

MSWCDEA NEWSLETTER

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Scholarship Deadline.
- Employee Award winners
- Supervisor award-winners
- T-shirts for sale & MSWCDEA 25th annual cups.

MSWCDEA SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

The Missouri Soil and Water Conservation District Employee Association may award **\$500.00 Scholarship** to **each** of the 8 areas in the state.

Applicants must be:

1. High school senior or full time college student, unless applicant is a full time district employee then only 6 hours college credit hours need to be taken.
2. SWCD employee or their spouse, child, or grandchild.
3. SWCD dues paying member of the MSWCDEA.

Applications must be postmarked by February 15.

Winners will be notified by mail by May 1.

Scholarship awards will be mailed to the recipient and made payable to both the recipient and to the educational institute.

The current scholarship application has been put on the MSWCDEA web page www.mswcdea.net.

All applications must be postmarked by **February 15** and winners will be announced by May 1.

Just a reminder, you can receive the scholarship more than once.

Please let Denise Aufdenberg know if you have any questions, she is looking forward to receiving all of your applications.

Denise Aufdenberg
Cape Girardeau County
Soil and Water Conservation District
480 West Jackson Trail
Jackson MO 63755

573-243-1467 ext 3

Or email at:
Denise.aufdenberg
@swcd.mo.gov

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MESSAGE FROM MS. SANDY

What a year! Did something happen to you that changed your life? Maybe it was small, and maybe it was out of this world! It could have been something that brought you great joy or tremendous sadness. Whatever it was, the end of the year always brings a time to reflect and also a chance to start anew.

Thinking back on the past year at the districts, we started using a new time-keeping program, received the results of Mr. Henke's report and came under the guidance of a new director for the Program Office. The Commission meetings are now even broadcast online which is a great benefit to those who are not close to Jefferson City and want to hear first hand what is being discussed.

Looking back, *busy* is one word to describe it for me. Besides the usual work at my office, I was part of a remarkable planning committee for the Women in Agriculture Conference this year. This was a great partnership effort between district employees and staff from the NRCS, FSA and DNR state offices. Watch for details for next year's when we will travel to the northwest region. In addition to attending Commission, workgroup and MOU meetings, I was also able to travel around the state providing training at some of the area meetings. I feel so

fortunate to work with such great people and getting to visit with you at these events.

Our recent conference at the Lake, also provides another time of the year, when we get the opportunity to learn and to visit with one another. I remember several times seeing people around the complex and saying "I need to talk to you" but at the time was on a mission to do something. I'm pretty sure I did get back to all of you!

"Reflecting..."

If I didn't, I apologize. By the last day, it was great just to sit down with a cup of coffee!

This year to celebrate our 25th anniversary as MSWCDEA, every dues paying member received a blue cup at the training conference. If you were not able to be there to receive yours, they were sent with the area reps to be given out at the NRCS Area Awards Programs. We have a few extra, if someone would like to still pay their dues. Anyone can join! Our next rep meeting is at the end of February and the cup can be sent back with your area rep at that time.

Starting a new year can



mean many things to many people. Shortly after the first of the year, I will be going to Chicago to speak at the North Central Region NACD Meeting. I have been selected to serve as the president of the North Central Employees Association. Hopefully this position will enable our state to learn from the others in our region and make our program even stronger. We are also going to start using the new grant reporting (accounting) program in 2012. From what we have heard from the pilots, this will be an improvement on our present system.

Finally let me close this with a quote from Brandi Snyder. I'm sure we have all heard it but it is so true. She said "*To the world you may be just one person, but to one person you may be the world.*" Each of you **are** that person! You may not even realize how a smile and a simple "*Good morning*" or "*Hello*" to someone may just turn their day around. Who knows, if they smile back, they may just make your day too!!!

*To each and everyone of you,
Merry Christmas and have a very Happy New Year!!!*



WELCOME



**ERIC NIEMEYER, MONTGOMERY COUNTY SWCD,
DISTRICT TECHNICIAN**

MONTGOMERY COUNTY

Eric Niemeyer, grew up on a small farm a few miles north of Montgomery City. He graduated from Montgomery County R-II in 2006. After high school he attended college at Northwest Missouri State University in Maryville, MO, where he graduated in the spring of 2010 with a degree in Agronomy and a minor in Biology. He is proud to be a new member of the SWCD at the Montgomery County office

where he is the new District Technician. He will be working with the different types of cost-share programs and helping with rental equipment for landowner use. Eric is looking forward to meeting with landowners and assisting them in implementing a wide variety of conservation practices.

Welcome to the team Eric!



**District Technician,
Stephen Sparks**

F R A N K L I N C O U N T Y

In September, Stephen Sparks has hired to fill the vacant District Technician position for the Franklin County Soil and Water Conservation District.

Stephen grew up in Gasconade County and continues to help out with

the family farms. He is enlisted in the U.S. Army Reserves and has served time in Iraq. Stephen and his wife, Becky are expecting their first child in February. He enjoys hunting and being outdoors. Welcome, Stephen!



NEW EMPLOYEES

Matt Miller, Grundy County MRBI SWAT District Technician I

Matt Miller joined the district staff September 26, 2011 as MRBI SWAT District Technician I.

Matt received his bachelors' degree in Conservation from Graceland University. He has work experience with Missouri Department of Conservation and The Nature Conservancy.

