



Missouri Department of Natural Resources

MINUTES

MISSOURI SOIL AND WATER DISTRICTS COMMISSION

M. W. Boudreaux Memorial Visitor Center

Mark Twain Lake

Perry, MO

October 14, 2015

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT: H. Ralph Gaw, Jeff Lance, Timothy Martin and Gary Vandiver

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS: RICHARD FORDYCE, DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE: Judy Grundler; BOB ZIEHMER, DEPT. OF CONSERVATION: Lisa Potter; SARA PARKER PAULEY, DEPT. OF NATURAL RESOURCES: Joe Engeln; DEAN THOMAS PAYNE, UNIV. OF MISSOURI: Robert Kallenbach

ADVISORY MEMBERS PRESENT: SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION PROGRAM: Colleen Meredith; NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE (NRCS): J.R. Flores; MISSOURI ASSOCIATION OF SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS (MASWCD): Kenny Lovelace

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT: Van Beydler, Jim Boschert, Tammy Cody, Theresa Mueller, Jim Plassmeyer, Bill Wilson, Jake Wilson

OTHERS PRESENT: DISTRICTS: HOWARD: Beverly Dometrorch; JEFFERSON: George Engelbach; RALLS: Wayne Pickett; MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES: Mary Culler, Steve McIntosh; MISSOURI SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION (MSWCDEA): Chris Terry; NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE: Lucas Brass, Karen Brinkman, Mitch Krueger; OTHER: Mike Martin; MCGA/MOSOY: Darrick Steen; MISSOURI FARM BUREAU: Kelly Smith

A. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Gary Vandiver called the meeting to order in Perry, Missouri, at 10:32 a.m. H. Ralph Gaw, Jeff Lance, Tim Martin and Gary Vandiver were present, which made a quorum.

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Chairman Gary Vandiver introduced a new commissioner, Mr. Timothy Martin. Mr. Martin stated he is from the southeast part of the state where he farms.

B. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

H. Ralph Gaw made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 19, 2015, Commission Meeting. Jeff Lance seconded the motion. When asked by the Chair, H. Ralph Gaw, Jeff Lance, Tim Martin and Gary Vandiver voted in favor of the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

C. DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

1. Joe Engeln stated the department's Nutrient Trading Workgroup is moving forward. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) is going to pilot and validate the Nutrient Tracking Tool to be used nationally; it is currently being used in a few states. A trading road map is being developed which will help states share information and potentially get to nutrient trading quicker. He pointed out that in the future, legislation to protect the data from agricultural producers who get involved with trading would enhance participation.

The department is continuing to work on Enhancing Effectiveness and Efficiency (E3). A workgroup reviewed the hiring process for the department using the E3 process; the recommended changes will be implemented on January 1, 2016.

Mr. Engeln proposed a Request for Proposals (RFP) process for research proposals for the Soil and Water Conservation Program. It will allow the program to define what types of research are pertinent to the Commission and program. He asked the Commission if they would like for staff to develop a RFP for their review. The Commission thought that would be a good idea.

D. SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION PROGRAM DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS

1. **FY16 Cost-Share/AgNPS SALT Fund Status**
Bill Wilson presented information on the FY16 Cost-Share/SALT Fund Status. As of October 13, 2015, approximately \$36 million has been allocated and of that amount, approximately \$20 million has been obligated with approximately \$4 million paid to landowners. He pointed out the appropriation for cost-share is \$31 million for the fiscal year. For FY16 SALT cost-share, \$110,396 has been allocated, \$54,939 obligated and \$30,979 paid to landowners. This is the last year for the SALT projects. There have been three supplemental allocations as of this date. The FY16 supplemental allocation total, as of October 2, 2015, was approximately \$8 million.

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2. **FY17 Cost-Share Needs Assessment**

Jim Plassmeyer presented the FY17 Needs Assessment. The districts were sent Memorandum 2016-009 that provided information about the Needs Assessment process. The memo also reminded the districts that the N340 Cover Crop practice was added to the Sheet Rill and Gully Resource concern. The deadline for the narrative and information to be entered in Missouri Soil and Water Information Management System (MoSWIMS) is November 13, 2015. The information received will be provided to the Commission at the December meeting for their consideration. The narrative form standardizes information collected, provides the boards with past utilization, current year initial allocation information and helps to improve planning.

3. **Health Insurance Update**

Jim Boschert presented an update on health insurance for calendar year 2016 for the soil and water conservation district employees. The districts were sent memorandum 2016-010 on October 1, 2015, containing information on health insurance. In 2016, health insurance for the districts will be administered by Missouri Consolidated Health Care. The rates for 2016 will be the same as 2015. The district employees have two plans to choose from, PPO 600 and PPO1000. The monthly cost of the PPO 600 is \$646.63 with the state paying \$576.63. The PPO 1000 monthly cost is \$575.50 with the state paying \$534.50. The employee cost per month for the PPO 600 plan is \$70.00 and \$41.00 for the PPO 1000 plan. One change to the benefits for 2016 is that for the district employee to be eligible for benefits, the employee must be paid for 1,560 hours per year from state funds, instead of the current 1,000 hours.

