



# Missouri Department of Natural Resources

**MINUTES**  
**MISSOURI SOIL AND WATER DISTRICTS COMMISSION**  
**Missouri State Fairgrounds**  
**Lowell Mohler Assembly Hall/National Guard Armory**  
**Room 129**  
**Sedalia, Missouri**  
**August 14, 2013**

**COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT:** H. Ralph Gaw, Gary Vandiver, Thomas Bradley, and Richard Fordyce

**EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS:** **Dr. JON HAGLER, DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE:** Judy Grundler; **BOB ZIEHMER, DEPT. OF CONSERVATION:** Clint Dalbom; **SARA PARKER PAULEY, DEPT. OF NATURAL RESOURCES:** Robert Stout; **DEAN THOMAS PAYNE, UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI:** David Baker

**ADVISORY MEMBERS PRESENT: SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION PROGRAM:** Colleen Meredith; **ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE:** Tim Duggan; **NRCS:** J.R. Flores; **MASWCD:** Kenny Lovelace

**STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:** Christa Moody, James Plassmeyer, Ken Struempf, Bill Wilson, Colette Weckenborg, Theresa Mueller

**OTHERS PRESENT: DISTRICTS: Gasconade:** Diana Mayfield; **Jefferson:** George Engelbach; **MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES:** Kurt Boeckmann, Van Beydler; **MISSOURI FARM BUREAU:** Kelly Smith; **MSWCDEA:** Sandy Stratman; **MASWCD:** Beverly Dometrorch; **OTHER:** Mrs. Barbara Gaw, Mrs. Mary Bradley

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## **A. CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Richard Fordyce called the meeting to order, in Sedalia, Missouri, at the Conference room at 1:36 p.m. H. Ralph Gaw, Thomas Bradley, Gary Vandiver and Richard Fordyce, were present, which made a quorum.

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

### **1. June 28, 2013 Minutes**

Thomas Bradley made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 28, 2013 Commission meeting. H. Ralph Gaw seconded the motion. When asked by the chair, Gary Vandiver, H. Ralph Gaw, Thomas Bradley, and Richard Fordyce voted in favor of the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

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## 2. July 15, 2013 Minutes

Gary Vandiver made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 15, 2013 meeting. Thomas Bradley seconded the motion. When asked by the chair, Gary Vandiver, H. Ralph Gaw, Thomas Bradley, and Richard Fordyce voted in favor of the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

## C. CLOSED SESSION

Thomas Bradley made a motion to go into closed session at 1:39 p.m. pursuant to statute, Gary Vandiver seconded the motion. A poll vote was taken. H. Ralph Gaw, Gary Vandiver, Thomas Bradley and Richard Fordyce voted in favor of the motion. The Commission adjourned into closed session.

Richard Fordyce reconvened to open session at 2:10 p.m. Chairman Fordyce thanked Judy Grundler and other staff from Missouri Department of Agriculture for making arrangements to allow the Commission to meet during the State Fair.

H. Ralph Gaw stated that no formal actions were taken during the Closed Session. Mr. Gaw made a motion to absolve Mrs. Shirley Elliott from the obligation to pay back the Soil and Water Conservation Program the sum of \$2,850.13. Thomas Bradley seconded the motion. A poll vote was taken. Gary Vandiver, Thomas Bradley, H. Ralph Gaw and Richard Fordyce voted in favor of the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

H. Ralph Gaw made a motion to prohibit Daniel and/or Harry Lehenbaur from participating in any Soil and Water Conservation Programs under the Soil and Water Districts Commission jurisdiction. Thomas Bradley seconded the motion. A poll vote was taken. Gary Vandiver, Thomas Bradley, H. Ralph Gaw, and Richard Fordyce voted in favor of the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

## D. MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

### 1. Department Update

Robert Stout presented information on the Missouri Department of Natural Resources efforts in watershed management planning, Our Missouri Waters. This has been a central priority of the department for the last year and a half. The goals of this effort are to look at each watershed in a holistic and systematic way, beginning with an analysis of its issues and challenges and to share information with all partners and stakeholders within the department, external agencies, and most critically with the citizens who live, work and recreate in the watershed. The citizens in each watershed will be able to identify their priorities, and these priorities will be used as a basis for prioritizing the department's resources to address the issues identified as most important.

