



Missouri Department of Natural Resources

MINUTES
MISSOURI SOIL AND WATER DISTRICTS COMMISSION
Tan Tar A
Salon B
Osage Beach, Missouri
December 16 2013

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT: Thomas Bradley, H. Ralph Gaw, Sam Schaumann, Gary Vandiver and Richard Fordyce

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS: **HARRY BOZOIAN, DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE:** Harry Bozoian, Judy Grundler; **BOB ZIEHMER, DEPT. OF CONSERVATION:** Scott Roy; **SARA PARKER PAULEY, DEPT. OF NATURAL RESOURCES:** Joe Engeln

ADVISORY MEMBERS PRESENT: **SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION PROGRAM:** Colleen Meredith; **ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE:** Tim Duggan; **NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE (NRCS):** J.R. Flores, Dick Purcell; **MISSOURI ASSOCIATION OF SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS (MASWCD):** Kenny Lovelace

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT: Christa Moody, James Plassmeyer, Ken Struempf, Bill Wilson, Colette Weckenborg, Theresa Mueller, Alan Freeman, April Brandt, Jim Boschert, Allan Clarke, Matt Elliott, Cindy Thompson, Jennifer Pellett, Josh Poynor, Jeremy Redden, Cody Tebbenkamp, Steve Walker, Marisa Mitchell

OTHERS PRESENT: **DISTRICTS:** **Audrain:** Bruce Wilson; **Barton:** Ed Weaver, Karen Cleveland; **Bates:** Brad Powell, Dillion Franklin; **Benton:** Tina Dulaban, Jamie Henderson, Larry W. Nelson; Jim Freeburger, Gene Schmitz; **Bollinger:** Megan Baker, Beth Eeftink, Ronald Reagan, Mike Kester; **Boone:** Cindy Bowne, Jeff DeShon, Kevin Monckton; **Buchanan:** Cara Hanway, Bernard Chestnut; **Butler:** Cathy Mansbridge, Zane Clark; **Callaway:** Mark Smart, Carl Linnenbringer; **Camden:** Connie Luttrell, Earnest Calvert, Roberta Woodall; **Cass:** Jamie Bokern, Janice Fogle; **Cedar:** Stephanie Auffert; **Christian:** John Stratmann; **Clark:** Henry Heinze, Lee Suter; **Dallas:** Tony Rosen, Matt Hale; **Davies:** Susan Heldenbrand, Tom Lambert; **DeKalb:** Jeff Lee, Jim Carlson; **Franklin:** Stephen Sparks; **Gasconade:** Matthew Estes; Mike Haeffner, Kory Hubbard; **Gentry:** John Derks; **Grundy:** David Dudley, John Rice, Scott Roy; **Harrison:** Pat Lambert; **Holt:** Bruce Biermann; **Howell:** Regan Hughston, Chad Menz; **Iron:** Ralph Trask; **Jackson:** John Campbell, Rick Pearson; **Jefferson:** George Engelbach; **Lafayette:** Susie Struchtemeyer; **Lawrence:** Paula Champion, Harold Lampe; **Lewis:** Audrey Rayl; **Lincoln:** Janice Cragen, Jerry Weinrich, Ed Scott; **Linn:** Samantha McCoy; **Livingston:** David