E. **REQUEST**

1. **Supervisor Requests**

a. **Pulaski SWCD**

Jim Boschert presented a request from the Pulaski County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) to allow the board to appoint Mr. Tony Dye to complete the unexpired term of Ms. Sharon Gifford due to her resignation. Mr. Tony Dye and the board chairman have signed the Verification of Supervisory 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. Tony Dye to complete the unexpired term of Ms. Sharon Gifford to the Pulaski SWCD Board of Supervisors. Jeff Lance seconded the motion. When asked by the Chair, H. Ralph Gaw, Jeff Lance, Timothy Martin and Gary Vandiver voted in favor of the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

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b. **Dunklin SWCD**

Jim Boschert presented a request from the Dunklin County SWCD to allow the board to appoint Mr. Stewart Worrell to complete the unexpired term of Mr. David Daniels due to his resignation. Mr. Stewart Worrell and the board chairman have signed the Verification of Supervisor Eligibility form, verifying the candidate meets the qualifications to serve on the board.

Jeff Lance made a motion to approve the appointment of Mr. Stewart Worrell to complete the unexpired term of Mr. David Daniels to the Dunklin SWCD Board of Supervisors. H. Ralph Gaw seconded the motion. When asked by the Chair, H. Ralph Gaw, Jeff Lance, Timothy Martin and Gary Vandiver voted in favor of the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

F. **APPEALS**

1. **Clinton County Landowner Appeal of Board's Request for a Partial Repayment on a DSL-05 Diversion Practice**

Jim Plassmeyer presented an appeal of the board's request for a landowner to make repayment of \$434.66 on a DSL-05 Diversion Practice. The landowner received payment in the amount of \$3,160.25 on April 8, 2015. The practice was designed by the district technician and was built according to the design. During a spot check it was found that the practice did not meet NRCS standards and specifications. Due to the issues that were found, the district technician redesigned the practice to be a DWP-01 Sediment Retention, Erosion or Water Control Structure. This practice did meet NRCS standards and specifications, but it was discovered that the landowner was overpaid on the completed earthwork because of the change in design in the amount of \$434.66. Mr. Plassmeyer reminded the Commission that the landowner is appealing the board's request for repayment due to the fact that it was a district error. Board's do not have the authority to waive an overpayment. Mr. Plassmeyer pointed out that the Commission has the authority to grant individual variances to any rule or regulation under RSMo 278.080.6.

After discussion, H. Ralph Gaw made a motion to approve the landowner's request to waive repayment on the redesigned DWP-01 Sediment Retention, Erosion, or Water Control Structure in the amount of \$434.66. Jeff Lance seconded the motion. When asked by the Chair, H. Ralph Gaw, Jeff Lance, Tim Martin and Gary Vandiver voted in favor of the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

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

1. Soil Health Assessment Center Update

Jim Plassmeyer presented an update on the Soil Health Assessment Center (SHAC). As of October 9, 2015, the center has received 903 soil samples from 68 counties. He reported that the program office has received over 1,500 contracts for cover crops. The Commission was shown a copy of the form that is submitted with the soil sample. The form provides information on soil type, county and slope on the part of the field where the sample was taken. Of the 903 samples received, at least 146 samples represented fields previously planted in cover crops. Of the 903 samples, 359 did not have soil series or soil mapping information. He added that SHAC is being actively promoted at different field days and other educational activities.

2. Our Missouri Waters Update

Mary Culler, Regional Watershed Coordinator for Missouri DNR, presented an update on Our Missouri Waters (OMW) in the northeast region of the state, which includes 30 counties and parts of 22 Hydrologic Unit Code (HUC 8) watersheds. Five watersheds, the Lower Grand River, North Fork Salt, South Fork Salt, Salt and the Lower Missouri-Moreau, are in Group 1 for stakeholder involvement. For each of these watersheds, a State of Our Missouri Waters brochure has been developed which describes the characteristics of the watershed, water quality, and past watershed efforts. The pilot phase of OMW has finished, and now the Department is partnering with the Missouri Association of Council of Governments to include more watersheds in Missouri for informational meetings in selected watersheds. There will be at least six meetings in each watershed; through the meetings there will be work on developing a local Watershed Advisory Committee. This committee will provide ideas, goals and suggestions for projects/next steps and document this in a Healthy Watershed Plan. The meetings will also provide a forum for conversations between local people on ideas for outreach or projects, providing an opportunity to participate in future activities in their watershed. Ms. Culler provided information on upcoming meetings in the North Fork Salt and Lower Grand River Watersheds and examples of ongoing OMW partnership projects.