This effort involves looking at the range of issues in the watershed, such as community water and wastewater infrastructure, water supply needs and point and nonpoint source pollution. The department is reaching out to everyone that has an interest in a watershed to participate in this process to help identify where resources need to be directed, and the agricultural sector is an important partner in the process. The Soil and Water Conservation Program is one of the resources that the department has to address priorities

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on agricultural lands in the watershed. The department appreciates the good working relationship with the Soil and Water Conservation Districts and that they can participate in this effort.

There are three summits this year, the first one was held in the Spring River, the second is on September 10<sup>th</sup> in Brunswick in the Lower Grand watershed, the final summit will be in the Big River watershed on October 9th.

Judy Grundler encouraged those in agriculture to participate in these summits.

Mr. Stout stressed that the Our Missouri Waters process will enable state and federal entities to work together with the same information and focus resources on the same priorities.

Richard Fordyce stated that the Soil and Water Conservation Program and the Soil and Water Districts have been focused on agricultural land and soil conservation which by its very nature creates improved water quality. Mr. Fordyce wanted to be sure that involving the Soil and Water Conservation Program would not include an expectation to change the scope of the program or the Commission and move away from the things that have made this program so popular and successful. Mr. Stout responded that we want bring information to the table and get the Commission's input and ideas to address issues and to share information in the watersheds.

### **E. MISSOURI ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE**

Tim Duggan stated he has no updates.

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

#### **1. FY14 Cost-Share/AgNPS SALT Fund Status**

Ken Struempf presented the Fiscal Year (FY)14 Cost-Share and SALT fund status. As of August 12, 2013 there was \$24,916,948 allocated; \$7,289,362 obligated; and \$1,278,328 paid of the FY14 cost-share funds. The FY14 SALT cost-share, as of August 12, 2013, has \$1,090,557 allocated, \$315,762 obligated and \$22,921 paid. Currently there are 20 active projects across the state. The final projects and the AgNPS SALT program will be completed in 2015.

#### **2. FY14 Cost-Share Fall Supplemental**

Ken Struempf presented the proposed process and timeline for the FY14 cost-share supplemental allocations. Two supplemental allocations are proposed for this fall. Both supplemental allocations would be directed towards the Grazing Management, Irrigation Management, Sensitive Areas, Animal Waste Management, Sheet, Rill and Gully Erosion and Woodland Erosion resource concerns. Nutrient and Pest is not included because the time frame to approve applications is in April, so no additional funding is provided.

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The first supplemental would be based on the obligated plus pending totals on the Master Fund Status Report at the close of business on Tuesday, October 15, 2013.

The second supplemental would be based on obligated only at the close of business December 13, 2013.

Sandy Stratman asked if the program staff would look at district funds to possibly make the first supplemental earlier than October, for example Sheet / Rill and Gully for Maries Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) is currently all obligated. This could possibly help several districts to continue implementing conservation efforts. Colleen Meredith stated that the program staff did discuss a September date but the districts and landowners would have been unprepared for such an early supplemental, but the possibility of an earlier supplemental will be looked at for next year.

After discussion, Thomas Bradley made a motion to show support for the FY 14 Cost-Share Fall supplemental timeline. H. Ralph Gaw seconded the motion. Gary Vandiver, Thomas Bradley, H. Ralph Gaw and Richard Fordyce voted in favor of the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

### 3. **FY13/14 Budget**

Colette Weckenborg presented the FY13/14 Budget update. The FY13 total budget for the program is \$51,955,440 with a total expended amount of \$44,103,164. Sixty-nine percent of the \$44,103,164, went to landowners and 31 percent was program and district administrative costs.

Ms. Weckenborg presented a chart from 2007 to 2013 showing the soils and water sales tax deposits versus total expenditures.

The FY14 Governor's recommended budget totals \$46,875,738. Of that amount it is projected that 64 percent will go to landowners and 36 percent will support program and district operations.

