



# Missouri Department of Natural Resources

## MINUTES

### MISSOURI SOIL AND WATER DISTRICTS COMMISSION DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION CENTRAL OFFICE AUDITORIUM JEFFERSON CITY, MISSOURI SEPTEMBER 21, 2010

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

**EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS:** DEAN THOMAS PAYNE, UNIV. OF MISSOURI: Dave Baker; BOB ZIEHMER, DEPT. OF CONSERVATION: John Knudsen; JON HAGLER, DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE: Chris Klenklen; KIP STETZLER-ACTING DIRECTOR, DEPT. OF NATURAL RESOURCES: Mike Wells

**ADVISORY MEMBERS PRESENT:** SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION PROGRAM: Bryan Hopkins; NRCS: Dick Purcell; MASWCD: Steve Radcliff

**STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:** Chrisi Armbruster, Kurt Boeckmann, Jim Boschert, April Brandt, Kerry Cordray, David Goggins, Jesse Higginbotham, Jennifer Johnson, Eric McGeorge, Theresa Mueller, James Plassmeyer, Judy Stinson, Ken Struempf, Leon Thompson, Steven Walker, and Bill Wilson

**OTHERS PRESENT:** DISTRICTS: BOONE: Cindy Bowne; COLE: Peggy Lemons; GRUNDY: Heather Keith; HOWELL: Beverly Dometroch; JEFFERSON: George Engelbach; MARIES: Sandy Hutchison; MONTGOMERY: Gayle Adams, Ann Whitehead; OSAGE: Cindy DeOrnellis; WARREN: Polly Sachs; STATE OF MISSOURI: ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE: Tim Duggan; OTHERS: MLICA: Jeff Lance; MO FARM BUREAU: Kelly Smith

**NOTE:** The following is a general summary of the information presented at the commission meeting. For specific information on commission proceedings, please refer to the DVD/Video.

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### **A. CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Richard Fordyce called the meeting to order, in Jefferson City, Missouri, at MDC, at 8:35 a.m.

John Knudsen welcomed the commission to the Department of Conservation and introduced Mike Hubbard the Private Lands Division Chief and Tom Draper the Assistant Director. Mr. Draper welcomed the commission and informed them that he had worked with soil and water conservation districts in two other states so he was familiar with some of the practices.

### **B. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

Thomas Bradley made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 14 and August 12, commission meeting as mailed. Kathryn Braden seconded the motion. When asked by the chair, Kathryn Braden, Thomas Bradley, Gary Vandiver, and Richard Fordyce voted in favor of the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

**NOTE:** Charles Ausfahl was not on the commission at the time of the above minutes.

Richard Fordyce introduced Commissioner Charles Ausfahl who replaced Dan Devlin on the commission. He stated that Mr. Ausfahl was a farmer from the Fulton area and worked for the Department of Agriculture. Mr. Ausfahl stated that he looked forward to working with the commission.

### **C. DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES**

Mike Wells informed the commission that Mark Templeton who was the Department Director had resigned effective August 30 and the Acting Director is Kip Stetzler. Mr. Wells stated that the Governor had appointed a search committee to look for a new Department Director.

### **D. SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION PROGRAM DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS**

#### **1. Mississippi River Basin Initiative**

Bryan Hopkins stated that the Governor had made an announcement regarding the Mississippi River Basin Initiative (MRBI). He stated that Missouri had received more of the MRBI funds than any of the other 12 states that competed. He informed the commission that according to NRCS, the projects in Missouri were progressing well and meeting the obligations associated with MRBI. He informed the commission that the Governor supported the initiative.

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### **2. Proposed FY12 Budget**

Bryan Hopkins stated that at the area meetings there would be an update on the status of the budget. He stated the budget submitted to the Governor to review was the same except for one item. He reminded everyone that what was submitted was what could be spent, or spending authority. He stated that he was not suggesting that the FY12 budget amounts be fully spent, because the revenues need to be reviewed to see what income is received. He pointed out that since the recession had started, revenues were down approximately 12 percent. He stated that the one change in the budget was funding for MRBI. He stated that in order to support one of the elements of MRBI, the commission approved \$500,000 for monitoring. He stated that by using federal funds and the state funds that were approved, there would be a no cost to the landowner for monitoring. In response to a question, Mr. Hopkins stated that guidance was given to build the FY12 budget off zero percent and that was what the program did.

