



Missouri Department of Natural Resources

MINUTES

MISSOURI SOIL AND WATER DISTRICTS COMMISSION

Missouri State Fair Grounds

Taylor Woods Youth Center

Sedalia, Missouri

August 8, 2014

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT: Charles Ausfahl, Thomas Bradley, H. Ralph Gaw and Gary Vandiver

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS: **RICHARD FORDYCE, DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE:** Richard Fordyce, Judy Grundler; **BOB ZIEHMER, DEPT. OF CONSERVATION:** Lisa Potter; **SARA PARKER PAULEY, DEPT. OF NATURAL RESOURCES:** Sara Parker Pauley, Joe Engeln; **DEAN THOMAS PAYNE, UNIV. OF MISSOURI:** David Baker

ADVISORY MEMBERS PRESENT: **SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION PROGRAM:** Colleen Meredith; **NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE (NRCS):** J.R. Flores; **MISSOURI ASSOCIATION OF SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS (MASWCD):** Kenny Lovelace; **ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE:** Tim Duggan

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT: Van Beydler, Jim Boschert, Alan Freeman, Theresa Mueller, Jennifer Pellett, Jim Plassmeyer, Deanna Smith, Cody Tebbenkamp, Taylor Westfall, Bill Wilson

OTHERS PRESENT: **DISTRICTS: ANDREW:** Jeff Lance, Paula Richter, **CARTER:** Jeana Rudd; **JOHNSON:** Angie Leonard, Dwight Loyd; **LINCOLN:** Jerry Weinrich; **MORGAN:** Chloe Schwartz, Patty Wittrock; **OREGON:** Tom Roberts; **RIPLEY:** Rachel Griffin, Michael Thornton; **MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE:** Harry Bozoian, Christa Moody; **MISSOURI FARM BUREAU:** Kelly Smith; **MISSOURI SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION (MSWCDEA):** Sandy Stratman; **MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES:** Kurt Boeckmann, **MASWCD:** Beverly Dometorch, Mike Kelley **NRCS:** Dick Purcell; **OTHER:** Nina Stratman

A. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Gary Vandiver called the meeting to order in Sedalia, MO, at 9:38 a.m. Charles Ausfahl, Thomas Bradley, H. Ralph Gaw and Gary Vandiver were present, which made a quorum.

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B. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes from the June 10, 2014 meeting were not ready for approval.

C. RICHARD FORDYCE RECOGNITION

Gary Vandiver honored Richard Fordyce for the work he did on the Soil and Water Districts Commission (Commission) and for Missouri agriculture in general. Mr. Fordyce had been on the Commission since 2005. He reminded everyone that Mr. Fordyce was named as the Director of Agriculture. Mr. Vandiver stated that he has worked with Mr. Fordyce on the Commission since 2009. He thanked Mr. Fordyce again for his time and work on the Commission.

Mr. Fordyce recapped some of the highlights during his time on the Commission and he stated his time on the Commission was great and he appreciated it very much.

Director Sara Parker Pauley stated that Mr. Fordyce has been an important part of discussions surrounding the program and soil and water conservation efforts in the state. She stated there are many ways that the Departments of Natural Resources and Agriculture intersect and knowing Mr. Fordyce has helped that interaction. She thanked Mr. Fordyce again for his time on Commission.

D. MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Director Sara Parker Pauley stated the Parks, Soil and Water Sales Tax renewal is very important to the Commission. She updated the Commission on some of the members of the citizens committee for renewal. She stated the Commission will see a heightened effort with the committee by September. She informed the Commission that the committee will want a member of the Soil and Water Districts Commission to serve for the renewal effort.

Next, Director Pauley informed the Commission that there will be a 40th Anniversary of the Department of Natural Resources (Department) at the Governor's Conference on Natural Resources which is scheduled for November 12 and 13, in Springfield, Missouri. The Commission will be invited to attend.

E. SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION PROGRAM DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS

1. Fiscal Year 2015 Cost-Share/SALT Fund Status

Bill Wilson presented an update on the Fiscal Year 2015 (FY15) Cost-Share/SALT Fund Status. He stated the allocated amount was \$26,972,413, and of that amount \$5,908,022 was obligated. He stated at this time last year, there was \$7.3 million obligated and \$1.3 million paid.

