



Missouri Department of Natural Resources

MINUTES

MISSOURI SOIL AND WATER DISTRICTS COMMISSION

TAN-TAR-A RESORT

Salon C

Osage Beach, Missouri

November 29, 2010

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT: Charles Ausfahl, Kathryn Braden, Thomas Bradley and Richard Fordyce

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS: DEAN THOMAS PAYNE, UNIV. OF MISSOURI: Dave Baker; JOHN HOSKINS, DEPT. OF CONSERVATION: John Knudsen

ADVISORY MEMBERS PRESENT: SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION PROGRAM: Bryan Hopkins; NRCS: Drenda Williams; MASWCD: Steve Radcliff

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT: Chrisi Armbruster, Kurt Boeckmann, Jim Boschert, April Brandt, Allan Clarke, Kerry Cordray, Alan Freeman, David Goggins, Katy Holmer, Jesse Higginbotham, Jennifer Johnson, Jeremia Markway, Eric McGeorge, Theresa Mueller, Jennifer Pellett, Hudson Peters, James Plassmeyer, Josh Poynor, Jeremy Redden, Ken Struempf, Cody Tebbenkamp, Leon Thompson, Steven Walker, Bill Wilson

OTHERS PRESENT: DISTRICTS: BARTON: Leon Phipps; BATES Joyce Rider Diehl, Elizabeth Davis, Rod Morris, Brad Powell; BOLLINGER: Megan Baker, Ronnie Reagan; BOONE Cindy Bowne; BUCHANAN: Bernard Chesnut; CALDWELL: Wendy Bowen, Regena Curnow, Dick Leamer; CASS: Janice Fogle, Jamie Boker, Paul King, Kevin Reed; CLARK: Roy Stice; COLE: Ray Volmert; DALLAS: Matt Hale, Tony Rosen; FRANKLIN: Jennifer Beste, Lori Nowak; GASCONADE: Diana Mayfield; GREENE: Deneen Jenkins; HICKORY: Duane Mackey; HOLT: Bruce Biermann, Wayne E. Heck; HOWARD: Elizabeth Brown, Bev Dometrorch; HOWELL: Amber Comstock; JACKSON: Melvin Dickmeyer; JASPER: Steve Hunter; JEFFERSON: George Engelbach; KNOX: Dan Devlin; LAFAYETTE: Susie Struchtemeyer; LEWIS: Audrey Rayl; LINCOLN: Janice Cragen; LIVINGSTON: David Morris, Tonja Tiemeyer; MARIES: Sandy Hutchison, Amy Neier; MONTGOMERY: Robert Ridgley, Ann Whitehead; NEW MADRID: Scott Allgier, Emily Wilson; OREGON: Freda Johnson, Jason Kemper; OSAGE: Ken Franken, Cindy DeOrnellis; OZARK: Melisa Myers; POLK: Vicky Fieth, Ben Gorden, David Hale; RANDOLPH: Andrea McKeown; RAY: Jason Gant, Jerry Taylor, Kim Williamson; RIPLEY: Chuck Aldrich, Rachel Griffin, Sam James, Pat Rawlings; ST CHARLES: Frankie Coleman; Theresa Dunlap, Don Johnson, Charles Perkins; ST. CLAIR: Margie Best, Kathy Conrad, Donna F. Hooper; ST. FRANCOIS: Wilma Carlyon, Vince Kauflin, James Plummer, Warren Shelley; SHANNON: Nancy Burrus, Clinton Reeves;

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STONE: Melissa White, Kevin Wray, **TEXAS:** Sandra Wooten; **VERNON:** Janet Nichols, Rocky Steiger; **STATE OF MISSOURI: DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES:** Wayne Henke; **OTHERS: FARM BUREAU:** Kelly Smith; **USDA-NRCS:** Diane Bradley-Redden, Dan Silberberg

A. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Richard Fordyce called the meeting to order at Tan-Tar-A Resort in Osage Beach, Missouri, in the Salon C Meeting Room at 1:06 pm.

B. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

Kathryn Braden made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 21, 2010, commission meeting as mailed. Thomas Bradley seconded the motion. When asked by the chair, Charles Ausfahl, Kathryn Braden, Thomas Bradley, and Richard Fordyce voted in favor of the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Thomas Bradley made a motion to approve the minutes of the October 14, 2010, commission meeting as mailed. Kathryn Braden seconded the motion. When asked by the chair, Charles Ausfahl, Kathryn Braden, Thomas Bradley, and Richard Fordyce voted in favor of the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

C. MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

- 1. Introduction of Special Assistant to the Department Director – Wayne Henke**
Bryan Hopkins introduced Wayne Henke who is a Special Assistant to the Missouri Department of Natural Resources Department Director. He informed the commission that Mr. Henke had been assigned by the Governor to review the Soil and Water Conservation Program as an outside observer to see if there were modifications or changes needed within the program. He stated that Mr. Henke had been visiting districts. He stated that Mr. Henke reports directly to Acting Director Kip Stetzler and he is not funded through the Soil and Water Conservation Program.