### **3. Least Cost Practice Alternative**

Bryan Hopkins presented a review of least cost practice alternative. He pointed out that he was not suggesting that every practice be reviewed thoroughly at the State level for a least cost alternative analysis. He stated there are times when a practice is received in the office where there is a glaring least cost alternative that should be considered. He pointed out that regulations state that the least cost alternative to achieve the conservation results is to be pursued. He stated that there may be times where the program will ask that a project be revisited and there could be times where it could be brought before the commission for their review.

Mr. Hopkins proceeded to present an example for the commission to see how a least cost alternative would work.

Mr. Hopkins stated that he has directed staff that when they see something that could have an alternative practice with significant savings, they are to reflect it to the districts. He stressed that this would not be done on every practice received in the office.

### **4. Calendar Year 2011 District Employee Insurance Benefit Package**

Jim Boschert presented a review of the calendar year 2011 district employee insurance benefit package. He informed the commission that program staff had met with MCHCP for the rates and plans that would be available for SWCD employees. He stated that the benefit grant was to provide health insurance for all

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district employees that are paid 1000 hours or more from state funds. He stated that the two plans available for calendar year 2010 was the PPO300 and PPO2000, the monthly rate for the PPO300 was \$593.65 per employee and the program paid \$562.63 of that premium and the employee or district local funds paid the remaining \$31.00. With the PPO2000, the program paid 100 percent of the premium and half of the out of pocket maximum only after the first half was paid by the employee.

Mr. Boschert proceeded to provide some background on paying the out of pocket expense and why the recommendation for calendar year 2011 does not include paying any portion of the out of pocket expense.

Mr. Boschert stated that the four plans for calendar year 2011 were the PPO600, PPO1000, PPO2000 and the high deductible health plan (HDHP). He pointed out that of the four plans; the commission could offer at the most two plans to the district employees. He stated that staff was recommending the PPO 600 and the PPO2000, because these were similar to what the districts' employees had for calendar year 2010. He stated that with the PPO600, it is recommended that the program pay \$560.08 of the monthly premium and the remaining \$41 be paid by the employee, with the PPO2000 it is recommended that the program pay 100 percent of the premium and no out of pocket expenses or deductibles.

Kathryn Braden made a motion to accept the staff recommendation to offer the PPO600 and PPO2000 to district employees for calendar year 2011. Gary Vandiver seconded the motion. When asked by the chair, Charles Ausfahl, Kathryn Braden, Thomas Bradley, Gary Vandiver, and Richard Fordyce voted in favor of the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

### **5. Target Watershed – Spring River**

Colleen Meredith presented an update on the targeted watershed. She provided some background for the new commissioners on the process. She stated that Water Protection Program (WPP) and the Soil and Water Conservation Program (SWCP) staff met with Barton and Shelby SWCDs and proposed continuing the process where WPP and SWCP would jointly work with the districts for watershed planning and implementation of projects. She reminded the commission that they had approved funding for the watersheds in FY 2010 to address some of the pollutants. She stated the districts did implement practices in the targeted watersheds. She stated that there was an issue where the WPP staff did not work with the districts on their watershed management plans last year. However, staff have recently gone back to the districts and talked to them about watershed planning.

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Ms. Meredith proceeded to cover the watersheds and the planning process. She stated that the plan helps determine sources of pollution and means to reduce the load, the estimation of how much load can be reduced by doing certain practices, a description of the management measures in critical areas, an estimation of the technical and financial assistance, information/education so that all the stakeholders know what is happening, a schedule of implementation, a description of how the plan will work, criteria on how the load reductions were met, and a monitoring component. She stated the benefits of the plan for the watersheds is that critical areas are identified, all the stakeholders are involved, it identifies all impacts and it is a tool for multiple funding sources.

Bryan Hopkins stated that having a watershed plans allows for funding to be utilized in targeted areas of the watershed that could provide the most benefit to restoring the waters. He stated that once the plans are in place, the SWCP is likely to be part of the solution for many of the watersheds.

### **6. WQ10 Stream Protection Practice Review**

Ken Struempf was asked to present a review of the WQ10 Stream Protection Practice. He stated the practice is used to exclude livestock from streams to reduce sediment and nutrient loading and some of the cost-share components were fence, water source development, water distribution, water facilities and out of production incentive. He stated the practice was adopted in 2007; there have been 167 practices statewide, the total amount spent was \$1,766,435, the average cost is \$10,577 and the practices ranged from \$1,200 - \$56,000. He stated that in 2010 there were 143,135 feet of stream fenced off, \$610,000 was spent on this practice, there were 57 total practices constructed and the districts have indicated the need for more funding for this practice.

