

RESOLUTIONS

2019 Training Conference

There was no quorum at the Business Meeting for Resolutions to be voted on, however the Program Office has agreed to submit these Resolutions to the Plan for the Future Committees for discussion.

Resolution #2019-01 Proposed by Gasconade County

Whereas, the Soil & Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors is comprised of four elected members and one ex officio member appointed by the University of Missouri Extension,

Whereas, the Board Supervisors receive their primary powers from RSMo Chapter 278 to promote all reasonable measures for saving the soil and water within the district,

Whereas, the District Law, Chapter 278.110 states that “a soil and water supervisor shall receive no compensation for his services, but he shall be entitled to expenses, including travel expenses, necessarily incurred in the discharge of his/her duties as a member of this board,”

Whereas, the Board Supervisors do not have access to program vehicles,

Whereas, the 2019 IRS standard mileage rate is \$0.58,

Whereas, the travel rate through Administrative Funds, provided by the Department of Natural Resources, was set at \$.37 per mile back in 2012,

Whereas, not all districts have the local funds necessary to provide additional funds to increase this stipend to an acceptable level,

Therefore, be it resolved: that the Missouri Association of Conservation Districts and the Soil and Water Districts Commission take into consideration the need to provide the Supervisors of the Soil and Water District Boards with compensation closer to the IRS Standard Mileage Rate for their dedication to serving our districts through the Administrative Grant Fund.

Resolution approved at June 4, 2019, Board Meeting.

Mike Haeffner, Chairman
Luke Mangrum, Vice-Chairman
Joel Wehmeyer, Treasurer
Harvey Hesemann, Member
Matt Herring, Secretary

Resolution #2019-02
Proposed by Gasconade County

Whereas, the Soil and Water Conservation Districts are seeking to maintain qualified personnel for providing service to the landowners,

Whereas, the program office has established a progression line of District Specialists I through District Specialists IV with established goals and a years of service,

Whereas, the turnover rate for staff continues at a steady rate,

Whereas, the Conservation Planner Certification for a District Specialist IV must be renewed every three years,

Therefore, be it resolved: that the Missouri Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts, the Missouri Soil and Water Conservation District Employees Association, and the Soil and Water Districts Commission take into consideration adding financial compensation through step increments to the District Specialist IV to reflect years of service in this position to coincide with the renewal of certification. This would provide incentive for continued service to the Soil and Water Conservation Districts and perhaps slow down the current turnover rate.

Resolution approved at June 4, 2019, Board Meeting.

Mike Haeffner, Chairman
Luke Mangrum, Vice-Chairman
Joel Wehmeyer, Treasurer
Harvey Hesemann, Member
Matt Herring, Secretary

Resolution #2019-03 Proposed by Bollinger County

Whereas, the two main purposes of the Parks, Soils and Water Tax is to prevent soil erosion and protect the water quality in the State of Missouri; and

Whereas, the purpose of grazing system practices as listed in the Soil and Water Conservation Program Cost-share Handbook is to improve or maintain desired species composition and vigor of plant community, improve or maintain surface and/or subsurface water quality and quantity, improve or maintain riparian and watershed function and reduce accelerated soil erosion and maintain or improve soil condition; and

Whereas, to improve and maintain desired species composition and vigor of the plant community a landowner who wishes to intensify an existing cost-shared grazing system, within that same acreage there is no cost-share alternatives available for the landowner; and

Whereas, the landowner that intensifies a grazing system allows paddocks to rest and recover, increases pasture yield and improves the distribution of the forage. In turn, due to lack of water availability in the more intensified paddocks, erosion problems are created with livestock travel lanes to water sources. Creating erosion problems conflicts with the purpose of the Missouri Parks, Soil and Water tax; and

Whereas, the Soil and Water Conservation Program Office considers prescribed grazing system practices to be demonstration practices. Proper grazing will minimize soil loss by improved ground cover. Water sources to each paddock will decrease erosion and improve water quality. With grazing systems also being the best management practices for managing forage and animal health, these practices should **NOT** be considered demonstration practices; and

Therefore be it resolved: The Bollinger County Soil & Water Conservation District urges the MASWCD to work with the practices committee to develop cost-share alternatives for practices available to landowners who wish to intensify their grazing system and consider removing the per acre maximum to allow landowners to focus on conservation practices that reduce soil erosion, improve water quality and quantity through improved forage base. By making changes to the grazing system practices, the Soil and Water Program will better serve the intent of the Parks, Soil and Water tax.

Supported by the following Conservation Districts:

St. Francois, Carter, Iron, Perry, Ripley, Wayne, Cape Girardeau and Ste. Genevieve

Resolution #2019-04 Proposed by Stone County

Whereas, the need to prevent the loss of land or damage to land uses adjacent to the banks of streams as well as the protection of streambanks themselves from accelerated erosion, which has been identified as a sensitive area resource concern addressed through the Soil & Water program to protect streambanks from accelerated erosion while improving water quality, therefore providing for a C650 Streambank Stabilization Practice following NRCS standard for streambank and shoreline protection, and

Whereas, it is just as important to protect streams by reducing excess amounts of sediment, organic material, nutrients & pesticides in surface runoff therefore providing stream protection through an already established cost share practice- WQ10 which excludes livestock from the stream, & that applies to areas immediately adjacent to permanent, losing or intermittent streams; this practice also allows cost share for stream crossings, for accessing agricultural lands owned on the other side of the stream &

Whereas, the need to maintain the flow capacity of streams or channels while reducing the offsite or downstream effects of sediment resulting from bank erosion or any activity in the stream resulting in erosion is important, and

Whereas, the stability of stream banks in the vicinity of farm equipment and animal crossings are affected, this dissimilar cross section of the stream that is required to accommodate the need to access land owned on the other side of the stream; the egress of farm equipment, vehicles, timber harvesting equipment and/or animal traffic creates turbidity in the stream flow and more so during flood events, has an additional erosive effect on the banks directly downstream of the crossing, and

Whereas, reinforced stream crossings, support & minimize stream channels having down-cut &/or lengthened such that channel depth, bed material, & bank angles/steepness prohibit easy & safe access across the stream channel & helps to deter further damage from occurring,

Therefore, be it resolved: that the Stone Co. SWCD wishes to see the addition of cost share components for stream crossings made available as is currently in the WQ10 practice. This could be looked at within the C650 stream bank stabilization practice being that both practices do address water quality; but preferably having stream crossings as a stand-alone practice under our Sensitive Area Resource Concern for addressing Water Quality. Crossings are typically the reason stream banks experience erosion downstream of the crossing & being that the current C650 practice caps at \$25,000 which is not enough in cost share to include 75% costs for components in a stabilized stream crossing and streambank stabilization both. This independent practice for Stream Crossings can too have a practice cap. This practice would be made available at the discretion of a stream certified engineer or employee. Being proactive in needed and improved stream crossings can have a positive influence in what occurs downstream. In agriculture production, crossings are necessary when owned on both sides of the stream. The most

responsible way to manage the natural resource is not only the banks near the crossing but to also harden up the high traffic area such that erosion is controlled for the benefit of water quality; this is best accomplished by viewing the system as a whole and not just by its parts – it's not just bank stabilization or just stream crossing but rather address the whole site with complimentary stabilization practices for long term control & cost benefits. Conservation planning is to address all resource concerns on site. By assisting agricultural landowners & operators with proper access to both sides of the stream, while protecting water quality, stabilizing bank structure & having armored stream crossings, this can then encourage adoption of other best management cost share practices be incorporated such as cover crops, nutrient management or pest management practices for example.