



Missouri Department of Natural Resources

MINUTES
MISSOURI SOIL AND WATER DISTRICTS COMMISSION
TELEPHONE CONFERENCE CALL
Lewis and Clark State Office Building
Jefferson City, Missouri
August 3, 2015

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT VIA TELEPHONE: Charles Ausfahl, H. Ralph Gaw, Jeff Lance and Gary Vandiver

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS VIA TELEPHONE: SARA PARKER PAULEY, DEPT. OF NATURAL RESOURCES: Joe Engeln; RICHARD FORDYCE, DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE: Chris Klenklen; BOB ZIEHMER, DEPT. OF CONSERVATION: Lisa Potter

ADVISORY MEMBERS PRESENT VIA TELEPHONE: NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE (NRCS): Dwaine Gelnar; MISSOURI ASSOCIATION OF SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS (MASWCD): Kenny Lovelace

ADVISORY MEMBERS PRESENT: SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION PROGRAM: Colleen Meredith; ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE: Tim Duggan

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT: Van Beydler, Jim Boschert, Allan Clarke, Tammy Cody, Matt Elliott, Theresa Mueller, Jim Plassmeyer, Cody Tebbenkamp, Colette Weckenborg, Bill Wilson; **DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES:** Kurt Boeckmann

OTHERS PRESENT VIA TELEPHONE: HOWARD: Beverly Dometrorch; JEFFERSON: George Engelbach

A. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at the Lewis and Clark State Office Building, in Jefferson City, MO, in the Gasconade Conference Room at 9:02 a.m.

Roll call was taken and the following commissioners were present via the telephone: Charles Ausfahl, H. Ralph Gaw, Jeff Lance and Gary Vandiver, which made a quorum.

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B. VARIANCE TO N430 COVER CROP PRACTICE FOR 2015 SUMMER/FALL PLANTINGS

Gary Vandiver stated the purpose of the call was the Commission's consideration for a review of the cover crop practice policies with regard to the wet weather; and temporary changes to the practice for planting cover crops this year

Colleen Meredith stated the consideration for the Commission is to allow a variance to the no-till and broadcast requirements within the N340 Cover Crop Practice policy for 2015 summer/fall plantings due to weather conditions. Guidelines were developed to implement the variance and are based on the Natural Resources Conservation Service's (NRCS) 345 Residue and Tillage Management, Reduced Till conservation practice standard. The suggested guidelines for the cover crop variance are: mowing/spraying should be used when possible to avoid tillage; residues must be uniformly distributed over the entire field; residues must not be burned; no primary inversion tillage implements (e.g. moldboard plow) shall be used; shallow soil disturbance (1-3 inches) is allowed; and planting with a single-disk opener no-till drill must be utilized instead of planting with a wide point-point hoe/chisel opener air seed drill, due to releasing less CO₂.

She stated the variance from the N340 Cover Crop Practice policy would be effective beginning August 3, 2015 and expire at the end of the fall cover crop seeding dates.

There was extensive discussion regarding the guideline of the shallow soil disturbance or tillage for planting of the cover crop. The 345 policy was explained further for clarification. Dwaine Gelnar from NRCS answered questions from the Commission. Commissioner Lance provided input from landowners that were planting cover crops without tillage in his area. Colleen Meredith stated that if the Commission desired the language could remove the depth for the shallow soil disturbance and substitute wording such as light disking instead of the 1-3 inches.

When asked if there would be consideration for reconstruction of practices due to the heavy rains, Colleen Meredith answered the Commission can consider individual practices for reconstructions as needed. The soil and water conservation districts can submit requests to the program office for the August 19 meeting, or if there is a disaster declaration the Commission can consider reconstruction or practices for counties within the declaration. When asked if there was a disaster declaration for Missouri, Colleen Meredith stated she had not seen one for Missouri.

H. Ralph Gaw made a motion to allow a variance to the no-till and broadcast requirements within the N340 Cover Crop Practice policy for 2015 summer/fall plantings due to weather conditions and incorporate the specifications detailed below with the of the 1-3 inches being removed and replaced with light tillage.

The following guidelines were developed to implement the variance and are based on the Natural Resources Conservation Service's conservation practice standard 345 for Residue and Tillage Management, Reduced Till:

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- Mowing/spraying should be used when possible to avoid tillage.
- Residues must be uniformly distributed over the entire field.
- Residues must not be burned.
- No primary inversion tillage implements (e.g. moldboard plow) shall be used.
- Shallow soil disturbance with light tillage is allowed.
- Planting with a single-disk opener no-till drill must be utilized instead planting with a wide point-point hoe/chisel opener air seed drill, due to releasing less CO2.

This variance from the N340 Cover Crop Practice policy will be effective beginning August 3, 2015 and expire at the end of the fall cover crop seeding dates.

Charles Ausfahl seconded the motion. When polled, H. Ralph Gaw, Jeff Lance, Charles Ausfahl and Gary Vandiver voted in favor of the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

C. ADJOURNMENT

Charles Ausfahl made a motion to adjourn the meeting. H. Ralph Gaw seconded the motion. When polled, Jeff Lance, Charles Ausfahl, H. Ralph Gaw, and Gary Vandiver voted in favor of the motion and the motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 9:28 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Colleen Meredith, Director
Soil and Water Conservation Program

Approved by:



Gary Vandiver, Chairman
Missouri Soil and Water Districts Commission

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