Mr. Struempf stated that during the practice review, comments and suggestions would be received from the districts from October 1 to December 1; staff would analyze past contracts completed and provide a summary of the information and policy suggestions to the commission at the January meeting.

Gary Vandiver made a motion to direct staff to begin the process of a practice review on the WQ10 Stream Protection Practice. Thomas Bradley seconded the motion. When asked by the chair, Charles Ausfahl, Kathryn Braden, Thomas Bradley, Gary Vandiver, and Richard Fordyce voted in favor of the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

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### 7. **Election Workgroup Update**

Ken Struempf presented an update on the election workgroup. He reminded the commission that at the July commission meeting, staff was asked to present the election information at the Area Meetings. He informed the commission that in addition to discussion of this issue at the Area Meetings, program staff was doing a workshop at the Training Conference to discuss the process with the districts. He stated that the program was looking at having a workgroup meeting the first part of December. He stated that some of the members of the workgroup would be MASWCD, MASWCDEA, Extension and FSA. He stated that the commission would be provided information on who would be on the workgroup. Commissioner Fordyce indicated that the workgroup may need to look at the election process of some of the commodity groups.

## E. **REVIEW/EVALUATION**

### 1. **District Operation Section**

#### a. **District Support**

#### 1. **Jefferson SWCD – Discuss Landowner Maintenance on Following Practices**

Ken Struempf presented a review of a landowner's maintenance on a Water Impoundment Structure Practice (DWC-1) and a Woodland Exclusion Practice (DFR-5). He stated that the landowner requested that program staff review the site because he thought that he was in compliance and he wanted to show them what he had done to resolve the issue. He stated that a site visit was made on the two practices. He stated that after the site visit, staff felt the practices were in compliance.

Mr. Struempf proceeded to cover the issue of the maintenance violation on the DWC-1 and the DRF-5.

Mr. Struempf stated that staff did not have any recommendation and that a letter would be sent to the landowner informing him that after the site visit it looked as though he was in compliance.

George Engelbach, Jefferson SWCD Board of Supervisors, stated that the district staff has had issues with this landowner and they will not cooperate with him anymore. Mr. Engelbach proceeded to provide some information on the practices and the landowner.

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### 2. **Cost-Share Usage and Allocation Update**

April Brandt provided an update on the cost-share usage and allocation as of September 14, 2010. She stated that as of September 14, there was \$11,200,000 or 52 percent of cost-share was obligated. She stated that of that amount, \$8,000,000 was obligated in sheet, rill and gully erosion and approximately \$2,200,000 was paid. She pointed out in comparison last year as of October 1, 2009, 38 percent was obligated and 6 percent was paid.

Ms. Brandt reminded the commission that the supplemental cost-share allocation was going to be based on obligated and pending funds per resource concern that exceeded roughly 70 percent. She stated that 72 percent or \$1,800,000 of the amount allocated to Grazing Management was obligated or pending and 42 of the 99 districts that received an allocation in this resource concern had obligated plus pending funds that exceeded the 70 percent. She stated that for sheet/rill and gully erosion, \$9,300,000 or 62 percent of the allocation was obligated or pending and 42 of the 114 districts that received an allocation in this resource concern has obligated plus pending funds that were exceeded 70 percent.

Ms. Brandt stated that as of September 14, approximately \$3,100,000 was allocated to 45 AgNPS SALT projects and of that amount, \$1,100,000 had been obligated and \$117,734.08 had been paid.

### b. **Supervisor Appointments**

#### 1. **St. Francois SWCD**

Charles Ausfahl made a motion to approve the appointment of Kenneth Kollmeyer to the St. Francois SWCD board of supervisors. Kathryn Braden seconded the motion. When asked by the chair, Charles Ausfahl, Kathryn Braden, Thomas Bradley, Gary Vandiver and Richard Fordyce voted in favor of the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

#### 2. **Adair SWCD**

Kathryn Braden made a motion to approve the appointment of Shawn Robertson to the Adair SWCD board of supervisors. Thomas Bradley seconded the motion. When asked by the chair, Charles Ausfahl, Kathryn Braden, Thomas Bradley, Gary Vandiver

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and Richard Fordyce voted in favor of the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Bill Wilson introduced two new staff members, Kerry Cordray who is the Public Information Coordinator for the Soil and Water Conservation Program and Water Resources; and Alan Freeman who is a District Coordinator in the Special Practices Unit.