Next Mr. Wilson updated the Commission on FY15 SALT cost-share. He stated there was \$534,517 allocated, and of that amount \$88,533 had been obligated and \$18,601 paid. He stated compared to last year at this time, there was \$1.9 million

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allocated, and of that amount \$310,000 obligated and \$23,000 paid. He pointed out that this was the last year for the SALT projects.

2. **Fiscal Year14/15 Budget Update**

Bill Wilson presented the FY14/15 budget update. He stated that for FY14 the cost-share budget authority was \$27.7 million with a total expended amount of \$22,914,308. The total budget authority for FY14 was \$46,839,785 and the total expended was \$37,033,700. He stated that landowners received 64 percent of the funding and operations were 36 percent of the total.

Next Mr. Wilson presented a chart from FY08 to FY14 showing the soil and water sales tax deposits versus total expenditures. He stated that FY14 was the first year since FY08 that the deposits were more than the expenditures.

Mr. Wilson stated the FY15 budget total is \$49,135,412 and of that amount it is projected that 65 percent will go to landowners and 35 percent for operations.

3. **Staff Updates**

Colleen Meredith updated the Commission on staff changes. She stated that Ken Struempf and Cindy Thompson had both accepted positions at the Department of Agriculture and Marisa Mitchell at the Department of Social Services. She informed the Commission that Jim Plassmeyer was name the Department Employee of the Month for June. She stated that Colette Weckenborg had a baby girl.

Ms. Meredith stated that Taylor Westfall was the program's intern for the summer. Van Beydler presented Ms. Westfall with a token of appreciation.

4. **Regional Conservation Partnership Program**

J. R. Flores provided an update on the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP). Mr. Flores stated there were 600 proposals submitted nationwide. He informed the Commission that the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has set aside \$394 million for the program and 5,000 partners came together for this program. He stated that Missouri had 36 proposals submitted and of those, 14 were state proposals.

Kurt Boeckmann stated there were three funding pools for RCPP for a total of almost \$400 million for FY14/15. The three pools are national, state and critical conservation areas. He stated that the Prairie Grasslands Region and Mississippi River Basin are the critical conservation areas in Missouri. He stated the Department submitted three proposals, of those one advanced to the next round and it is called Our Missouri Waters Targeted Conservation in the Mississippi River Basin funding pool. The project will encompass all 114 soil and water conservation districts and there are multiple partners involved in the process. He stated that Our Missouri Waters and Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy will provide water quality assessment and conservation planning during five year cycle.

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Harry Bozoian, MDA, stated that their RCPP proposal is in the national funding pool. MDA is working with four other Departments of Agriculture; Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota and Wisconsin. The project is implementing state nutrient reduction strategies and related conservation practices to improve water quality and soil health in the Upper Mississippi River Basin. He stated that each partner was doing something different; Missouri proposed implementing cover crops. He stated the key elements of the project are water quality and soil health, advancement of state nutrient reduction strategies, addressing water quality concerns, interstate watersheds and water bodies, collaborate and share information between states and reducing soil erosion.

Lisa Potter, MDA, stated they had three preproposals approved. Their proposals are Regional Grassland Bird and Grazing Land Enhancement Initiative, Restoring Glade and Woodland Communities for Threatened Species in the Ozarks of Southeast Missouri and Southeast Missouri Mississippi Alluvial Floodplain Migratory Bird Habitat Program. Ms. Potter provided a brief update on each of their proposals.

5. **Plan for the Future Update**

Colleen Meredith provided an update on the Plan for the Future. She stated that the Partnerships/Emerging Issues and Conservation Practices Committees have met and are moving forward. The Partnerships/ Emerging Issues Committee requested feedback from districts at the Area Meetings through a presentation and voting. Kurt Boeckmann stated the committee met in June and came up with 10 top issues that were important to the Soil and Water Conservation Program and Commission and presented those at the Area Meetings.

