



Missouri Department of Natural Resources

MINUTES
MISSOURI SOIL AND WATER DISTRICTS COMMISSION
Lincoln University
South Campus Conference Center
Lorenzo Greene Hall
Jefferson City, Missouri
October 30, 2013

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

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS: HARRY BOZOIAN, DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE: Judy Grundler; BOB ZIEHMER, DEPT. OF CONSERVATION: Clint Dalbom; 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; 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

OTHERS PRESENT: DISTRICTS: Cole: Peggy Lemons; Jefferson: George Engelbach; MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES: Kurt Boeckmann, Van Beydler; Larry Archer; MISSOURI FARM BUREAU: Kelly Smith; MISSOURI SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION (MSWCDEA): Sandy Stratman; MASWCD: Beverly Dometorch; MISSOURI LAND IMPROVEMENT CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION (MLICA): Jeff Lance, Tom Lawlor; OTHER: Darrick Steen

A. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Richard Fordyce called the meeting to order in Jefferson City, Missouri, at the Lorenzo Greene Hall at 9:10 a.m. Charles Ausfahl, Thomas Bradley, H. Ralph Gaw, Sam Schaumann and Richard Fordyce were present, which made a quorum.

Kathy Pabst, Director of Continuing Education and Extended Studies, welcomed the Commission to the Lincoln University, Lorenzo Greene Hall meeting facility and commented on several partnerships that Lincoln has with the Soil and Water Conservation Program.

Richard Fordyce introduced and welcomed Mr. Sam Schaumann, the recently appointed Commissioner to the Soil and Water Districts Commission.

B. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

1. August 14, 2013 Closed session

H. Ralph Gaw made a motion to approve the closed minutes of the August 14, 2013 Commission meeting. Thomas Bradley seconded the motion. When asked by the chair Charles Ausfahl, Thomas Bradley, H. Ralph Gaw, Sam Schaumann and Richard Fordyce voted in favor of the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

2. August 14, 2013 Open Session

H. Ralph Gaw made a motion to approve the open minutes of the August 14, 2013 Commission meeting. Thomas Bradley seconded the motion. When asked by the chair, Charles Ausfahl, Thomas Bradley, H. Ralph Gaw, Sam Schaumann and Richard Fordyce voted in favor of the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

C. MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

1. Department Update

Joe Engeln presented the department updates. Mr. Engeln stated that the three summits for the Our Missouri Waters Initiative have been successfully completed. A review will be done over the next month to improve the process of meeting with all the groups in the watershed. It is expected by the end of the year to announce the strategies and schedule for the rest of the basins in Missouri. There currently 66 eight-digit watersheds in Missouri and three have had pilot projects.

Mr. Engeln also stated a few other efforts that have been started in the department. There is an effort to provide assistance to small communities to meet drinking water and wastewater regulations by meeting with the communities and working with partners such as the Rural Water Association, Public Utilities Alliance and regional planning commissions to assist with technical support.

2. Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy

Joe Engeln presented information on Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy. Work has begun to create a Nutrient Reduction Plan for the State of Missouri. Mr. Engeln stated he is the representative on the Gulf Hypoxia Task Force for the department. Mr. Engeln stated that the Nutrient Reduction Strategy will be developed in the next six to nine months and it should fit very well with the Soil and Water Conservation Program to enable Missouri farmers to have access to resources or technical information to implement practices on their land.

D. SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION PROGRAM DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS

1. FY14 Cost-Share/AgNPS SALT Fund Status

April Brandt presented the FY14 cost-share and AgNPS SALT fund status as of October 29, 2013. There is approximately \$28.5 million allocated and of that amount, \$13.3 million has been obligated. Of the \$13.3 million, Sheet and Rill/Gully Erosion resource concern has the highest percent obligated at 53 percent. The Sensitive Areas resource concern has the lowest amount obligated at 23 percent. At this time, \$4.6 million has been paid out.

The AgNPS SALT funds have \$1 million allocated to 20 projects with 38 percent obligated and 18 percent paid out. The AgNPS SALT program will be completed in 2015.

2. Supplemental Cost-Share Allocation

Alan Freeman presented the supplemental cost-share allocations update. The first allocation to districts was based on reaching 70 percent obligated plus pending cost-share contracts within any of six resource concern areas at the close-of-business on October 15, 2013. The Nutrient and Pest Management resource concern was not included since funding in this area had to be obligated by April 15th. The second allocation planned is based on 80 percent district obligated cost-share contracts in any resource concern area at the close-of-business on December 13, 2013. Districts meeting the 70 percent threshold in a resource concern received at least the supplemental resource minimum of \$10,000. A supplemental resource maximum allocation was established to allow more districts an opportunity to receive funds. The maximums range from \$20,000 to \$50,000 based upon resource concern category. In some instances districts received 100 percent of their FY14 Needs Assessment for that resource concern.