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### 4. **Cooperative Working Agreements**

Colleen Meredith presented an update on the Cooperative Working Agreement. To date, all Soil and Water Districts have signed the Cooperative Working Agreement and submitted by the deadline. Ms. Meredith also wanted to thank all the districts for sending them in.

### 5. **Tech II Certification**

Colleen Meredith presented the Technician II (Tech II) Certification update. The Tech II Certification that is conducted by Lincoln University is currently being revised to include training in specific areas, along with the testing. It is projected to begin testing in November and the training in February. Training will include grazing and nutrient management, and in addition some of the skills that are needed for baseline certification will be incorporated in these trainings. Because of the addition of training and other components into the contract, it is taking

longer to finalize the contract. The baseline test is planned to be offered up to four times a year and the grazing and nutrient management test up to three times a year. The tests will be held in Jefferson City but the training sessions will be held regionally. The training will include field training and web-based modules.

**6. Area Meetings**

Colleen Meredith presented the Area Meetings update. There were eight Area meetings held around the state. Ms. Meredith listed the attendance at each area meeting and stated that Jim Plassmeyer would be presenting a report at a future Commission meeting on the compiled results from the Plan for the Future Practices Presentations. Richard Fordyce stated he attended two of the meeting and there were good discussions at each meeting. H. Ralph Gaw stated he attended three area meetings and was impressed with the people in attendance and their interest in soil conservation.

**G. REQUESTS/REVIEWS**

**1. Supervisor Appointments**

**a. Douglas SWCD**

Jim Plassmeyer presented the Douglas SWCD supervisor appointment. The Douglas SWCD board requested that Mr. Joel Norris be appointed to complete the unexpired term of Mr. Hollis D. Smith, who passed away. Mr. Norris and the board chairman have signed the Verification of Supervisors Eligibility form, verifying the candidate meets the qualifications to serve on the board.

Gary Vandiver made a motion to approve the appointment of Mr. Joel Norris to complete the unexpired term of Mr. Hollis D. Smith to the Douglas County SWCD Board of Supervisors. Thomas Bradley seconded the motion. When asked by the chair, H. Ralph Gaw, Thomas Bradley, Gary Vandiver, and Richard Fordyce voted in favor of the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

**b. Howard SWCD**

Jim Plassmeyer presented the Howard SWCD supervisor appointment. The Howard SWCD board would like to appoint Mr. Oran Boulden to complete the unexpired term of Mrs. Elizabeth Brown, who has resigned. Mr. Oran Boulden and the board chairman have signed the Verification of Supervisor Eligibility form, verifying the candidate meets the qualifications to serve on the board.

Chairman Fordyce commented that Liz Brown had previously served many years as chair of the Commission.

H. Ralph Gaw made a motion to approve the appointment of Mr. Oran Boulden to complete the unexpired term of Mrs. Elizabeth Brown to the

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Howard County SWCD Board of Supervisors. Thomas Bradley seconded the motion. When asked by the chair, Gary Vandiver, Thomas Bradley, H. Ralph Gaw, and Richard Fordyce voted in favor of the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

### 2. **Harrison SWCD Request for Variance on Reseedings**

Jim Plassmeyer presented the Harrison SWCD request for variance on reseeding. The Harrison county SWCD Board requested a variance to provide cost-share assistance to James Robert and Joanne Cook for reseeding a DSL-01 Permanent Vegetative Cover Establishment practice.

The Harrison SWCD provided cost-share assistance to Mr. James Cook in the amount of \$5,486.59 on 42.3 acres that included two contracts (SGE 001-12-0002 and SGE 001-12-0003). James Robert and Joanne Cook (the new owners of the property) have requested permission to reseed the 42.3 acres in the two fields that were originally seeded in the Spring 2012. On July 17, 2013 the District Technician II and the Natural Resources Conservation Service staff confirmed the seeding was not adequate and required reseeding.

The Commission cost-share policy states: documentation of the failed seeding must be contained in the board meeting minutes within one year of the practice completion date. If the reseeding is approved, cost-share assistance cannot be approved for the lime and fertilizer components.