Morris, Larry Davies; **Madison:** J.C. Shetley; **Marion:** Zach Rasche; **Miller:** Dan Greeson, Bonnie Pryor, Taylor Rodden; **Montgomery:** Bob Ridgley, Ann Whitehead, Brenda VanBooven; **New Madrid:** Emily Wilson; **Nodaway:** Fred Stevens; **Osage:** Colby Nilges; **Ozark:** Melissa Myers; **Perry:** Karen Lukefahr, LaVern Taylor; **Pike:** Debbie Scherder; **Polk:** Vicky Fieth, Ben Gorden, David Hale, Richard McConnell; **Putnam:** Sandra Buckler; **Randolph:** John Kirchhoff, Andrea McKeown, Darrell Darst; **Ray:** Jerry Taylor, Kim Williamson; **Ripley:** Michael Thornton; **Scott:** Kay Wilson; **St. Charles:** Frankie Coleman, Charles Perkins; **St. Francois:** Vincent Kauflin; **Stone:** Melissa White; **Sullivan:** Shelly Swank; **Texas:** Kaven Keller; **Washington:** Tiffany Woods, Shirley Turnbough, Martin Strauser; **Webster:** Robert Montgomery; **MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES:** Kurt Boeckmann, Larry Archer; **MISSOURI FARM BUREAU:** Kelly Smith; **MISSOURI SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS EMPOLYEES ASSOCIATION (MSWCDEA):** Sandy Stratman; **MASWCD:** Beverly Dometorch; **MISSOURI LAND IMPROVEMENT CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION (MLICA):** Jeff Lance, **UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI:** Craig Roberts, Robert Kallenbach; **NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE (NRCS):** Karen Brinkman; **OTHER:** Darrick Steen

A. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Richard Fordyce called the meeting to order in Osage Beach, Missouri, Tan Tar A at 1:09 p.m. Roll was taken. Charles Ausfahl was absent; Thomas Bradley, H. Ralph Gaw, Sam Schaumann, Gary Vandiver and Richard Fordyce were present, which made a quorum.

B. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

1. October 30, 2013

Thomas Bradley made a motion to approve the minutes of the October 30, 2013 Commission meeting. H. Ralph Gaw seconded the motion. When asked by the chair, Thomas Bradley, H. Ralph Gaw, Sam Schaumann, Gary Vandiver and Richard Fordyce voted in favor of the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Richard Fordyce formally recognized Kathryn Braden for her service on the Commission. Chairman Fordyce presented a plaque that will be given to Kathrine in recognition of her years of service and outstanding leadership from May 2, 2005 to January 2, 2013. Kathryn Braden was unable to attend the conference.

Richard Fordyce introduced Harry Bozoian, Acting Director of the Missouri Department of Agriculture. Harry Bozoian thanked the Soil and Water Districts Conservation (Commission) and stated he has been involved with the Soil and Water Conservation Program (Program) for many years. Mr. Bozoian also stated the Program is a great program with a Commission that does a wonderful job along with the staff. He stated that the Department of Agriculture has worked closely with the Department of Natural Resources and other conservation partners on several projects, and that he looks forward to continuing to work together.

D. SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION PROGRAM DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS

4. FY14 Cost-Share/AgNPS SALT Fund Status

April Brandt presented the Fiscal Year 14 (FY14) Cost-Share/AgNPS SALT fund status. As of December 12, 2013, the FY14 Cost-Share fund status shows \$29,702,559 allocated with 59 percent of that amount, or \$17,529,492 obligated. Of the \$17,529,492 obligated, almost \$13,000,000 is obligated in the Sheet and Rill/Gully Erosion resource concern, which has the highest obligated funds at 67 percent. Animal Waste Management and Sensitive Areas have the lowest obligated funds at 34 percent. To date, a total of \$7,727,964 has been paid.

The FY14 SALT Cost-Share, as of December 12, 2013, has \$1,090,557 allocated to 20 projects with 47 percent of that amount, or \$517,718 obligated. To date, a total of \$266,832 has been paid.

5. FY14 Supplemental Cost-Share Allocations

Alan Freeman presented the FY14 Supplemental Cost-Share Allocations. The first allocation was based on 70 percent obligated plus pending cost-share contracts at the close of business on Friday, November 8, 2013. The second supplemental allocation will be based on 80 percent obligated cost-share contracts at the close of business on Friday, December 13, 2013.

Districts meeting the 80 percent threshold, in any resource concern, received at least the supplement resource minimum. In some instances, districts received 100 percent of their FY14 Needs Assessment for that resource concern.

Based on these criteria, 39 districts qualify for a second supplemental allocation totaling \$1,301,575 as of December 12, 2013. The allocated funds will be monitored by MoSWIMS in order to manage the obligations for full use of the \$27,700,000 appropriation.

