



Missouri Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts

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MASWCD BOARD OF DIRECTORS Draft MEETING Minutes Sunday, November 26, 2023, 2:00 p.m. Margaritaville Lake Resort Tan-Tar-A Conference Center 494 Tan-Tar-A Drive, Rooms 60/61 Osage Beach, Missouri

Present

Ron Willis, President
Ryan Britt, Past President
Jim Carlson Area I
Henry Heinze, Area III Alternate
Beverly Dometrorch, Area IV
Jeff Deshon, Area V
Tim Neely, Area VI
David Hutsell Area VII
Kenny Spooler, Area VIII
Harold Lampe, Treasurer
Jim Boschert, Executive Director

Kenny Reichert, Chariton SWCD
Jim Plassmeyer, DNR Soil and Water Program
Scott Edwards, NRCS
Ashley Johnson, NRCS
Greg Collier, MDC
Melissa White, MSWCDEA

Not Present

Steve Radcliffe, Area II,

President Ron Willis welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 2:00 pm. A roll call was done and it was determined a quorum was present.

Ron Willis asked for a motion to approve the agenda. Jim Carlson made a motion to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Jeff Deshon. Motion carried unanimously (8-0).

Minutes

The minutes from the September 12, 2023 and the Webex meeting on 10/31/2023 were reviewed. Jeff Deshon made a motion to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by Beverly Dometrorch. Motion carried unanimously (8-0).

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. Jeff Deshon made a motion to approve the treasurer's report. The motion was seconded by David Hutsell. Motion carried unanimously (8-0).

MDC Report

Greg Collier thanked the association for all they do. Greg said MDC is currently working on their budget for next year. Greg went over the results of the recently completed deer season. Greg went over the hunting seasons currently open. Greg answered several questions from the directors.

NRCS Report

Ashley Johnson reported Scott Edwards will be transitioning back to being State Conservationist. Funding for NRCS is through January 19th. Ashley discussed NRCS budget including IRA funds. NRCS has been directed to spend their IRA Funds before their Farm Bill Funds. Ashley discussed staffing. She mentioned NRCS has been adding staff. She stated NRCS has been adding additional resources through agreement with partner agencies.

Commission Report

Jim Plassmeyer stated there will be a quorum for the Commission meeting tomorrow. Jim gave an update on Commissioner Vandiver. Jim discussed cost-share numbers and stated the numbers are very good across the state. Jim stated December supplemental might be the last one for the year. Jim discussed the backlog for cultural resources projects. Jim stated he has been approved to hire two part-time interns to help with cultural resources. Jim discussed the budget. The proposed Soil and Water budget submitted for FY25 includes an increase of \$1,000,000 for district grants, a request for a new position in the program called a watershed coordinator, and asking for approval to accept EPA funding. The program is also asking for general revenue funding to help with flood mitigation. Jim discussed updates to the progression line for SWCD staff. Staff is proposing adding a District Specialist V and VI. For an employee to be eligible for a District Specialist V and VI there would be staff requirements and SWCD board requirements. The District Specialist VI would be limited to two per MASWCD area. Jim asked the MASWCD directors if they would be willing to help determine the area of focus for the District Specialist VIs. Jim also mentioned his staff was looking at performance pay for SWCDs. Jim mentioned the program has been approved for an RCPP.

Farm Bureau Report

No report was given.

Employee Association Report

Melissa White mentioned the MSWCDEA recruitment and retention subcommittee just met and discussed the proposed suggestion to the progression line. MSWCDEA appreciated the changes to the progression line and hope for continued improvements. Melissa discussed some of the positives and some of the areas of concern with the changes to the progression line. Melissa mentioned there are 29 vendors for the trade show. Melissa mentioned she would like to look at ways to recognize SWCD employees throughout the year.

NACD Report

Ryan Britt reported he recently reviewed applications for a NACD grant dealing with fencing for feral hogs. Ryan mentioned NACD President Kim LaFleur is at our conference and may be stopping by. Ryan mentioned the NACD North Central meeting is January 10th-12th in Illinois. Ryan also mentioned the NACD National meeting is February 8th – 15th in San Diego. March 19th-21st is the NACD Fly in to Washington DC. He also mentioned in August is the NACD summer meeting in Boston.

NACD President Kim LaFleur thanked the board for the invitation to the conference.

Committee Reports

Budget Committee

The Budget committee will meet after the MASWCD meeting to conduct an audit. The Budget committee includes Beverly Dometrorch, Kenny Spooler and Jeff Deshon. Harold Lampe went over the budget. David Hutsell made a motion to approve the budget. The motion was seconded by Jeff Deshon. Motion carried unanimously (8-0).

Ron Willis mentioned that 104 SWCDs have paid their dues for this year.

Bylaws Committee

Ron Willis asked about changes to the Bylaws. There were no changes suggested.