After discussion, Thomas Bradley made a motion to approve the Harrison SWCD board's request and allow cost-share assistance for the DSL-01 reseeding for both contracts in the amount of \$3,424.07. Gary Vandiver seconded the motion. H. Ralph Gaw, Gary Vandiver, Thomas Bradley, and Richard Fordyce voted in favor of the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

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### 3. **Pike SWCD Request to Develop a New Practice in the Woodland Erosion Resource Concern**

Mr. Rick Merritt, a board member, presented the Pike SWCD request to develop a new practice in the Woodland Erosion Resource concern. Mr. Merritt shared a statewide concern about forestry; a third of Missouri is covered in forest land and the majority is owned by private landowners with little or no management. Pike SWCD has identified over 600 landowners with 40 acres or more of forest. These landowners were invited to a workshop with a 10 percent attendance. This workshop showed a large interest in forestry management in Pike SWCD. Mr. Merritt stated that Missouri has 15 million acres of forest with most owned by private landowners, and how do you reach that many landowners? One

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organization cannot do this project; it has to be a joint effort with all the partners. Missouri Department of Conservation owns five percent and the Missouri State Parks owns fifteen percent. Healthy woods will equal healthy soil and water.

Mr. Rick Merritt proposed that the Commission adopt a pilot practice for Forestry Management only in Pike SWCD. After discussion the Commission directed Mr. Merritt to develop a proposal to bring back at a future meeting.

## H. REPORTS

### 1. University of Missouri

Mr. David Baker presented the report for the University of Missouri. Mr. Baker thanked the staff for being included at the area meetings. Mr. Baker stated that Extension is in the process of restructuring into seven administrative regions and developing a campus and off-campus staffing plan.

Mr. Baker stated Congress has not finalized a new Farm Bill or the FY14 USDA Budget. This has resulted in a lot of unknowns concerning funding for the states related to extension and research both at MU and Lincoln.

Mr. Baker also invited the Commission to attend the last three major field days sponsored by UMC. Mr. Baker reviewed the dates for the three remaining major field days.

Also, Mr. Baker stated they are in the process of setting up an in-service session for staff for cover crops.

### 2. Department of Conservation

Clint Dalbom presented the report for the Department of Conservation. Mr. Dalbom reported on flooding and damage at Missouri Department of Conservation fish hatcheries, upcoming public meetings on white tailed deer health (listed on the Conservation web page), dove hunting season, and feral hogs.

### 3. Department of Agriculture

Judy Grundler presented the report for the Department of Agriculture. Ms. Grundler reported on the Emerald Ash Borer survey to be completed the first week of September. At that time they will evaluate the results for any modifications to the quarantine areas which limit the movement of firewood out of these areas.

A survey was conducted this year on the Thousand Canker Disease of Black Walnut. There was no evidence found in Missouri of this disease.

Ms. Grundler also reported on Gypsy Moth, crop conditions, drought conditions, fire ants and recovery funding for flood damage.

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### 4. Natural Resources Conservation Services

J.R. Flores presented the Natural Resources Conservation Service's report. Mr. Flores reported on area meetings, Farm Bill update, Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), high tunnels, and the upcoming State Technical Committee meeting that was held on July 26, 2013, at the Bradford Farm.

Mr. Flores reviewed preliminary data from 2010 for the NRCS National Resources Inventory that is done every five years. Based upon preliminary data, Missouri's erosion rate shows a 7.6 percent increase in Missouri's erosion rate which is the first increase in 25 years. Prior to the soil and water sales tax the rate of erosion was 10.7 tons per acre in 1982 and after the tax it declined to 5.2 tons per acres per year. In 2007 it was 5.2 tons per acre, but it increased to 5.6 tons per acre by 2010. This could be due to more cropland acres being farmed. Mr. Flores said when they have more information, he would bring it back to the Commission.

### 5. Missouri Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts

Kenny Lovelace presented the Missouri Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts report. Kenny Lovelace thanked J.R. Flores for the kind comments he relayed at each Area meeting. Mr. Lovelace commented on Technician II certification, area meetings, cover crops, and training conference dates.

## I. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Beverly Dometrorch addressed the Commission asking about information on the health insurance. Colleen Meredith stated that the program office has received information from the insurance provider and when finalized will be sent to the districts. Ms. Dometrorch also thanked Commissioner Gaw for his comments on education.