After discussion, Gary Vandiver made a motion to concur and allocate the second round of supplemental funds to the districts that meet the 80 percent obligated threshold as of the close of business on December 13, 2013. Sam Schaumann seconded the motion. When asked by the chair, Thomas Bradley, H. Ralph Gaw, Sam Schaumann, Gary Vandiver and Richard Fordyce voted in favor of the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

E. REQUESTS/REVIEW

1. FY15 Cost-Share Allocations

Alan Freeman presented the FY15 Cost-Share Allocations process. The process is based on a conservation Needs Assessment completed by each soil and water conservation district. The process has been developed by evaluating district needs and matching those to past performance in completing conservation practices using actual district cost-share. Part of the process is to provide supplemental allocations which support districts that

have obligated most of their funds in specific resource concerns to be able to continue conservation activity.

The program is requesting to initially allocate \$26,300,000 in cost-share for FY15. The allocation scenario is based upon the Program's current appropriation authority of \$27,700,000. The Department of Natural Resources requested a budget increase for cost-share for the FY15 Cost-Share Appropriation totaling \$31,000

Items considered for the FY15 allocation formula were: FY15 Needs Assessment requests, FY14 Initial Allocation, percent of initial allocations utilized in FY11 and FY12, new resource concern requests from districts, and resource concern maximum increases or decreases from previous fiscal year allocation. Resource concern minimums were managed to allow completion of one practice in each resource concern.

The resource concern minimum was held at the level set in FY14 of \$15,000 in each resource concern with the exception of Animal Waste where the minimum is \$25,000 due to the high cost of these practices. Districts that requested funding less than the resource concern minimum would receive 100 percent of their request.

The funding availability timeline is similar to FY11, FY12 and FY14. On January 1, 2014, the following will be available to district boards: the FY15 advance allocation of 15 percent of the FY15 Cost-Share Allocation, and 100 percent of Nutrient and Pest Management and Animal Waste Management allocations. On July 1, 2014 the remaining funds from the FY15 initial allocations will be provided to the district boards with a planned Fall FY15 Supplemental Allocation.

After discussion, Gary Vandiver made a motion to approve the FY15 Cost-Share allocation formula and schedule as presented. Thomas Bradley seconded the motion. When asked by the chair, Thomas Bradley, H. Ralph Gaw, Sam Schaumann, Gary Vandiver, , and Richard Fordyce voted in favor of the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

2. Supervisor Appointments

A. Mercer Soil and Water Conservation District

Matt Elliott presented the Mercer Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) supervisor appointment. The Mercer SWCD board requested to appoint Mr. Steve Berger to complete the unexpired term of Mr. Ron Parsons, who has resigned. Mr. Steve Berger and the board chairman signed the Verification of Supervisor Eligibility form verifying the candidate meets the qualifications to serve on the board.

Sam Schaumann made a motion to approve the appointment of Mr. Steve Berger to complete the unexpired term of Mr. Ron Parsons to the Mercer SWCD Board of Supervisors. Thomas Bradley seconded the motion. When asked by the chair, Thomas Bradley, H. Ralph Gaw, Sam Schaumann Gary Vandiver, and Richard Fordyce voted in favor of the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Richard Fordyce introduced and formally welcomed the two new Commissioners appointed this year, H. Ralph Gaw from Moniteau County and Sam Schaumann from Christian County.

C. MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

1. Department Update

Joe Engeln presented the Department of Natural Resources update. Mr. Engeln reported on Our Missouri Watersheds pilot projects. Within the next two days, the watersheds will be finalized and prioritized for the next five year cycle, and when completed the Commission will be notified of that cycle. For the coming year, the three pilot watersheds Big River, Lower Grand and Spring River will continue to remain in the first cycle.

The pilot efforts were very successful. There was good interaction with the people in those watersheds. The effort now is how to implement this effectively. The people are aware and have access to the information pertinent to their watershed. One way that the Our Missouri Waters will support the Program is by supplying districts with the best information upon which to make decisions.

2. Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy

Joe Engeln presented the Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy. Progress has been made due to diverse input from multiple groups represented in discussions. Missouri is taking a little different approach than other states; the actions proposed are coming from experts in the field, those who are trying to implement the actions, rather than the Department of Natural Resources. Seven major categories were created: Crop, Pastures, Animal Agriculture, Municipal and Urban Sources, Urban Nonpoint Source and Other. Teams have been created in these areas to take a set of actions and put in what is anticipated for the next five years in each of those fields. Most of the agricultural practices/actions are already approved practices through the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Soil and Water Districts Commission, and the districts for implementation.

These actions are not regulatory, they are a menu for farmers and communities to utilize that would best be suited to their individual situation. It is anticipated to have these practices written by the end of January and out to the stakeholders by March for comment. One major point is to integrate this in with Our Missouri Waters and other programs offered by the Department.

D. (Continued) SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION PROGRAM DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS

1. University of Missouri Extension Grazing Wedge Software

Ken Struempf introduced Dr. Robert Kallenbach who presented an informational report on the University of Missouri Extension Grazing Wedge software.

Dr. Robert Kallenbach, University of Missouri Forage Specialist stated that Missouri currently has the third largest cow-calf herd in the United States with 52,000 farm families that own 1.8 million cows. This industry utilizes 11 million acres of pasture and hayland generating annual revenues of \$1.4 billion for the state. The success of this industry is built on good grass production in Missouri. With this grass cover, Missouri also has good ground cover to protect its soil and water resources. This ground cover all starts with good forage management to optimize plant growth and the nutritive value in relation to livestock needs.

The University of Missouri Extension has been a key player in Missouri's grazing for many years. Missouri has become a national leader in rotational grazing and has used many different farmer friendly tools in the process. For example, the grazing sticks and pasture meters have assisted producers in measuring the amount of forage in their pastures for many years. New technologies such as ultrasonic measurements now are available. This allows the producer to more closely monitor all the paddocks on the farm. These forage measurements are loaded into the Grazing Wedge Software Program to assist the producer in determining which paddocks are being over or under grazed. This website can evaluate existing feed resources; helps make better decisions about fertilizer supplements, renovations and stocking rates, and prevent over-grazing and adequate cover on the land based on the data the farmer's inputs.

Dr. Kallenbach gave examples of information being entered into the software and how to properly use the results. Dr. Kallenbach indicated that future enhancements can be made to the software to assist with users entering information into the system, and different aspects of the program.

Gary Vandiver temporary took over presiding over the Commission Meeting.

2. **Nutrient Tracking Tool**

Steve Walker provided a presentation about the Nutrient Tracking Tool computer model. The Nutrient Tracking Tool (NTT) is a field-level agricultural runoff model originally developed by United States Department of Agriculture. It is a single national model that uses county and site-specific soil, slope, weather, and farm management data. The NTT is currently used by Missouri, Mississippi, Oregon and several Chesapeake Bay states.

The NTT generates realistic estimates of the effectiveness of farm conservation practices in terms of pounds or tons of nitrogen, phosphorus, sediment reduced changes in crop yield and runoff (surface and subsurface flows).

The purpose of using NTT is to measure success and progress of federal and state cost-share programs in reducing sediment, nitrogen and phosphorus runoff. The NTT is also being developed for use with mobile hand-held devices, which could become an important tool for assisting producers and technicians with selection of conservation practices in the field. The NTT is a public program and any improvements made through contracts with other federal or state organizations are shared with all users.

In December 2011, the Department contracted with Tarleton State University to develop NTT for use in Missouri. A Water Quality Focus Group was formed to assist Tarleton State University in obtaining local data and input during the NTT model development process. A pilot project was implemented in the spring, North Fork Salt, and South Fork Salt watersheds from 2011 to 2013 to develop and test the effectiveness of NTT in Missouri.

Steve presented a brief demonstration of the tool to the Commission.

Richard Fordyce continues presiding over the Commission Meeting.

3. Chariton SWCD Pilot Cover Crop Report

Matt Elliott presented the Chariton SWCD Pilot Cover Crop report. There are two levels of participation in the cover crop pilot policy. The first level is eligible for three years of incentive payments based on a corn/soybean rotation. The second level of participation is eligible for four years of incentive payments and is based on a corn/soybean/wheat rotation. The commission approved funding for the pilot practice for four years with the understanding that there would be a yearly report from the district on their successes and challenges.

