



# Missouri Department of Natural Resources

**MINUTES  
MISSOURI SOIL AND WATER DISTRICTS COMMISSION  
TELEPHONE CONFERENCE CALL  
LEWIS AND CLARK STATE OFFICE BUILDING  
JEFFERSON CITY, MISSOURI  
July 20, 2012**

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

**EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS:** DEPT. OF NATURAL RESOURCES; Sara Parker Pauley, Dru Buntin

**EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS PRESENT VIA TELEPHONE:** JON HAGLER, DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE: Judy Grundler; Lloyd Wilson, Dennis Baird; BOB ZIEHMER, DEPT. OF CONSERVATION: Clint Dalbom;

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

**ADVISORY MEMBERS PRESENT VIA TELEPHONE:** NRCS: J.R. Flores, ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE: Tim Duggan;

**STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:** Jim Boschert, Kerry Cordray, Christa Moody, Ken Struempf, Ryan Mueller; Darrick Steen

**STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT VIA THE PHONE:** Jennifer Pellett

**OTHERS PRESENT VIA TELEPHONE: DISTRICTS:** Howard: Beverly Dometrorch; Jefferson: George Engelbach; Cape Girardeau: Denise Aufdenberg; Oregon: Freda Johnson, Sarah Stubbs NRCS: Dick Purcell;

## **A. CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Richard Fordyce called the meeting to order in Jefferson City, Missouri, at the Lewis and Clark building at 2:01 pm. Poll of commission members was taken: Charles Ausfahl, Kathryn Braden, Thomas Bradley, Gary Vandiver, and Richard Fordyce were present, which made a quorum.

Sara Parker Pauley, Director of Department of Natural Resources, thanked the Soil and Water Districts Commission for coming together to help with the drought issues here in Missouri. Director Pauley stated that Governor Nixon had a press release this morning calling on the Soil and Water Districts Commission to provide emergency drought assistance for livestock producers. One hundred percent of Missouri is considered in

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drought status, with 90 percent in severe or worse category. Over the past three months Missouri has a precipitation deficit of eight to twelve inches below normal. The long term forecast from the Water Resources Center web site shows a high probability of above normal temperatures and below normal precipitation. According to Missouri's State Climatologist, Patrick E. Guinan, this is the third driest year on record since 1895. To date, 98 percent of the topsoil and subsoil moisture is listed as short to very short by the USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service.

### **B. MISSOURI DROUGHT RELIEF FOR LIVESTOCK PRODUCERS**

Colleen Meredith presented options for the drought relief for livestock producers. The use exclusion areas could provide limited forage relief for producers. There are six practices where livestock exclusion is a component of the practice. Approximately 140,000 acres are included in these exclusion areas. Grazing in these areas can provide some temporary relief to livestock producers. The six practices are: DFR5 Woodland Protection through Livestock Exclusion, DWC1 Water Impoundment Reservoir, N386 Field Border, N393 Filter Strip, N472 Use Exclusion, and WQ10 Stream Protection.

Forage must be well established in the exclusion areas to be grazed during this time. Livestock producers should take precautionary measures when grazing in these areas, as some of these areas may contain poisonous weeds and/or acorns that can be deadly to livestock.

For Commission consideration: Provide a variance to livestock producers to salvage any existing forage (or browse) contained in livestock exclusion areas through grazing to assist with forage shortfall resulting from drought conditions for sixty days. Reevaluate the need to extend this temporary provision if the drought conditions continue.

After discussion, Kathryn Braden made a motion to provide a variance to livestock producers to salvage any existing forage (or browse) contained in livestock exclusion areas through grazing to assist with forage shortfall resulting from drought conditions for sixty days and reevaluate the need to extend this temporary provision if the drought conditions continue. Gary Vandiver 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.

Haying will be allowed in all areas other than the WQ10 due to the regeneration of trees.

Note: Richard Fordyce had to leave the meeting at this time.

### **F. ADJOURNMENT**

Charles Ausfahl moved the meeting be adjourned at 2:23 pm. Kathryn Braden seconded the motion. A poll vote was taken. Gary Vandiver, Thomas Bradley, Kathryn Braden, and Charles Ausfahl voted in favor of the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

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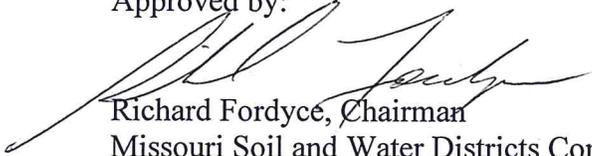
Respectfully submitted,



Colleen Meredith, Director

Soil and Water Conservation Program

Approved by:



Richard Fordyce, Chairman

Missouri Soil and Water Districts Commission

/clm