



Missouri Department of Natural Resources

MINUTES

MISSOURI SOIL AND WATER DISTRICTS COMMISSION TELEPHONE CONFERENCE CALL LEWIS AND CLARK STATE OFFICE BUILDING JEFFERSON CITY, MISSOURI OCTOBER 11, 2011

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

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

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS PRESENT VIA TELEPHONE: JON HAGLER, DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE: Judy Grundler

ADVISORY MEMBERS PRESENT: SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION PROGRAM: Acting Program Director Colleen Meredith and Flood Coordinator Bryan Hopkins

ADVISORY MEMBERS VIA TELEPHON: NRCS: Drenda Williams; MASWCD: Steve Radcliff; **University of Missouri – Columbia:** David Baker

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT: Kurt Boeckmann, Jim Boschert, April Brandt, Kerry Cordray, Alan Freeman, Katy Holmer, Christa Moody, Theresa Mueller, Jim Plassmeyer, Ken Struempf, Colette Weckenborg,

OTHERS PRESENT: ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE: Tim Duggan; **Internal Audit:** Kendall Blythe, Mary Dallas; Missouri Farm Bureau: Kelly Smith

OTHERS VIA TELEPHONE: BUTLER: Carol Frazier; **MARIES:** Sandy Hutchison; MASWCD: Bev Dometrorch;

A. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Richard Fordyce called the meeting to order at the Lewis and Clark State Office Building, in Jefferson City, MO, in the Gasconade Camp Conference room at 10:00 am.

Roll call was taken and the following commissioners were present via the telephone: Charles Ausfahl, Kathryn Braden, Thomas Bradley, Richard Fordyce and Gary Vandiver.

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B. CLOSED SESSION

Kathryn Braden made a motion to go into closed session under § 610.021 (17) at 10:05 am. Thomas Bradley seconded the motion. A poll vote was taken to go into closed session. Kathryn Braden, Thomas Bradley, Charles Ausfahl, Gary Vandiver and Richard Fordyce voted in favor of the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Charles Ausfahl made a motion to go into open session at 10:50 am. Thomas Bradley seconded the motion. A poll vote was taken to go into open session. Charles Ausfahl, Thomas Bradley, Gary Vandiver, and Richard Fordyce voted in favor of the motion and the motion passed.

Note: Kathryn Braden had to leave during closed session but rejoined at the beginning of the open sessions.

C. SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION PROGRAM DIRECTORS COMMENTS

1. Contribution Agreements with NRCS

Colleen Meredith presented the Contribution Agreements to the commission. Two Contribution agreements have been signed between the Natural Resources Conservation Services (NRCS) and the Department of Natural Resources. One agreement is for \$500,000 for Conservation Reserve Programs (CRP) work and the second is for \$400,000 for general technical assistance for Farm Bill programs and other state programs. The Contribution Agreements are funded through NRCS for conservation partnerships and the funding will be utilized in support of districts implementing soil and water conservation practices. The project period of the agreements is September 22, 2011 through December 31, 2012. There will be a meeting scheduled in the next few weeks to finalize implementation with a detailed update being presented at the November 28, 2011 commission meeting.

2. Update on Development of Cooperative Working Agreement Between SWCD/NRCS/DNR/SWDC

Katy Holmer presented the update on the development of the Cooperative Working Agreement between SWCD/NRCS/DNR/SWDC to the commission. The third meeting was held with the following representatives in attendance; Sandy Hutchison, Peggy Lemmon, Kenny Lovelace, Drenda Williams, Karen Brinkman, and program management. The last agreement was from 1997 and a draft agreement is near completion with some minor changes. The partners have agreed to add the Department as a partner in the revised version. A copy will be mailed to the commissioners. The final draft will be made available to all parties for discussion at the commission meeting scheduled for November 28, 2011.

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D. BRIEFING ON SEEDING REVIEWS

April Brandt presented a briefing on the seeding review to the commission. Program staff has conducted reviews of randomly selected seeding contracts for DSL-1 Permanent Vegetative Cover Establishment, DSL-2 Permanent Vegetative Cover Improvement, and DSP-2 Permanent Vegetative Cover Enhancement practices. Seeding practices were previously evaluated to have contract review turned off and the next phase was to do the seeding reviews to make sure the seeding practices were done correctly in the field. There were 92 districts scheduled for review, with a random selection done in each county, not to exceed three per county. The review consists of an examination of the contracts and supporting documentation, in conjunction with a field visit of the selected practices. This would provide an opportunity to ensure that procedures are being consistently followed in accordance with commission policy. It also allowed the Department to evaluate districts that consistently demonstrated the competency in implementing and documenting practices, which would merit a reduced review of their contracts. This process allows district coordinators to identify training needs at the local level through review of practices implemented in the field rather than reviewing each seeding contract. Out of the 92 districts scheduled for review, 84 have been completed. Colleen Meredith noted that when the review is completed in a district, a letter is sent to the district with the findings.

The next phase of reviews will be similar to the seeding reviews with the following practices being considered; DSL-4 Terrace System, DSL-44 Terrace System with Tile, DWP-3 Sod Waterways, DFR-5 Woodland Protection through Livestock Exclusion and N472 Use Exclusion. Staff are currently analyzing statewide data usage of practices, contract denial reports, and assessing coordinator input. It is anticipated that turning off approval for some or all practices mentioned above for eligible districts will occur sometime in November.

A question was asked in reference to a date and percentage of additional funds that would be released to the districts. Ken Struempf stated the deadline was October 14, 2011. The percentage is 70 percent of obligated plus pending, with the funds being released to the districts on October 21, 2011.

E. ADJOURNMENT

Kathryn Braden moved the meeting be adjourned. Thomas Bradley seconded the motion. When polled, Charles Ausfahl, Kathryn Braden, Thomas Bradley, Richard Fordyce, and Gary Vandiver voted in favor of the motion and the motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 11:09 am.

Respectfully submitted,



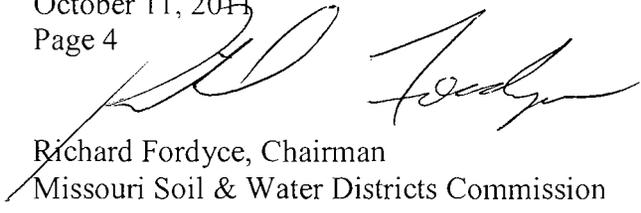
Colleen Meredith, Acting Program Director
Soil and Water Conservation Program

Approved by:

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Fordyce', is written over the printed name and title. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial 'F'.

Richard Fordyce, Chairman
Missouri Soil & Water Districts Commission

/clm