Strategic Plan Committee

No report given

Old Business

Executive Director Position

Ron Willis reviewed the motion that was made through email regarding the pay for the Executive Director.

Training Coordinator Position

Jim Boschert mentioned two individuals applied for the position when it was first advertised. An interview was conducted with one of the individuals but she declined the position after the interview. The position was readvertised and there have been four applications. The board will review the applications Monday afternoon. Jim also mentioned the decision has been made to switch the position from an hourly employee to a contract labor position.

2023 Training Conference

Jim Boschert mentioned 412 individuals have registered for the conference. Jim mentioned there are 90 board members that have preregistered representing 58 SWCDs. Jim mentioned he and Ron discussed individuals that have cancelled their registration. The board confirmed registration will be returned for those that have a medical reason they did not attend. All others will not receive a refund. Jim discussed meals for the vendors. The board will pay for the meals this year but asked that next year the vendors pay if they want meals. Jim passed around a list of job duties for the board members. Jim asked for volunteers for the areas that were blank. Jim went over the conference program. Jim mentioned Rayanna Hopper was taking care of the auction.

New Business

Missouri Forage and Grassland Donation

Ron Willis presented a letter from the Missouri Forage and Grassland Council asking for a donation for the 2023 Grassland Evaluation Conference. Beverly Dometrorch made a motion to donate \$300 for the Grassland Evaluaiton Conference. The motion was seconded by Kenny Spooler. Motion carried unanimously (8-0).

MASWCD Foundation

Ron Willis discussed dissolving the MASWCD Foundation. David Hutsell made a motion to dissolve the MASWCD Foundation. The motion was seconded by Tim Neely. Motion carried unanimously (8-0). A roll call vote was done Jim Carlson – yes, Henry Heinze – yes, Beverly Dometrorch – yes, Jeff Deshon – yes, Tim Neely – yes, David Hutsell – yes, Kenny Spooler – yes, Ron Willis – yes.

1099

Jim Boschert mentioned he has been researching whether MASWCD should be providing a 1099 to the Executive Director. Jim mentioned everything he has read is that MASWCD must provide a 1099. Harold Lampe mentioned he agrees with what Jim has stated. The board agreed a 1099 should be provided.

MASWCD Dues

Ron Willis discussed increasing the MASWCD dues. Ron mentioned the dues have been the same for 20 years. The board discussed raising the dues for the next year. Tim Neely made a motion to increase the dues to \$550. The motion was seconded by David Hutsell. Motion carried unanimously (8-0).

Archeologist Position

Jim Boschert mentioned he has talked to Ashley Johnson about MASWCD entering into an agreement with NRCS to hire an archeologist. NRCS would provide funds to MASWCD so MASWCD could hire an archeologist to help with the cultural resources backlog. Tim Neely made a motion to enter into an agreement with NRCS to hire an archeologist. The motion was seconded by Jeff Deshon. Motion carried unanimously (8-0).

North Central Region Meeting – Illinois

Ron Willis stated the NACD North Central Meeting will be held in Springfield, Illinois on January 10th-12th. Ron Willis, Ryan Britt, David Hutsell and Jim Boschert will be attending. Jim has reserved a vehicle for the group to travel in.

NACD Annual Meeting – San Diego

Ron Willis mentioned the NACD National meeting will be held in San Diego on February 10th-14th. Ron Willis, Ryan Britt, David Hutsell and Jim Boschert will be attending.

NACD Live Auction Item

Jim Boschert mentioned in the past MASWCD has bought an item for the NACD Auction. David Hutsell made a motion spend up to \$600 for an auction item. The motion was seconded by Tim Neely. Motion carried unanimously (8-0).

Area Reports

Area 1 – Snow on the ground. Crops were good. Still some corn in the fields.

Area 2 – Dry in the southern part of the area. Has heard some negative comments on cover crops.

Area 3 – Snow but still dry. Cover crops still good.

Area 4 – Western part of the area no grass, no water, no hay.

Area 5 – Not much to report. More rain toward the eastern part of the area.

Area 6 – Had one of the better falls than in the past few years. Most of Area 6 in pretty good shape.

Area 7 – Northern part of area plenty of moisture. Southern part ponds are low. Hay first cutting was terrible. Short on hay and no grass.

Area 8 – Very comfortable fall harvest. Had a few nice rains. A lot of cost-share work getting done.

Correspondence

Ron Willis mentioned we received a letter from NACD requesting dues. Last year MASWCD paid \$500 in NACD dues. Kenny Spooler made a motion to send NACD \$550 for dues. The motion was seconded by Beverly Dometorch. Motion carried unanimously (8-0).

Other Business

No other business was discussed.

Next Meeting Date

Ron Willis suggested March 12th for the next MASWCD board meeting. He suggested seeing if the Missouri Soybean Association building is available.

Adjourn

David Hutsell made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Kenny Spooler. Motion carried unanimously (8-0). Meeting adjourned at 4:25 pm.