Wayne Henke stated that it was a pleasure to be at the meeting and that he was charged by the Governor to take an outside look or overview of the Soil and Water Conservation Program. He stated that he has been a full time farmer and has participated in many of the services offered by Soil and Water Conservation Program. He stated that he was pleased with the quality of district staff. He stated that he had been to 23 counties and he has been asked to go to all 114 of them.

D. SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION PROGRAM DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS

1. Recognition of Dan Devlin's Service on the Commission

Richard Fordyce reminded those in attendance that members of the commission serve at the pleasure of the Governor. He stated that due to this, the commission wanted to recognize Mr. Devlin for his service. He stated that Mr. Devlin was very valuable to the commission with his leadership during a difficult time.

Bryan Hopkins reiterated how the commission members are appointed. He stated that he has not heard anything but positive comments regarding Mr. Devlin. He stated that he has been impressed by Mr. Devlin's ability to hear both sides of an issue before making a decision. Mr. Hopkins stated he has a lot of respect for Mr. Devlin and he looks forward to hearing from him regarding the program.

Richard Fordyce and Bryan Hopkins presented Dan Devlin with a plaque for his service.

2. Soils Sales Tax Revenue Update and FY10 Unused Cost-Share Funds

Bryan Hopkins presented an update on the soils sales tax revenues. He stated there was no way to predict what the economic situation will be. He stated that the program was fortunate in respect to a dedicated funding stream and a reserve. He stated that because of that, the program was in a better position to handle the economic downturn. He pointed out that no one knows when the recession will end and that this will be a lingering economic downturn. He stated that because of this, the question of how will this affect the program needs to be asked.

Mr. Hopkins proceeded to cover two scenarios regarding projections for fiscal year 2011. One of the projections was a positive 3 percent in revenues/earnings and one was a negative 1 percent in revenues/earnings. He pointed out that neither of the percentages were official numbers, they were for scenario use only. He informed the commission that since the recession had started, the revenues for the program were down approximately 10 percent.

Next, Mr. Hopkins covered the program's short and long-term liabilities. He stated the liabilities were AgNPS SALT, Advance Cost-Share Allocation, Soil and Water Conservation Program Cash Flow Operational Funds, Cross Year Cost-Share Mitigation Fund, and the Phase I of the Mississippi River Basin Initiative for a total of \$22,415,175 in liabilities.

Next, Mr. Hopkins covered some soils sales tax fund balance projection scenarios for FY06 – FY16.

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3. **Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Update Between Conservation Partners**

Bryan Hopkins informed the commission that there is a good MOU between the conservation partners. He stated that there was an issue regarding vehicle use, so because of this the entire MOU was looked at. He informed the commission there would be meetings on updating the MOU. He pointed out that each board signs an MOU.

Drenda Williams from NRCS stated the current MOU was functioning, so they were not in a rush to update the entire MOU. She stated the two issues they were looking at updating were FOIA and vehicle usage.

Steve Radcliff from MASWCD stated the MOU was working, but there were corrections that needed to be done.

4. **Workgroups**

a. **Election Workgroup Update**

David Goggins provided an update on the election workgroup. He reminded the commission why the workgroup was developed. He informed the commission that there would be an open session at the Training Conference for comments and suggestions to be presented to the workgroup. He informed the commission that the first meeting of the workgroup would be held the first week of February at the Bradford Farm and the second would be approximately two weeks later.

b. **Marketing Workgroup Discussion**

Bryan Hopkins informed the commission that the Soil and Water Conservation Program was probably the best-kept secret that needs to be heard. He stated there was a need for marketing materials and ways that the program could help the public understand the importance of the sales tax and what it does for the State's agriculture. He stated he felt there was a need for a workgroup. He informed the commission that some time this summer dates for the workgroup would be presented to them.

c. **Cost-Share Practice Comparison Index**

Jennifer Johnson presented an update on the cost-share practice comparison index. She reminded the commission that a workgroup met on June 4, 2010, and was presented with information regarding the cost-share practice comparison index. She stated the reason for the index was to gain an understanding of the comparative complexity of each

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conservation practice implemented in the field for both administrative and technical staff.

Some of the benefits of the index were that it indicated which practice was more complex, cost/benefit ratio, revealed district efficiencies and it served as a guide to help make decisions at the program level. She informed the commission that there were four pilot districts and they were provided an outline for scoring practices. Ms. Johnson stated that the districts were sent a memo explaining the purpose and benefits of the index.

5. **Accounting and Timesheet Software Implementation Schedule**

Jim Plassmeyer provided the commission with an update on the accounting and timesheet software implementation. He stated that at the Area Meetings there was some training on the time reporting. He informed the commission that the program was ready to start training on the timesheet. He stated there were less than 10 districts that program needs to work with in regard to their leave policy. He informed the commission that they would like to have the time accounting out to the districts in late December or January.

Mr. Plassmeyer stated there were nine pilot districts for the accounting program. He stated the nine were Butler, Bates, Bollinger, Christian, Saline, Shelby, Nodaway, Lincoln and Ray. He informed the commission that the program was close to having the accounting program completed and was looking at having it ready after the first of the year. He stated they were looking at implementing it in phases to the districts.