### F. REPORTS

#### 1. University of Missouri

Dave Baker reported that they were dealing with budget issues and positions. He informed the commission that Field Days were in progress. He also stated that MU Extension was working in Kansas City and St. Louis on interventions to address the issue of food deserts.

#### 2. Department of Conservation

John Knudsen reported that at the Training Conference there would be a workshop on Feral Hogs.

#### 3. NRCS

Dick Purcell reported that EQIP received 4,537 applications for a total of \$75,160,000 and funded 1,503 contracts for \$26,500,000, WHIP received 796 applications for \$7,570,000 and funded 337 contracts for \$2,820,000, CSP received 3,303 applications covering 1,190,000 acres for \$17,370,000 and funded 1,960 contract covering 966,000 acres for \$16,600,000, MRBI received 680 applications for a total of \$19,770,000 and funded 163 contracts for \$6,440,000, MBHI received 631 applications covering 146,200 acres for \$9,500,000 and funded 367 contracts covering 93,650 acres for \$5,680,000 and WRP the new enrollment was for 8,643 acres for \$19,900,000.

Mr. Purcell stated there had not been any action on the Federal Budget in Agriculture only two of the 12 appropriation bills had action on them by the House of Representatives.

#### 4. MASWCD

Steve Radcliff reported that Area Meetings had finished and they had good turnout for them. He stated they would like minutes or audio of the questions asked so that a summary could be provided. He thanked the commissioners that attended the Area Meetings. He reminded everyone that the Training Conference was scheduled for November 29 – December 1 at Tan Tar A and the open forum

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is scheduled for Tuesday, November 30 at 1:30. He stated they would like to have commission representation. He proceeded to cover some of the schedule for the Training Conference.

Mr. Radcliff asked to utilize the money from the Loan Interest-Share Program for county equipment.

Mr. Radcliff stated that they would like to do supervisor training on a voluntary basis and not make it mandatory. He stated that this would be brought before the full body at Tan Tar A for their opinion.

Mr. Radcliff informed the commission that he would be representing the North Central section of the nation on the Farm Bill through NACD.

### **G. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

George Engelbach stated that the districts should be made aware that watershed plans need to be developed in their counties. He stated that in regard to the drills, the districts should put that in their needs assessment.

Sandy Hutchison stated she hoped that the commission could attend the Training Conference because she thought there would be many good workshops that will benefit the employees and the supervisors.

### **H. SUGGESTED DATE (S) OF NEXT MEETINGS**

The next scheduled meeting is November 29, 2010, at Tan Tar A Resort located in Osage Beach.

### **I. COMMISSION ELECTIONS**

Gary Vandiver made a motion to nominate Kathryn Braden as the vice chair.

Thomas Bradley made a motion to nominate Gary Vandiver as vice chair. Charles Ausfahl seconded the motion.

Gary Vandiver declined the nomination.

Gary Vandiver made a motion to election Kathryn Braden by acclamation as vice chair. Thomas Bradley seconded the motion. When asked by the chair, Charles Ausfahl,

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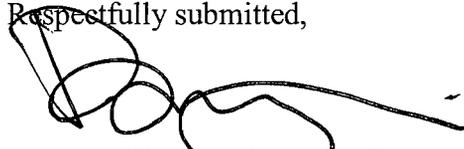
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Kathryn Braden, Thomas Bradley, Gary Vandiver and Richard Fordyce voted in favor of the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

**J. ADJOURNMENT**

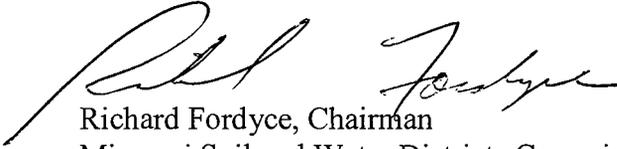
Charles Ausfahl moved the meeting be adjourned. Thomas Bradley seconded the motion. Motion approved by consensus at 11:50 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Bryan T. Hopkins, Program Director  
Soil and Water Conservation Program

Approved by:



Richard Fordyce, Chairman  
Missouri Soil and Water Districts Commission

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