3. State Water Plan Update

Steve McIntosh presented an update on the State Water Plan. Missouri's State Water Plan statute requires periodic updates to the state water plan, which is a long-range and comprehensive statewide program for the use of surface water and groundwater resources of the state and includes existing and future needs for drinking water supplies, agriculture, industry, recreation and environmental protection. Currently the Water Resources Center is compiling data to see the direction needed in the future for the State Water Plan. Mr. McIntosh provided some history of the Missouri Water Plan. The first water plan was in 1938; in 1989, the State Water Plan was incorporated into statute. In 1990 a priority list of issues was developed; in 1995 and 2002, there was a Drought Plan developed. From 1996-2000 Phase 1 of the State Water Plan was developed and in 2002

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Phase II. Mr. McIntosh reviewed documents and the current path forward on revising the State Water Plan and answered questions from the Commission.

4. **Rulemaking Update**

Bill Wilson presented an update on Rulemaking. Staff is working on reviewing and updating the current Code of State Regulations. There are eight chapters for the Soil and Water Districts Commission section. The chapters are: Organization, Referendums, Formation of Subdistricts, Definitions, State Funded Cost-Share Program, Tax Levy Referendum, State Loan Interest-Share Program and the State Funded Special Area Land Treatment Program. The latest update was the Organization chapter in 2008. The program intends to revise the rules to rescind and readopt Chapters 1-6 and permanently rescind Chapters 7 and 8.

H. **NEW BUSINESS**

Colleen Meredith asked the two newest members of program staff, Tammy Cody and Jake Wilson to introduce themselves and their backgrounds to the Commission. They are both filling district coordinators positions.

I. **REPORTS**

1. **University of Missouri**

Dr. Robert Kallenbach introduced himself as the new representative for the University of Missouri, to replace Dave Baker who retired. Dr. Kallenbach grew up on a forge and livestock farm in southwest Missouri. He has been with the university for 17 years as a Forage Specialist.

2. **Department of Conservation**

Lisa Potter stated the Missouri Outdoor Recreational Access Program provides incentive payments to private landowners to open up their lands to the public for fishing and hunting. It is new to the state of Missouri and MDC is launching a pilot this fall and are signing up landowners for the pilot. The two pilot areas are Adair, Macon, Monroe and Shelby counties in the northeast and Scott, Mississippi and New Madrid counties in the southeast.

Another program new to Missouri is the Conservation Reserve Program available for working grasslands. This program does not need cropping history; it is primarily looking at encouraging livestock producers to enroll their grasslands and actively graze them.

The state Monarch Butterfly Strategy is still moving forward. The Fish and Wildlife agencies in the Midwest are meeting on this effort.

MDC has released for public comment the draft changes for 2016/2017 Proposed Deer Regulations until the end of October. The proposed changes include shortening some of the season dates and adding crossbows. Another issue for public comment is Fishing Regulation changes for small mouth and rock bass.

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3. **Department of Agriculture**

Judy Grundler reported that the Governor's Conference on Agriculture is scheduled for December 16-18, 2015, at Tan-Tar-A, and invited the Commissioners to attend.

A couple of award programs the Department of Agriculture is working on are the Missouri Agriculture Awards Program and Governor's Agriculture Achievement Awards.

The Beef Initiative Grants are going to be available and include different categories: research, facilities, modernization, small producers and larger herds.

4. **Natural Resources Conservation Service**

J.R. Flores informed the Commission that copies of the "Cover Crop Basics for Missouri" pamphlet were provided to them at the table. He stated at the last State Technical Committee, there was not a consensus in reference to the EQIP funds that are allocated to livestock confinement facilities and pasture and hayland; 60 percent of the general EQIP funds must be allocated to livestock concerns. His decision was to increase the amount to confinement facilities to up to 20 percent. For EQIP in FY2015, Missouri was allocated \$26.9 million; of that amount, \$25,999,990 was obligated.

Last year Missouri had six approved projects in the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCP). This year eight preproposals were submitted, and two have been approved for submittal of a full proposal. Signups for EQIP are being accepted until November 20, 2015.

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

Kenny Lovelace thanked everyone for coming to his area of the state for a meeting.

He stated that he and Beverly Dometrorch represent Missouri in the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) and they have finalized the policy book for NACD.

He informed the Commission that he has received questions regarding the progression line for district employees that was developed by the Plan for the Future Program Delivery and Operations Subcommittee, and anticipates future discussion on district employee job progression.

He invited everyone to Tan-Tar-A for the Annual Training Conference which will be held November 30 through December 2, 2015.

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

The next meeting is scheduled for December 1, 2015, at Tan-Tar-A in Osage Beach, Missouri.

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K. ADJOURNMENT

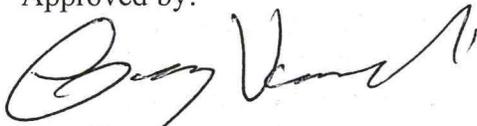
H. Ralph Gaw made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 12:38 p.m. Jeff Lance seconded the motion. When asked by the Chair, H. Ralph Gaw, Jeff Lance, Tim Martin and Gary Vandiver voted in favor of the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

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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