In FY13, there were 23 cooperators with 693.6 acres planted in cover crops, and \$50,197.50 in paid contracts. He stated that FY14 the participation remained the same. It shows that the landowners are following through with their multi-year plan of rotating the cash crop and cover crops. The landowners worked together to schedule a time for the cover crops to be flown on to help reduce the cost. The Chariton SWCD board also had the cover crops flown on at the research farm.

Staff is currently working with the Chariton SWCD board, employees and NRCS staff to obtain information about how the policies that were developed for the pilot are working and how the practices are functioning. At a future meeting the commission will be given a summary of the district's suggestions and challenges in the pilot for the commission to determine the next step for the cover crop practice.

6. Plan for the Future

Colleen Meredith presented the Plan for the Future update. She stated there have been multiple meetings by the subcommittees and there are two training sessions available on Wednesday for the committees to report their progress. These sessions will also allow for district input for the subcommittees.

F. REPORTS

1. **University of Missouri**
No report

2. Department of Conservation

Scott Roy presented the Department of Conservation report. Mr. Roy reported on employee changes in the division, thanked district staff for assistance with CRP incentive program, discussed that deer harvests were down, and provided updates on elk, and Chronic Wasting Disease.

3. Department of Agriculture

Judy Grundler presented the Department of Agriculture report. Ms. Grundler reported on the following: the Emerald Ash Borer state quarantine by the federal government, Governor's Conference on Agriculture that is being held in Kansas City, MO on January 16-18, 2014, and the University of Missouri Cover Crop Research and Extension Symposium scheduled for January 14, 2014 in Columbia.

Harry Bozoian presented an overview of the agenda for the Governor's Conference on Agriculture and invited the Commission to attend.

4. Natural Resources Conservation Service

Dick Purcell presented the Natural Resources Conservation Service report. Mr. Purcell reported on Conservation Stewardship program sign up, the large number of Soil Health/Cover Crop workshops presented this year, and the NRCS budget and Farm Bill. He stated that in Fiscal Year 2013, Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) obligated \$30,200,000 to producers. He also reported on the Web-Based Conservation Planning Training, and 2014 EQIP signup.

5. Missouri Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts

Kenny Lovelace presented the Missouri Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts report. Mr. Lovelace thanked all the employees and supervisors for attending the Training Conference. He invited everyone to the opening session with Kirk Hanlin, NRCS Associate Chief, the Conservation Forum, and MASWCD Business Meeting. Mr. Lovelace also discussed the White House Roundtable that is planned during the Training Conference.

Mr. Lovelace requested that everyone fill out the survey for comments on the dates of the Training Conference.

G. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Sandy Stratman requested to provide a presentation at the next Soil and Water Districts Commission meeting due to the Commission being unable to attend this presentation at the Training Conference. This presentation demonstrates work and activities the districts have accomplished this year. Mr. Fordyce approved the request.

H. SUGGESTED DATE(S) OF NEXT MEETING(S)

The next suggested Soil and Water Districts Commission meeting is for February 19, 2014, in Jefferson City MO.

Richard Fordyce thanked the Soil and Water Conservation Districts for all their efforts and dedication over the year and wished them a Merry Christmas.

I. ADJOURNMENT

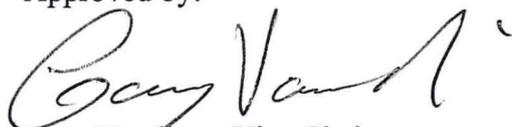
H. Ralph Gaw made a motion to adjourn at 2:56 p.m. Thomas Bradley seconded the motion. When asked by the chair, Thomas Bradley, H. Ralph Gaw, Sam Schaumann, Gary Vandiver and Richard Fordyce voted in favor of the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



Colleen Meredith, Director
Soil and Water Conservation Program

Approved by:



Gary Vandiver, Vice Chairman
Missouri Soil and Water Districts Commission

/clm