6. **Area Meeting Update**

Bill Wilson provided an update on the 2014 Area Meetings that took place around the state. He provided the Commission with a copy of the questions that were asked at each of the meetings regarding emerging issues. He stated there were a total of 367 attendees, which was lower than the 2013 total of 410. He pointed out that this year the number of supervisors attending was higher than 2013. He stated overall 94 districts were represented at the Area Meetings.

F. **REQUEST**

1. **Supervisor Request**

a. **Newton SWCD**

Deanna Smith presented the Newton SWCD supervisor appointment request. The Newton SWCD Board requested the appointment of Mr. Ronald Gunlock to complete the unexpired term of Mr. Floyd Dilbeck, who had resigned. Mr. Gunlock and the board chairman signed the Verification of Supervisor Eligibility form verifying the candidate meets the qualifications to serve on the board.

Thomas Bradley made a motion to approve the appointment of Mr. Ronald Gunlock to complete the unexpired term of Mr. Floyd Dilbeck. Charles

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Ausfahl seconded the motion. When asked by the chair, Charles Ausfahl, Thomas Bradley, H. Ralph Gaw and Gary Vandiver voted in favor of the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Deanna Smith presented a second Newton SWCD supervisor appointment request. The Newton SWCD Board requested the appointment of Mr. David Himmerich to complete the unexpired term of Mr. Basil Ferguson due to his death. Mr. Himmerich and the board chairman signed the Verification of Supervisor Eligibility form verifying the candidate meets the qualifications to serve on the board.

Thomas Bradley made a motion to approve the appointment of Mr. David Himmerich to complete the unexpired term of Mr. Basil Ferguson. Charles Ausfahl seconded the motion. When asked by the chair, Charles Ausfahl, Thomas Bradley, H. Ralph Gaw and Gary Vandiver voted in favor of the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

b. St. Clair SWCD

Deanna Smith presented the St. Clair SWCD supervisor appointment request. The St. Clair SWCD Board requested the appointment of Mr. Tadd Barnett to complete the unexpired term of Mrs. Susan Abbott who had resigned. Mr. Barnett and the board chairman signed the Verification of Supervisor Eligibility form verifying the candidate meets the qualifications to serve on the board.

Thomas Bradley made a motion to approve the appointment of Mr. Tadd Barnett to complete the unexpired term of Mrs. Susan Abbott. H. Ralph Gaw seconded the motion. When asked by the chair, Charles Ausfahl, Thomas Bradley, H. Ralph Gaw and Gary Vandiver voted in favor of the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

c. Wayne SWCD

Jennifer Pellett presented the Wayne SWCD supervisor appointment request. The Wayne SWCD Board requested the appointment of Mrs. Diane Westmoreland-Holley to complete the unexpired term of Mr. Rodger Rose who had resigned. Mrs. Westmoreland-Holley and the board chairman signed the Verification of Supervisor Eligibility form verifying the candidate meets the qualifications to serve on the board.

Thomas Bradley made a motion to approve the appointment of Ms. Diane Westmoreland-Holley to complete the unexpired term of Mr. Rodger Rose. H. Ralph Gaw seconded the motion. When asked by the chair, Charles Ausfahl, Thomas Bradley, H. Ralph Gaw and Gary Vandiver voted in favor of the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

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d. Worth SWCD

Jennifer Pellet presented the Worth SWCD supervisor appointment request. The Worth SWCD Board requested the appointment of Mr. Jay Engel to complete the unexpired term of Mrs. Gidget Funk who had resigned. Mr. Jay Engel and the board chairman signed the Verification of Supervisor Eligibility form verifying the candidate meets the qualifications to serve on the board.

H. Ralph Gaw made a motion to approve the appointment of Mr. Jay Engel to complete the unexpired term of Mrs. Gidget Funk. Thomas Bradley seconded the motion. When asked by the chair, Charles Ausfahl, Thomas Bradley, H. Ralph Gaw and Gary Vandiver voted in favor of the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

e. Grundy SWCD

Cody Tebbenkamp presented the Grundy SWCD supervisor appointment request. The Grundy SWCD Board requested the appointment of Mr. David Meservey to complete the unexpired term of Mr. Mike Trump due to his death. Mr. Meservey and the board chairman signed the Verification of Supervisor Eligibility form verifying the candidate meets the qualifications to serve on the board.

