



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 26, 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; **JON HAGLER, DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE:** Judy Grundler, Chris Klenklen

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

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

ADVISORY MEMBERS PRESENT VIA TELEPHONE: NRCS: Dwaine Gelnar, Joe Steuber; ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE: Tim Duggan; MASWCD: Steve Radcliff

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT: April Brandt, Kerry Cordray, Christa Moody, Bill Wilson, Darrick Steen, Harry Bozoian

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT VIA THE PHONE: Jennifer Pellett

OTHERS PRESENT VIA TELEPHONE: DISTRICTS: Cape Girardeau: Denise Aufdenberg; Clinton: Teona Harris; Butler: Cathy Mansbridge, Terry Frazier; Dunklin: Lisa West, Casey Jones; Howard: Beverly Dometrorch; Jefferson: George Engelbach; Livingston: David Morris, Kevin Hansen, Chris Baker, Larry Davis, Kristen Lourenco, Tonja Tiemeyer; Marion: Kenny Lovelace; Montgomery: Robert Ridgely, Ann Whitehead, Brenda VanBooven, Eric Niemeyer; Oregon: Freda Johnson, Sarah Stubbs; Ozark: Dee James; St. Francis: Wilma Carlyon, Vince Kauflin; Saline: Brian McCarthy;

A. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Richard Fordyce called the meeting to order in Jefferson City, Missouri, at the Lewis and Clark building at 5:01 pm. Poll of commission members was taken: Charles

MINUTES--MISSOURI SOIL & WATER DISTRICTS COMMISSION

July 26, 2012

Page 2

Ausfahl, Kathryn Braden, Thomas Bradley, Gary Vandiver, and Richard Fordyce were present, which made a quorum.

Sara Parker Pauley thanked the Soil and Water Commission for the effort that the Commission has put forth to implement Executive Order 12-08. This meeting was held to provide and update on the numbers for the Drought Relief Assistance and relay how successful this program has been. Ms. Pauley stated Governor Nixon had a press conference this morning where he announced another funding source that would increase the funding for the Drought Relief Assistance by five million dollars. She also stated that additional funds are still needed and there will be a request to ask the Commission to consider allocating the additional funds from the reserve as needed to continue the implementation of Executive Order 12-08.

Ms. Pauley also wanted to make the Commission aware that Department of Natural Resources staff and Department of Agriculture staff have been activated to serve on teams. There are six teams currently that will be onsite, in various parts of the state, to assist with gathering information to allow the review team to make quicker assessments. So the department is constantly in the process of identifying ways to make this process run more smoothly and to speed up the process.

B. UPDATE ON EMERGENCY COST-SHARE PROGRAM

Colleen Meredith stated that the program staff and district staff have been doing an incredible job. Colleen Meredith wanted everyone know how much their efforts are appreciated.

At this time there are 157 board approved contracts for the Drought Relief Assistance Program. Three of those are irrigation wells, 49 are livestock water development, 105 are livestock distribution. There are 384 pending contracts, 330 are livestock and 54 are for crop. Ms. Meredith stated there is an online form that can be accessed from the Missouri state homepage and that shows 847 people that have signed up. These numbers show that in the three days of operation, there is amazing need and the great effort people are going to get assistance.

Director Hagler stated these are exceptional circumstances and Governor Nixon has been in the front since the beginning and the leadership role that the Soil and Water Districts Commission has taken with Governor Nixon will make a difference down the road. Right now we are providing critical and immediate relief because it will make a substantial difference not only in the months ahead but really in the years ahead.

Richard Fordyce stated that before the Commission is a request to consider releasing the unallocated funds. Colleen Meredith presented for Commission consideration to approve allocating the remaining 4.8 million dollars in unallocated funds to further assist the overwhelming response from livestock and crop producers across the state for assistance with drought relief. A portion of these funds should be used for mid-term and long term drought relief assistance.

MINUTES--MISSOURI SOIL & WATER DISTRICTS COMMISSION

July 26, 2012

Page 3

Thomas Bradley made a motion to approve allocating the remaining 4.8 million dollars in unallocated funds to further assist the overwhelming response from livestock and crop producers across the state for assistance with drought relief. A portion of these funds should be used for mid-term and long term drought relief assistance. Kathryn Braden seconded the motion.

After discussion, a poll vote was taken. Gary Vandiver, Charles Ausfahl, Kathryn Braden, Thomas Bradley and Richard Fordyce voted in favor of the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Richard Fordyce stated that the bedrock of this program is accountability and responsibility to the tax payers and landowners. Commissioner Fordyce asked the Commission if it wants to consider a provision for future checkpoints and maintenance on these practices. First check would be that the practice has been completed and second that the recipient did qualify for this program.

Colleen Meredith presented for Commission consideration to direct program staff to develop a form for landowners to sign, as soon as practicable, indicating that their practice is in compliance with the four criteria questions established in Executive Order 12-08 and acknowledge that the practice will be inspected for compliance under Executive Order 12-08.

After discussion Gary Vandiver made a motion to direct program staff to develop a form for landowners to sign, as soon as practicable, indicating that their practice is in compliance with the four criteria questions established in Executive Order 12-08 and acknowledge that the practice will be inspected for compliance under Executive Order 12-08. Kathryn Braden seconded the motion. A poll vote was taken. Charles Ausfahl, Thomas Bradley, Gary Vandiver, Kathryn Braden and Richard Fordyce voted in favor of the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

George Engelbach requested if there would be help for the district offices to help do site visits. Sara Parker Pauley stated that six teams, at this time, have been dispatched across the state to help the district offices.

Sara Parker Pauley also commented that Department of Natural Resources staff and the Department of Agriculture staff are not eligible for this program under Executive Order 12-08.

F. ADJOURNMENT

Kathryn Braden moved the meeting be adjourned at 5:42pm. Gary Vandiver seconded the motion. A poll vote was taken. Charles Ausfahl, Thomas Bradley, Kathryn Braden, Gary Vandiver, and Richard Fordyce voted in favor of the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

MINUTES--MISSOURI SOIL & WATER DISTRICTS COMMISSION
July 26, 2012
Page 4

Respectfully submitted,



Colleen Meredith, Director
Soil and Water Conservation Program

Approved by:



Richard Fordyce, Chairman
Missouri Soil and Water Districts Commission
/clm