E. **REVIEW/EVALUATION**

1. **District Operation Section**

a. **District Support**

1. **Review of FY11 Supplemental Cost Share Allocation**

Ken Struempf presented a review of the mid-year supplemental allocation. He reminded the commission that they authorized a supplemental allocation at the July 2010 meeting. He stated that for a district to qualify they must have had 68 percent of their FY11 original allocation obligated and/or pending status to receive the additional funds. He informed the commission that districts that met the 68 percent received additional funding.

Next, Mr. Struempf covered the resource concern minimum and maximums. He stated the minimum for a recourse concern was

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\$10,000 except in animal waste, which was \$25,000. He stated the maximum ranged from \$18,000 to \$35,000.

Mr. Struempf informed the commission that 104 districts qualified for the addition funds in at least one resource concern for FY11. He stated the total mid year supplemental allocation was \$5,453,000.00 for the 104 eligible districts.

2. **Review of FY11 Cost Share Usage Report**

April Brandt presented an update of the FY11 Cost-Share Usage status. She stated that as of November 23, 2010, \$28,605,370.60 had been allocated for FY11 cost-share. She stated that \$19,203,091.82 had been obligated and \$7,241,675.41 was paid.

Ms. Brandt stated that as of November 23, 2010, FY11 AgNPS SALT cost-share allocation was \$3,170,027.96, obligated was \$1,778,658.32 and \$454,336.94 was paid.

Richard Fordyce introduced J.R. Flores from NRCS. Mr. Flores introduced Dave White who is the Chief of NRCS. Mr. White thanked everyone for the chance to return to Missouri. He stated he looked forward to the evening meeting.

3. **FY12 Cost Share Allocations**

Alan Freeman presented the proposed FY12 Allocation. He stated that the FY12 needs requests totaled \$65,000,000, which was an increase over that requested in FY11. He pointed out that the program's cost share spending authority was only \$24,000,000.

Mr. Freeman stated items addressed in the FY12 allocation were the Districts' FY12 Needs Assessment, the FY11 Mid-Year Supplemental Allocation, the FY11 initial allocation, new resource concern requests, and the minimum allocation per resource concern. He reminded the commission that in July of 2010, the commission authorized a supplemental allocation for mid-year FY11 and that is being used as the guideline in establishing funding parameters.

Next Mr. Freeman provided the commission with the FY12 parameters that would be used in the supplemental cost-share allocation. He informed the commission of the minimum and maximums for each resource concerns, as well as how the funding

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for the resource concerns were developed. He provided the commission with a timeline for the funds. He stated that on January 1, 2011 the FY12 advanced allocation of \$4,000,000 and 100 percent of the nutrient and pest management allocation would be available, on July 1, 2011, the remaining FY12 allocation would be available and in October 2011, the FY12 mid-year supplemental allocation would be available.

Mr. Freeman stated that the program's recommendation was that the commission approve the FY12 Cost-Share Allocation formula and schedule as it was presented.

Kathryn Braden made a motion to approve the program's recommendation. Charles Ausfahl seconded the motion. When asked by the chair, Charles Ausfahl, Kathryn Braden, Thomas Bradley and Richard Fordyce voted in favor of the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

F. REPORTS

1. NRCS

Drenda Williams informed the commission that NRCS had completed their EQIP and WHIP sign up that ended. She stated that they were now making CSP payments for producers that wanted a payment by the end of the year and their deadline is December 15. Ms. Williams updated the commission on the Migratory Bird Habitat she stated they had 291 contracts funded for a total of 94,000 acres. She informed the commission that they were working with DNR on a couple of MOUs.

2. MASWCD

Steve Radcliff thanked the commission for attending the Training Conference. He informed the commission that the association was going to be recognized in February for having training for supervisors and technicians. He stated there would be a Leadership Training Conference in Kentucky during the second week of December that Peggy Lemons, Sandy Hutchison and he would be attending.

3. UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI

Dave Baker stated that there was concerns regarding their budget. He stated that one concern was the zeroing out of the IPM centers. He stated the centers are very important to them and they are located in each of the five regions of the United States. He informed the commission they were working hard with their partners to get them reinstated in the budget.

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Mr. Baker stated that Missouri was serving as a model for the urban ag program. He stated they were looking at different scenarios in Kansas City and St. Louis.

4. DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION

John Knudsen informed the commission that there was going to be a Feral Hog workshop at the Training Conference.

G. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Rod Morris a supervisor from Bates SWCD, stated they are experiencing funding problems regarding paying their employees. He stated the district employees' salaries had been reduced this year and because of this, they lost a technician. He stated they could use help.

H. SUGGESTED DATE(S) OF NEXT MEETINGS

The next scheduled meeting is February 9, 2011, in Jefferson City.

I. ADJOURNMENT

Kathryn Braden moved the meeting be adjourned. Charles Ausfahl seconded the motion. Motion approved by consensus at 3:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Bryan T. Hopkins, Director
Soil and Water Conservation Program

Approved by:



Richard Fordyce, Chairman
Missouri Soil and Water Districts Commission

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