H. Ralph Gaw made a motion to approve the appointment of Mr. David Meservey to complete the unexpired term of Mr. Mike Trump. Charles Ausfahl seconded the motion. When asked by the chair, Charles Ausfahl, Thomas Bradley, H. Ralph Gaw and Gary Vandiver voted in favor of the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

2. Ripley, Oregon, Iron, St. Francois, Carter, Washington, Wayne, Butler, Bollinger SWCD's – Increase Cost-Share for Well Drilling Component in Southeast Missouri

Jim Boschert presented the request to increase cost-share for the well drilling component in Southeast Missouri. He reminded the Commission that this item was discussed at the June 10, 2014 meeting and at that time program staff was working with Kyle Rollins with the Department's Missouri Geological Survey (MGS). He stated that Mr. Rollins would be presenting information on well drilling in Southeast Missouri.

Kyle Rollins provided the Commission with information on some of the programs/tools that MGS has available to the public. Mr. Rollins stated they regulate the construction of most wells drilled in Missouri; work on water well pumps, pressure tanks, pipe and pressure switches; permit well drilling and water well pump installation contractors; permit drilling rigs and pump trucks; and plugging of abandoned wells and the reconstruction of wells. He continued by discussing the soil types in Missouri and the types of wells. He stated in the northern part of the state, in general, there is not a lot of water and the quality is not good, in the Bootheel part of the state there is good water quality, western part of the state the water quality is not good and the central part of the State has a

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good quality of water. He pointed out that in Howell, Carter, Shannon, and Ripley area there is a lot of deeply weathered limestone rock. He stated that in this area it is difficult to know what you might encounter when drilling a well; it can be difficult to drill due to the nature of the deeply weather rock. He stated that drillers have a difficult time in this area of the state. He stated in the southeast part of the state the numbers of well drillers are few and this is due to the nature of the area.

Next Mr. Rollins provided the Commission with examples of the types of rock formations that the drillers encounter when drilling in that area.

Michael Thornton, Ripley SWCD, thanked the Commission and several others for their assistance with this issue. He stated the well drilling component is set at \$6.00 per foot for FY15, but is below the actual cost of drilling a well in the counties in the southeast region of the state. Because of this, the out-of-pocket cost for the landowners is higher. He stated that they would like to see an increase in the well drilling component for this area. He pointed out that since the May Commission meeting; six more districts have sent letters of support. Mr. Thornton presented a summarized timeline of their efforts in getting the issue addressed. He stated the issue started in 2009 when Ripley SWCD expressed concerns from landowners over the low price for the well drilling component in the area. He pointed out that some of actual costs to drill in their area ranges from \$8.00 to \$23.00 per foot. He stated that to offset the higher price of well drilling in their area and to better serve and encourage their landowners to participate in the Soil and Water Conservation Program, they asked the Commission and the program to work with them to address the issue.

Jim Boschert, SWCP, stated that districts can enter the actual cost for cost-share components into the NRCS database. He stated that this information is used to develop the State Average Cost for each component. He stated that after reviewing information for 13 of the districts that were represented in this request, it was found that the well drilling component was used 393 times in FY10 through FY14, with 327 of these being used in FY13. In those 13 districts, the well drilling actual cost was entered only 37 times into the NRCS database, which was less than eight percent of the time that it was entered and used. He stated that due to the limited number of actual costs entered, program staff proposed that the districts located in the special area 1 and area 6 submit their actual expenses for well drilling for FY12, 13 and 14. He asked that the districts have this information entered by the end of September. He stated at the October Commission meeting more information would be presented on this request.

The Commission indicated that they would like more information.

G. SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION PROGRAM DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS (CONTINUED)

1. Follow Up – District Comments on Request for Cost-Share on Water Meters and Hookup to Public Water Supply

Alan Freeman presented a follow up on the request for cost-share on water meters and hookup to public water supply. He stated Lawrence SWCD requested that there be cost-share for service lines and meters. He stated that practices with water development options have a 10 year maintenance requirement. The practices are: WQ10 Stream Protection with a \$3,500 cap, N391 Riparian Forest Buffer with a \$3,500 cap and the DSP 3.1 Planned Grazing System Water Development with a \$95 per acre cap. Currently cost-share is only for private water lines to the water tank/system. Mr. Freeman provided a timeline for the issue. He stated that on June 17, 2014, a memo was sent to the districts to solicit their comments; the comment period was through July 25, 2014. He stated that 18 districts responded: four opposed, two had no position and 12 were in favor. He provided some of the comments that were received from the districts and examples of installation costs.