There were 74 districts that qualified for a supplemental allocation on October 15, 2013 which totaled \$3,587,114. This included 144 allocations provided within six resource concern areas. Allocations were loaded on October 17, 2013 and letters were sent on October 22, 2013 to each district with their supplemental allocation or an explanation as to why they did not received additional funds. Districts were informed to continue to work towards meeting the 70 percent threshold in preparation for the October 30, 2013 Soil and Water Districts Commission meeting.

As of October 29, 2013, 13 districts would receive an allocation in a resource concern area(s) based on the parameters and funding formula utilized on October 15, 2013.

After discussion, Charles Ausfahl made a motion to extend the October 15, 2013 deadline for the Supplemental Cost-Share Allocation to November 8, 2013 with a threshold of 70 percent obligated plus pending. Thomas Bradley seconded the motion. When asked by the chair, Charles Ausfahl, Thomas Bradley, H. Ralph Gaw, Sam Schaumann and Richard Fordyce voted in favor of the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

3. FY15 Cost-Share Needs Assessment

Alan Freeman presented the FY15 cost-share Needs Assessment update. A memo was sent to provide information about the FY15 Needs Assessment process. The original deadline was November 1, 2013, however due to the federal government shut-down the deadline was extended to November 25, 2013.

The FY15 Needs Assessment narrative form was changed to standardize information collected, provide boards with past funding utilization and current year initial allocation information, and improve planning. This revised form will better assist the boards and district staff with completing the Needs Assessment form.

4. Health Insurance Update

Jim Boschert presented the health insurance update. For the calendar year 2014 the soil and water district employees were able to choose between two plans the PPO 600 and PPO 1000. The monthly cost of the PPO 600 remains the same at \$601.08 for this plan with the state paying \$560.08. The PPO 1000 plan has a cost of \$533.63 with the state paying \$492.63. Both plans require a \$41.00 per month premium copayment by the employee.

Open enrollment ends November 8, 2013. Both plans meet the requirements for the Affordable Care Act.

5. Area Meeting Conservation Practices Summary

Jim Plassmeyer presented a summary of the Area Meeting conservation practices presentation. Mr. Plassmeyer presented an overview of the PowerPoint presentation that he presented at all eight Area Meetings held from July 29, 2013 – August 8, 2013. Feedback on the presentation from each individual area meeting has been posted on the SWCD intranet.

A few of the topics where input from district board members, staff, and partners was received were: the demographics of the participants, practices that are not used statewide, out-of-production incentives, acres coming out of CRP and related impacts to requests for cost-share, grouping components, cost-share assistance level needed for landowner participation, cover crops and other district requests.

All the information will be provided to the Conservation Practices subcommittee for the Plan for the Future. The full summary of this presentation and those from the Area Meetings will be posted to the SWCD intranet.

6. Pike SWCD Pilot Forestry Practice Update

Ken Struempf presented the Pike SWCD Pilot Forestry Practice Update. At the August 14th meeting, in response to a request by the district for additional forestry practices, the Commission asked the Pike SWCD board and program staff to develop policies for a potential pilot forestry practice for consideration. Since that time, program office staff met with Pike SWCD twice to begin the process of developing a pilot practice. The intent

of the pilot practice is for the landowner to acquire and implement a Forest Stewardship Plan. An example of a stewardship plan was provided to the Commission for their review. The district is currently working on how they would incorporate a stewardship plan along with documenting water quality efforts of the pilot forestry practice.

Judy Grundler requested coordination with the Department of Agriculture due to their regulatory role with forest diseases and invasive species and also with the Department of Conservation as this pilot practice progresses

Beverly Dometrorch stated that there are other agencies covering forestry and stated a concern that an additional practice could create greater demand on cost-share funding. Chairman Fordyce agreed with that concern and stated that at this point, the pilot is just in a development phase. Commissioner Ausfahl asked for comments from the Department of Conservation. Clint Dalbom stated that forestry is the third largest economic engine for the state behind agriculture and tourism. He stated that the department provides a lot of assistance to forest landowners but there is always more that needs to be done. J.R. Flores stated that 10 percent of EQIP funds are directed to forestry and almost 100 percent of the applications have been funded. Kelly Smith stated that the Missouri Department of Conservation also has cost-share funding for forestry practices. After additional discussion regarding assistance to forest landowners and issues on forestland such as invasive species, staff will continue to work with the Pike SWCD to ensure they are aware of the types of financial assistance discussed and to have more information on a pilot at the February 2014 meeting.

