Missouri Department of Natural Resources

MINUTES
MISSOURI SOIL AND WATER DISTRICTS COMMISSION
TELEPHONE CONFERENCE CALL
LEWIS AND CLARK STATE OFFICE BUILDING
JEFFERSON CITY, MIOSSOURI
June 6, 2012

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT VIA TELEPHONE: Charles Ausfahl, Kathryn Braden, Thomas Bradley, Richard Fordyce and Gary Vandiver

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS PRESENT VIA TELEPHONE: **JON HAGLER, DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE:** Chris Klenklen; **DEAN PAYNE, UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI**: Dave Baker;

***EX*-OFFICIO MEMBERS PRESENT: SARA PARKER PAULEY, DEPT. OF NATURAL RESOURCES:** Dru Buntin;

ADVISORY MEMBERS PRESENT: **SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION PROGRAM:** Colleen Meredith

ADVISORY MEMBERS PRESENT VIA TELEPHONE: **MASWCD:** Steve Radcliff; **ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE**: Tim Duggan; **NRCS**: Dick Purcell

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT: Jim Boschert, April Brandt, Allan Clarke, Kerry Cordray, Christa Moody, Ken Struemph, Bill Wilson, Cody Tebbenkamp,

OTHERS PRESENT VIA TELEPHONE: **DISTRICTS: Howard**: Bev Dometroch; **MSWCDEA**: Sandy Hutchison; **MASWCD:** Kenny Lovelace; **Jefferson**: George Engelbach; **Oregon**: Sara Stubbs; **Cape Girardeau**: Paula Meier; **Moniteau:** Nancy Kirby

A. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Richard Fordyce called the meeting to order in Jefferson City, Missouri, at the Lewis and Clark Office building at 11:05 pm. Poll of commission members was taken: Charles Ausfahl, Kathryn Braden, Thomas Bradley, Gary Vandiver, and Richard Fordyce were present, which made a quorum.

Richard Fordyce opened with discussion on the Jameson Island U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) habitat project. Commissioner Fordyce was approached by several commodity groups and asked to appear at the public hearing held by the Clean Water Commission on June 11, 2012, to make a statement for the Soil and Water Districts Commission. He read a draft statement, and asked for input and general consensus. Dru Buntin gave background information and an overview of the USACE project.

After extensive discussion, Charles Ausfahl made a motion to provide a statement being presented at the Clean Water Commission's public hearing regarding the Jameson Island

construction project. This statement would provide clarity of the views of the Soil and Water Districts Commission as well as showing support in working with the Clean Water Commission in reference to the USACE habitat project request. Kathryn Braden seconded the motion. A poll vote was taken. Gary Vandiver, Thomas Bradley, Kathryn Braden, Charles Ausfahl, and Richard Fordyce voted in favor of the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

C. SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION PROGRAM DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS

1. FY2013 District Grants

a. Proposed Two Percent Increase in Personnel Grant

Jim Boschert presented the proposed two percent increase in the Personnel Grant. The budget that has been approved by the Missouri House and Senate includes a 2 percent salary increase for state employees. The budget has not been approved at this time by the governor.

In an effort to provide a similar benefit to the district boards for their employees a two percent increase to the Personnel related grants will be contingent on the budget being signed. The total cost of the 2 percent increase over the current grant would be an estimated $165,000.

This increase for personnel will be implemented in the same fashion as the proposed increase for state employees.

b. Reimbursement of Professional Accounting Services

Jim Boschert presented the reimbursement of Professional Accounting Services. A survey was sent to the districts for comments with a 90 district responses.

In order to support the districts that would like to outsource their payroll and/or bank reconciliations the Department will grant each district up to $100 per month for expenses associated with outsourcing their payroll and/or bank reconciliation process. This will be done through a reimbursement process, similar to how the election policy expenses are handled. District boards can choose to participate in this reimbursement. It is not mandatory. Also by allowing reimbursement by month, if the circumstances in a district changes, such as employee turnover, the board can start this reimbursement anytime throughout the year.

Documentation will be required showing proof that the individual/company hired is bonded.

Sandy Hutchison stated districts expressed interest in training on payroll, taxes, and reconciliations. Colleen Meredith stated the program would work with the association to explore possible training options that are available.

D. REQUESTS/REVIEWS

1. FY 2013 District Grants

a. Information Education Grant

Jim Boschert presented the Information/Education (info/ed) Grant request. On the survey sent to the districts, four options were available to gather district input.

The option that was supported most by the districts was to divide the funds evenly, which would allow approximately $1,000 per district. Based on the results of the survey, the program office is proposing the following option for funding the information/education grant for FY2013.

There are 91 districts that currently receive less than $1,000 for their info/ed grant. Consideration could be given to increase their info/ed allocation to $1,000. In addition, there are 23 districts that currently receive over $1,000 in their information/education grant allocation, and consideration could be given to maintain their current allocation. These 23 districts are in the more populated urban areas of the state.

By allocating grant this way it would increase the info/ed grant to $167,516 dollars for the entire state. The current allocation for FY12 is $116,201 dollars.

Program staff recently received updated numbers from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) regarding the number of public school students in grades 3-6 and 9-12 for each county in the state. Staff will be reviewing these numbers to determine if there were any changes in number of students, if the same formula is used for FY13..

For Commission consideration: Allocate $1,000 dollars to the 91 districts that are currently allocated less than $1,000 dollars in their info/ed. grant. For the remaining 23 districts, review the updated numbers from DESE and allocate their info/ed funding based on the current allocation formula.

After extensive discussion, Kathryn Braden made a motion to have staff come back with new numbers using 40 cents and 35 cents per current student based on DESE numbers for children 3-6 and 9-12. Thomas

Bradley seconded the motion. A poll vote was taken. Charles Ausfahl and Richard Fordyce voted against and Gary Vandiver, Thomas Bradley, and Kathryn Braden voted in favor. Motion carried.

Richard Fordyce requested a motion to show Commission support on the department decision to grant the proposed two percent increase in Personnel Grant and reimbursement of professional accounting services. Charles Ausfahl made the motion and Kathryn Braden seconded the motion. A poll vote was taken. Thomas Bradley, Gary Vandiver, Kathryn Braden, Charles Ausfahl, and Richard Fordyce voted in favor, the motion passed unanimously.

E. ADJOURNMENT

Charles Ausfahl moved the meeting be adjourned at 12:35 pm. Kathryn Braden seconded the motion. A poll vote was taken. Gary Vandiver, Thomas Bradley, Kathryn Braden, Charles Ausfahl and Richard Fordyce voted in favor of the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Colleen Meredith

Colleen Meredith, Director
Soil and Water Conservation Program

Approved by:

Richard Fordyce, Chairman
Missouri Soil and Water Districts Commission
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