H. Ralph Gaw made a motion to approve the request to provide cost-share on water meters and service lines. Require a Technician II to certify the installations. Follow established practice limits for water development. The SWCD will need to obtain costs for the meter and installation from individual Public Water Supply Districts. Use state average cost for pipeline, trenching, backfill and boring. Thomas Bradley seconded the motion. When polled, Charles Ausfahl, Thomas Bradley, H. Ralph Gaw and Gary Vandiver voted in favor of the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

H. REPORTS

1. University of Missouri

Mr. Dave Baker stated that there would be 110 Farm Families recognized at the State Fair. He stated the College of Agriculture has been doing this recognition for 56 years. He informed the Commission that he has appointed a team to work on Farm Bill education throughout the state. He stated the university was looking at what they were going to do with the Soil Health Lab, as well as the whole area related to soil health.

2. Department of Conservation

Lisa Potter provided an update on some of the activities in MDC. She stated three areas of concern with the captive cervid movement to address the risk of disease transmission. She stated it is being proposed that Missouri borders be closed to transporting live captive cervids. Second concern is improving the current captive cervid fencing standard. The third concern is the captive cervid testing. It is proposed to make testing mandatory. She stated they are in the 30-day comment period.

Ms. Potter thanked the SWCDs for their help on administering CRP.

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3. **Department of Agriculture**

Judy Grundler provided an update on the invasive species survey. She discussed the Gypsy Moth, Thousand Cankers Disease, Fire Ants, and Emerald Ash Borer. She stated the outlook for crops this year is very good. There looks to be a bumper crop. Because of this, farm storage needs to be evaluated.

Joe Engeln, stated the Department issued a construction waiver for those building temporary storage facilities.

4. **Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)**

J.R. Flores stated that NRCS is realigning their Field Office Service Areas and a map was supplied to the SWCDs. He reiterated that this is a draft proposal. He stated that their field office employees have been very busy working on contracts and obligating funds. He stated the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) has a huge demand; last year they received approximately \$20 million for the program. He stated they have received 3,800 applications requesting over \$92 million which indicates a huge demand for the program. The EQIP High Tunnel program has been very successful the last five year. He stated next year he only has \$100,000 for this popular program.

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

Kenny Lovelace informed the Commission that he attended six of the eight Area Meetings. He stated he also attended the National Association of Conservation Districts meeting in Indianapolis. In the past they have gone to Washington, D.C., but that contract had expired. Next year's meeting looks to be in Spokane, Washington. He stated that Indiana is very big into cover crops. At the meeting they went on farm tours, they saw cover crops and went to Dow Chemical Company.

Next, Mr. Lovelace informed the Commission on the upcoming MASWCD meeting to be held September 9, 2014.

I. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Sandy Stratman updated the Commission on the regional Envirothon which was held in lieu of the national event, and provided a short slideshow. She stated there were nine teams in the competition and the Missouri team was the winning team. She informed the Commission that Missouri would be hosting the national event next year.

Beverly Dometorch stated that Dave Baker had answered her question regarding the Soil Lab. She stated that she is on the Plan for the Future Practice Committee. She stated she had concerns and what they were.

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J. SUGGESTED DATE(S) OF NEXT MEETING(S)

The next suggested Soil and Water Districts Commission meeting is October 8, 2014, location to be determined.

K. ADJOURNMENT

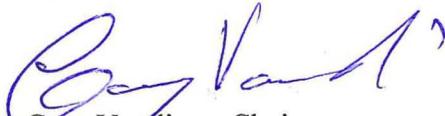
Charles Ausfahl made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 1:13 p.m. Thomas Bradley seconded the motion. When asked by the chair, Thomas Bradley, Charles Ausfahl, H. Ralph Gaw and Gary Vandiver voted in favor of the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

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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