7. Plan for the Future Subcommittees Updates

Colleen Meredith presented an update on the Plan for the Future. Chairman Fordyce stated the Soil and Water Districts Commission directed Colleen Meredith upon her appointment as director, to update the Plan for the Future. Since that time subcommittees have been established and several are underway to develop the Plan for the Future draft document.

Colleen Meredith stated this process has been a good experience for the program staff, districts and other partners. It has created an environment of discussion and cooperation to direct this process.

The Outreach committee and the Info/Ed committees have been combined to ensure coordination. This Outreach committee has met three times and currently has another meeting scheduled for November 13, 2013.

The Program Delivery and Operations committee received information from a workshop at the Training Conference last November at Tan-Tar-A. The workshop collected feedback on district staffing by using voting software. The next meeting was held on October 2, 2013 with board members, technicians, program specialists and other partners involved.

The Conservation Practices committee will soon be convened. This committee will use the information gathered and compiled from the Area Meetings this past summer to start their process.

The last group is the Emerging Issues committee. This committee will possibly discuss newer issues facing soil and water conservation such as biofuels, cover crops, soil health and other issues as recommended by the committee.

During the training conference, the committees that have been meeting will be providing updates along with time for discussion and the use of voting software to gather additional input for their respective areas. Each committee has a Commissioner represented.

8. Our Missouri Waters Update

Colleen Meredith stated that Joe Engeln reviewed this topic earlier but would add that two summits were held, September 10, 2013 in Brunswick for the Lower Grand watershed and October 9, 2013 at the Mineral Area College for the Big River watershed.

George Engelbach addressed the Commission at this time and discussed some of his concerns with watershed effort such as the Sandy Creek Watershed and the Big River Watershed. He also brought up that their district still does not have an extension representative assigned and that there are not enough agricultural extension agents to serve each board. He attended the Big River Summit and had concerns that agricultural landowners were not well represented and other entities will be making decisions for them if they are not present. He also expressed similar concerns regarding the Sandy Creek Watershed plan which was developed with funds from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). He expressed concerns that EPA will be regulating landowners because of water quality concerns. Colleen Meredith stated that coordinators for the Our Missouri Waters are working with local soil and water districts in the three pilot watersheds to increase awareness and participation.

9. Missouri Association Soil and Water Conservation Districts 2012 Resolution

Bill Wilson presented the Missouri Association Soil and Water Conservation Districts 2012 Resolution update. Mr. Wilson presented Resolution 2012-1 "Whereas, tilling the soil and leaving it without a ground cover is one of the worst things that can be done on fields that are highly erodible. Planting with no-till planters and drills is the most effective method to use to prevent erosion on these fields, and Whereas, the equipment is so expensive that many farmers do not have enough acres to justify buying newer planting equipment but they would rent no-till equipment if they were available, and Whereas, many districts cannot afford to buy or replace existing no-till equipment without a matching grant program; Therefore, be it resolved: that the Missouri Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts urge the Missouri Soil and Water Commission to reinstate the matching grant program to districts for no-till equipment." This resolution passed 51 to 0.

At the January 2013 Soil and Water Districts Commission meeting, the Commission directed the program to conduct regional meetings to gather input from the districts using

the Turning Point voting software. Five regional meetings were held during February and March of 2013. The summary report of the five regional meetings was presented to the Commission at the April 2013 Commission meeting. At that time the conclusion was to present the information to the Plan for the Future Program Delivery Operations committee for further review and proposed solutions.

Mr. Wilson also presented a motion that was approved at the 2012 MASWCD Annual Business meeting. The motion states, "David Morris, supervisor from Livingston County stated his district did not feel the funds for outsourcing the payroll should be provided to a district in addition to their other funding. He read from the job description of the Program Specialist which states that payroll is part of that position's duties. He stated Livingston County would like to make a motion that the cost of the outsourcing of the payroll come from a district's \$5500 administrative fund with no additional reimbursement from the Program Office. DeKalb County seconded the motion. One comment in support of outsourcing, no other comments." This motion passed with 39 votes.

The option to outsource is in its second year and is strictly a voluntary program for the district boards. Currently there are 42 districts utilizing the outsourcing for payroll.