George Engelbach addressed the Commission about Jefferson SWCD watersheds concerns, pollinator meeting, warm season grasses, and terraces using dry hole structures as outlets.

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Diana Mayfield from the Gasconade SWCD requested to present a Cooperative Conservation Partnership Initiative for Commission consideration. The Gasconade SWCD grant request for streambank protection was approved for a five year project and an estimated cost of \$200,000. Initially they had set a landowner limit of \$20,000; however, once actual projects had been surveyed and costs estimated, the district petitioned NRCS to revise the plan and raise the landowner limit to \$40,000. NRCS provided additional funds when available. The grant states that the SWCD and Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) will try to provide either in-kind work or cost-share funding, if available, not-to-exceed the 75 percent threshold for cost-share. The grant is also contingent on EQIP funding availability.

In 2011, the district established their first project on the Bourbeuse River – 4<sup>th</sup> order stream. There was 1,076 cubic yards of rock rip-rap placed in 4 rock weirs and a rock blanket in between each weir. State average cost was \$76,611.20 at \$71.20 per cubic yard. The Landowner received \$40,000 from NRCS and \$5,000 from the SWCD

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The landowner actually spent \$61,290.55, which brings the percentage received to 73 percent.

In 2012 the district established two separate projects, the first being just a rock blanket on the Dry Fork Creek – 4<sup>th</sup> order stream. There was 235 cubic yards of rock rip-rap was placed in a rock blanket. The state average cost was \$12,784 at \$54.40 per cubic yard. The landowner received \$9,889.56 from NRCS which met the 75 percent cost-share maximum.

The third project was also on the Dry Fork Creek, again a 4<sup>th</sup> order stream. There was 1,750 cubic yards of rock rip-rap placed in 3 rock weirs and rock blanket to cover the bank. The state average cost was \$95,200 at \$54.40 per cubic yard. The landowner received \$71,615.40 from NRCS which met the 75 percent cost-share maximum. This landowner will be following up with a Riparian Forest Buffer.

The districts 4<sup>th</sup> and final project is finally designed and ready for financial planning. It is also a 4<sup>th</sup> order stream located on the Bourbeuse River. The state average cost is \$51.16 per cubic yard. The 75 percent rate is \$38.37 per cubic yard. The design calls for 1,400 cubic yards at 75 percent cost-share, totaling \$53,718. NRCS is contracting for \$40,000, leaving \$13,718.

The Streambank Stabilization Practice maximum is \$5,000. The district currently has \$15,000 in our Sensitive Area Resource Concern.

We are requesting a variance to provide this landowner with the additional funding of \$13,718 to meet the 75 percent cost-share. The landowner will be providing \$17,906 in out-of-pocket expenses, with this variance request; otherwise his costs would rise to \$26,624.

After discussion, H. Ralph Gaw made a motion to approve the variance, to exceed the \$5,000 limit, and to provide this landowner with the additional funding of \$13,718 to meet the 75 percent cost-share utilizing the \$15,000 in the Sensitive Area Resource Concern. Gary Vandiver seconded the motion. Thomas Bradley, Gary Vandiver, H. Ralph Gaw, and Richard Fordyce voted in favor of the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

### **J. SUGGESTED MEETING DATE(S) FOR NEXT MEETING**

The suggested Soil and Water Districts Commission meeting is October 30, 2013, in Jefferson City.

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**ADJOURNMENT**

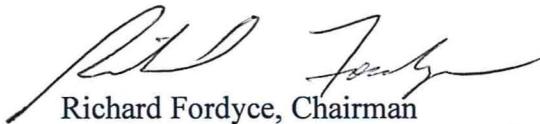
H. Ralph Gaw made a motion to adjourn open session at 4:50 pm. Thomas Bradley seconded the motion. A poll vote was taken. Gary Vandiver, Thomas Bradley, H. Ralph Gaw and Richard Fordyce voted in favor of the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



Colleen Meredith, Director  
Soil and Water Conservation Program

Approved by:



Richard Fordyce, Chairman  
Missouri Soil and Water Districts Commission

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