

SOIL AND WATER *Resources*

November 2014

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Joint Water Meeting Held in Jefferson City

The Soil and Water Districts Commission, Clean Water Commission, Safe Drinking Water Commission and Well Installation Board met jointly on Oct. 1 in Jefferson City. “This is an historic day for this agency,” said Missouri Department of Natural Resources director Sara Parker Pauley. “The specific purpose of the meeting is to show the direction of water protection, water resource management and planning efforts by this agency.”

Soil and Water Districts Commission chair Gary Vandiver said, “I really like this idea of getting everyone together. We need to work together. This is a great solution to what we sometimes see in Washington when entities overlap and do the same thing. What we do is an important part of the other commissions here.” Vandiver informed the group that the water benefits guided by the Soil and Water Districts Commission are funded by the Parks, Soils and Water Sales Tax. Vandiver continued saying, “In 2016 our tax is up for renewal. We share our tax with state parks. They get half and we get half and I think both of us do a tremendous job of getting our funds in the right spots.”

“I think our program helps the other commissions by the proactive work the Soil and Water District Commission does to keep soil erosion down and keep water quality clean,” said Colleen Meredith, director of the department’s Soil and Water Conservation Program. “The commission has seven resource concerns they have identified for funding including grazing, woodland, nutrient and pest management, sensitive areas, irrigation, animal waste, and sheet, rill and gully conservation practices.”

Meredith also described the operations of the 114 soil and water conservation districts in the state and answered questions following her presentation. She explained that soil and water practices offered to landowners are completely voluntary. The program offers incentives specific to the farmers needs and provides the best information available to ensure success.

Many of the board and commission members in attendance were interested to hear about the various services offered by the department, such as the water monitoring program conducted by the department’s Water Resources Center.



Each of the program directors described the water issues they deal with daily. Graphics showed water buckets for each commission or boards key functions. One presentation revolved around Our Missouri Waters. “Our Missouri Waters strives to facilitate discussion with a wide range of watershed stakeholder to identify shared water resource priorities,” said Jennifer Hoggatt, coordinator of the department’s Our Missouri Waters strategy. Much like one of the Our Missouri Waters mission goals, the joint meeting allowed all parties involved to discuss actions and next steps to address priorities for water management in the state. Video of the entire joint commission meeting is available online at dnr.mo.gov/videos/archive-meetings.htm#combo.



Commission approves \$20,000 for resource concerns 90 percent or greater

At the Oct. 1 commission meeting, the Soil and Water Districts Commission approved an additional \$20,000 per resource concern obligated at 90 percent or greater. This allocation process started in October 2014 and will continue as a rolling process until the commission reviews it again in December.

Commission to Discuss Extending Stream Buffer Practices

“The Soil and Water Districts Commission recently considered a proposal to extend the maintenance life of stream buffer practices,” said Soil and Water Districts Commission chair Gary Vandiver following the Oct. 1 commission meeting. “We are going to consider that and probably discuss it at our December meeting,” said Vandiver. Program staff are getting more information about maintenance life and the costs for the commission. A video of Vandiver talking about the stream buffer practices is available online at swcd.mo.gov/videos/vandiver-stream-buffer.htm.

2014 Training Conference is Dec. 10 to 12

Make plans to attend the annual Missouri Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts Training Conference Dec. 10 through 12 at Tan-Tar-A in Osage Beach. In addition to the Soil and Water Districts Commission meeting, there will be a many workshops and a very special Parks, Soils and Water Sales Tax 30th anniversary panel. Visit swcd.mo.gov/internal/sp.htm for more information or the MASWCD Web page at ww.maswcd.net/Meetings.htm.

Commission Meetings Streamed Live on the Web

For most Soil and Water Districts Commission meetings, you can watch the meeting while it happens being streamed live on the Web at www.dnr.mo.gov/videos/live.htm. If meetings are not available live due to no Internet connection being available, archived meeting videos are posted on the MissouriDNR YouTube channel. Links to past meetings are available at www.dnr.mo.gov/videos/archive-meetings.htm#swdc.

Area Meetings Held in July

Area meetings were held across Missouri the week of July 14. The agenda included information from multiple partners:

- Soil and Water Conservation Program
- Soil and Water Districts Commission
- Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Missouri Department of Agriculture
- Missouri Department of Conservation
- Missouri Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts
- Missouri Soil and Water Conservation Districts Employees Association.

A presentation from the Plan for the Future - Partnerships and Emerging Issues Subcommittee was presented as part of the meeting to gather input from the districts.

“What has impressed me is we have received a considerable amount of feedback from the districts,” said Soil and Water Districts Commissioner H. Ralph Gaw. “People have given us some really nice, fresh ideas that I will take back to use for planning future policy for the commission,” Gaw stated. Video of Gaw’s comments is available at swcd.mo.gov/videos/area-meetings-gaw.htm.

Pembroke High School Takes Top Honors at Regional Stewardship Challenge

Pembroke Hill, Missouri Envirothon’s 2014 state winner, took top honors at the regional Stewardship Challenge held at Loyola University in Woodstock, IL on Aug. 3 through 5. The team placed 1st beating out eight other teams from Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Virginia and Wisconsin. They also had the top resource score in five of the six stations: Aquatics, Forestry, Soils, Wildlife and Current Issue.



Teams members from left to right: Domenico DiMare, Team Captain Ryan Hrinaya, Vincent Czerwinski, Saurabh Goel and Francesco DiMare. Their advisor is SueAnn Wright.

Parks, Soils and Water Sales Tax Brochure Being Updated

A brochure about the benefits of the Parks, Soils and Water Sales Tax is being updated and will replace the existing version currently available on the Missouri Department of Natural Resources publications Web page at www.dnr.mo.gov/pubs/pub2352.pdf. Printed copies will be distributed to each soil and water conservation district following publication.



Parks, Soils and Water Sales Tax Working for You - PUB2352

District Coordinators Map Available Online

A map showing the names of district coordinators is available online at <http://swcd.mo.gov/internal/documents/coordinator-map.pdf>.

Each district coordinator is assigned to several counties as shown on the color-coded map. This map can help you know which coordinator is assigned to your neighboring counties in case you need to collaborate with them to accomplish cooperative goals. District coordinators include Patty Chapman, Allan Clarke, Matt Elliott, David Goggins, Jennifer Pellett, Josh Poyner, Jeremy Redden, Deanna Smith, Cody Tebbencamp, and Leon Thompson. District Assistance East Supervisor is Jim Boschert. District Assistance West Supervisor is Jim Plassmeyer.



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