Chairman Fordyce directed the program staff to draft a letter to be sent to Kenny Lovelace and MASWCD stating that the request for the reinstatement of the Matching Grants Program for purchase of no-till equipment is in process and information is being gathered for the Plan for the Future subcommittee. This will allow the committee to determine exactly what the districts are requesting.

E. REQUESTS/REVIEW

1. Supervisor Appointments

A. Washington Soil and Water Conservation District

Jim Plassmeyer presented the Washington Soil and Water Conservation district (SWCD) supervisor appointment. The Washington SWCD board requested to appoint Mr. George Richards to complete the unexpired term of Mr. Frank Meyers, who has resigned. Mr. George Richards and the board chairman signed the Verification of Supervisor Eligibility form, verifying the candidate meets the qualifications to serve on the board.

Thomas Bradley made a motion to approve the appointment of Mr. George Richards to complete the unexpired term of Mr. Frank Meyers to the Washington County SWCD Board of Supervisors. Charles Ausfahl seconded the motion. When asked by the chair, Charles Ausfahl, Thomas Bradley, H. Ralph Gaw, Sam Schaumann and Richard Fordyce voted in favor of the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

F. REPORTS

- 1. University of Missouri**
No report
- 2. Department of Conservation**
Clint Dalbom presented information on cover crop study for wildlife benefits, Chronic Wasting Disease sampling, feral hog eradications, elk, quail population, and efforts with bears and mountain lions.
- 3. Department of Agriculture**
Judy Grundler presented information on the new Acting Director of Agriculture, Harry Bozoian, who sent his regrets for missing the meeting. Ms. Grundler also spoke about the Emerald Ash Borer quarantine expansion, Gypsy Moth survey, Thousand Cankers Disease of Black Walnut, Fire Ants, Boll Weevil, and Spotted Winged Drosophila.
- 4. Natural Resources Conservation Service**
J.R. Flores presented information on the Conservation Stewardship Program payments, local workgroups discussing the Farm Bill, cut-off dates for EQIP signups, and the soil health cover crops workshop on November 7th, 2013 at the Elsberry Plant Material Center.
- 5. Missouri Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts**
Kenny Lovelace commented that he thought the Plan for the Future subcommittee that he is involved in is going well. He said that he attended five of the Area Meetings and hoped that the format used this year can be continued in the future. Beverly Dometrorch presented information for Peggy Lemons in reference to the Training conference registration at Tan-Tar-A.

G. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Sandy Stratman, Employees Association President, extended an invitation to the Commission to the Employees Association meeting Tuesday December 17, 2013 at the Training conference at Tan-Tar-A.

George Engelbach clarified that there was a representative from the Army Corps of Engineers at the Big River Summit and that he would supply the Commission with information.

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

The suggested Soil and Water Districts Commission meeting December 16, 2013, in Osage Beach, Tan-Tar-A.

I. LINCOLN UNIVERSITY SOUTH CAMPUS TOUR

Prior to adjournment, Brian McMillan, a Civil Engineer with the Central Missouri Professional Services presented information on the replacement of Lincoln University's Dickinson Research Center parking lot project. The project included replacing and enlarging the existing parking lot and incorporating some "Green" features that would help to qualify for additional sources of funding, as well as opening up the Community Garden area to make it more accessible to the

community. The option that was selected was permeable paving that maximized the parking lot and the community garden area. This paving method improves water quality by increasing infiltration and storage capacity and slows runoff prior to emptying into a stream which adjoins the property. Mr. McMillian invited the Commission to tour the new parking lot.

Maggie Hopper from Lincoln University invited anyone from the group to hear a briefing on their certified kitchen which is available for public use and often used by members of their Farmers Market, and also for a tour of the kitchen.

J. ADJOURNMENT

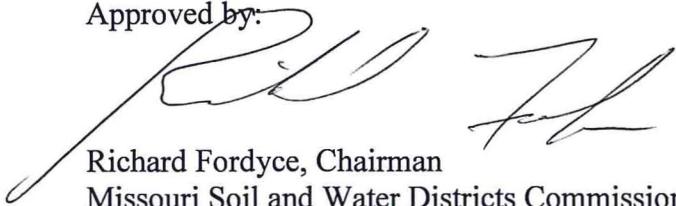
Sam Schaumann made a motion to adjourn open session at 12:24 pm. Thomas Bradley seconded the motion. When asked by the chair. Charles Ausfahl, Thomas Bradley, H. Ralph Gaw, Sam Schaumann and Richard Fordyce voted in favor of the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



Colleen Meredith, Director
Soil and Water Conservation Program

Approved by:



Richard Fordyce, Chairman
Missouri Soil and Water Districts Commission

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