to allow for times when Area Meetings cannot be held or elections cannot be held. After reviewing the conference schedule and discussing several options, the Board decided on Monday morning for Area Meetings and Sunday evening for their MASWCD Board Meeting. George Engelbach made a motion to schedule the Area Meetings for 10 am on Monday morning. Tom Lambert seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously. The MASWCD Board meeting will be scheduled for 5 pm on Sunday evening. There was a question if the Sunday evening cost would be eligible grant expenses for those who needed to come in on Sunday to attend the Area Meetings on Monday morning. An answer will be obtained from the Program on this and distributed to the Districts.

The slate of resolutions submitted by Districts was reviewed and approved. The Board added some of their own resolutions to the slate. One resolution requests a detailed financial report yearly of the Program Office administration costs. The motion for this resolution was made by George Engelbach, seconded by Kenny Lovelace. Motion carried unanimously (7-0). The other resolution requests a written copy of the current Commission policies that govern the operation of the Missouri SWCD's as per section 278.060 to 278.300, RSMo. Motion for this resolution made by Beverly Dometrorch, seconded by George Engelbach. Motion carried unanimously (7-0).

The auction will be held following the Opening Session again. Auction items are needed. Steve Radcliff encouraged the Board to get the information on auction items to Peggy so they could be put on the web page to help promote the auction. The main door prize was discussed. Last year the rhythm clock or \$400 was offered, the money was chosen and the clock was used as the auction donation to the NACD meeting. Kenny Lovelace motioned to have the main door prize the same as last year and if the clock is not selected as the door prize, it will again be used as the auction donation to the NACD meeting. Dan Greeson seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously (7-0). Beverly Dometrorch motioned to offer the \$100 first time supervisor prize again this year. Ben Gorden seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously (7-0).

As mentioned earlier, the registration for the conference will be available on-line as soon as the workshops are finalized, should be in the next couple of weeks.

There is a meeting scheduled for September 27 to work more on the new MOU between NRCS, DNR, SWCD's and the Commission. The MOU has grown from a 4 page document to currently 15 pages. It was questioned as to what will happen if a district does not sign the new document when ready. The answer was not known.

AREA Reports: 1 – Bruce Biermann reported he had visited with his districts after the Area Meeting was cancelled. A majority of his area has experienced flooding from the Missouri River. The hill ground did not flood, however did get hit with wind and hail storm

that had 100 mph winds. Bruce stated he had been involved in meetings with NRCS, FEMA, USDA and other agencies concerning the flooding and disaster assistance. His district is experiencing some issues with NRCS spot checks.

2 – Tom Lambert reported the North Central College was very cooperative when the Area Meeting had to be cancelled. It was scheduled to be held there and catered by them. He stated part of his area has been lucky with the weather and part has had the high winds.

3 – Kenny Lovelace reported his county is real dry, has not had much rain since June. Further north they have had some more rain. So far they have not found any of the alpha toxin problems. They are getting a lot of cost-share work done, the rivers are back to normal levels.

4 – Beverly Dometrorch reported about half of her area has experience burnt corn, the north part of the area is spotty, the south part is lush. She said she visited 9 of the counties when planning for the Area Meeting. One of the issues is waiting to be able to replace employees. She said some districts have mentioned something about having to hire a CPA to check over all the paperwork when the District Manager/Program Specialist position turns over. They all still want flexibility on the cost-share funding. One district experience election issues where they ran 3 election advertisements due to the way their county is covered by the print media, however the Program Office is saying they have to return some of the money claimed from the election costs because they will only pay for 2 advertisements, 3 is too many. Beverly states some of the districts have stated that they would have more interest in the resolutions (now House Bills) if Farm Bureau supports them.

5 – George Engelbach reported his area is extremely dry. A lot of the corn is burnt. There was a tornado on July 3 that did considerable damage. The northern part of St. Louis and St. Charles are getting some rain.

6 – Ben Gorden reported he has a county concerned about the cross-training proposal. Another county thought it would be a good crop year and some of the landowners paid back their money, however the weather did not turn out like predicted. It is dry where he lives. He does plan to have an area get-together on September 26 and discuss the program. Some counties feel MASWCD should hire a lawyer. He stated he has some concern about opening up the law to make changes.

7 – Dan Greeson reported his area does not have a lot to complain about right now, the tornadoes have been to the southwest of them, the floods to the north of them, however they do have the geese problems as was heard at the hearing earlier today.

Correspondence: Steve Radcliff distributed copies of a letter he received from Osage SWCD concerning the conflicts everyone is experiencing. Their letter states they do not support the resolutions (House Bills) MASWCD is introducing because they do not think they will solve the problems.

Other Business: George Engelbach read from the 2011 Farm Bureau policy on the soil and water program stating -- ***We believe the Soil and Water Commission should have the responsibility and authority to administer the Soil and Water Conservation program as***

approved by Missouri voters and be free of political influences that could jeopardize the integrity of the program.

A copy of a chart of the monthly sales tax fund reports for the last year was distributed. The fund balance still remains just under \$30 million.

Tom Lambert had earlier mentioned idea of a donation to the North Central College for their cooperation in helping set up the Area Meeting for his area and then being so accommodating when the meeting was cancelled. Beverly Dometrorch motioned to send \$50 donation to the college. Dan Greeson seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously (7-0).

The date for the next regular meeting will be at the Training Conference, Sunday evening starting at 5:00 p.m. A conference call may be needed if issues arise before the next meeting. There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 6:50 p.m. Motion for adjournment made by Tom Lambert, Ben Gorden seconded. Motion carried unanimously (7-0).

Respectfully submitted,

Peggy Lemons, Executive Director

Steve Radcliff, President