Matt resides east of Newtown with his wife, Samantha and his three children, Payton, Hunter and Remington with his fourth due in January. Matt is excited to start working for the people of Grundy County.



AREA AWARD WINNERS!



AREA 1– Linda Richardson,
Gentry County

Pictured with Chris Terry-MSWCDEA Representative



AREA 2– Matt Clark,
Mercer County



AREA 3– Lena Sharp,
Monroe County

Pictured with Debbie Scherder, Chis Terry, & Brian Harvey-MSWCDEA

Representatives

AREA 4– Duane Mackey,
Hickory County

Pictured with Brad Powell, and Nancy Kirby-MSWCDEA Representatives



AREA AWARD WINNERS!



AREA 5– Dorothy Green, Callaway County

Pictured with: Debbie Niederer and
Charlie Perkins-
MSWCDEA Representatives

AREA 6– Stephanie Auffert, Cedar County

Pictured with Roger Ankrom &
Melissa White-MSWCDEA
Representatives



AREA 7– Kent Ledbetter, Pulaski County

Pictured with Nancy Burrus-MSWCDEA
Representative & Sandy Hutchison-
MSWCDEA President



AREA 8– Megan Baker, Bollinger County

Pictured with Denise Aufdenberg & Paula
Meier-MSWCDEA Representatives



SUPERVISOR AWARD



George Engelbach, Jefferson County

PROGRAM SPECIALIST AWARD



Susan Heldenbrand,
Daviess County

TECHNICIAN AWARD

Brad Kenedy, Bollinger County



MSWCDEA MINUTES

The Missouri Soil and Water Conservation District Employees Association meeting was called to order on August 25, 2011 at 11:40 a.m. by President Sandy Hutchison. Members in attendance were Area 2 – Wendy Bowen and Jerry Becker, Area 3 – Chris Terry and Debbie Scherder, Area 4 – Nancy Kirby and Jamie Bokern, Area 5 – Charlie Perkins and Deb Niederer, Area 6 – Roger Ankrom, Area 7 – Sandy Hutchison, Area 8 – Paula Meier and Denise Yamnitz, Program Office – Jim Boschert, MASWCD – Peggy Lemons, NRCS – Brad McCord, Other – Whitney Wiegert.

Correspondence –*Denise Yamnitz read Thank You letters from scholarship recipients Jake Barry, Cody McLain, Gina Sachs, Molly Wray. She also read a thank you letter from Kevin Wray.

Approval of Minutes –*Debbie Scherder made a motion to approve the minutes as sent out by email. Deb Niederer seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report –*A motion was made by Paula Meier and seconded by Nancy Kirby to approve the attached treasurer's report presented by Wendy Bowen. The motion passed unanimously.

Membership and Dues –*Wendy Bowen presented the attached report for employee and associate members.

Newsletter –*Nancy Burrus sent out the last news letter and everyone thought it looked good.

Scholarship –*The deadline has been changed to February 1 and winners will be announced on the website by May 1.

DNR Report – Jim Boschert gave the following report*The issue of holding elections at area meetings is with the lobbying not the elections.*DNR will support the training conference as in the past based on the workshops presented and will also sponsor the supervisors attending the conference.*Discussion was had about cost of living increases. If program staff receive a cost of living increase it would only be fair to give districts that same increase.*Jim noted that quarterly allocations got held up because some Districts are slow to turn in their quarterly reports.*The accounting program is still being worked on.*2/3 of the districts are using the time keeping system. The remaining will be added soon and new leave balances will be requested.

NRCS Report – Brad McCord gave the following report-JR Flores is continuing to improve. Drenda Williams is Acting State Conservationist.*RC & D and Watershed programs have been zeroed out of the budget.*A 5 -15% cut is expected for the FY12 budget.*A new state outreach plan is being worked on.*All DC's will be attending the training conference again this year.*NRCS will help staff registration at the training conference.

MSWCDEA MINUTES CONTINUED

MASWCD – Peggy Lemons gave the following report*Areas 6 & 8 are still planning area meetings*MO Envirthon team placed 11th at the Cannon Envirthon*Planning for the training conference is under way. Resolutions will be sent out soon. A list of work shops and request for volunteers will be sent soon. A request has been made to have a commission forum, if not a partner forum will be held again.*Steve Radcliff has requested a copy of Mr. Henke’s report from the DNR Director and also the Governor. The report will be posted on the web site when it is received.*Will continue with the legislation they have sent to each board.

NACD*Sandy Hutchison has been asked to serve as the North Central Region Representative.*A motion was made by Charlie Perkins and seconded by Paula Meier to have Sandy Hutchison attend the NACD Annual Meeting as the North Central Region Representative with the support of MSWCDEA not to exceed \$1500. The motion passed unanimously.

Old Business–*T-shirts from last year will be available for purchase at the silent auction area for \$7.00*The Program Office is piloting a review in 2 counties to see the efficiency of districts. It may be a good idea for districts to complete a yearly activity report to verify information.*There are issues with the terminology and reporting in the time keeping system. These need to addressed with the program office.

New Business–*MSWCDEA is celebrating its 25th anniversary this year. Jamie Bokern made a motion to purchase and item (s) to be given out at the training conference in the amount of \$10 per dues paying employee. Paula Meier seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.*Paula Meier made a motion to print the ID badges horizontally. Deb Niederer seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.*MSWCDEA area meetings must be held separately from MASWCD area meetings.*Sandy Hutchison reviewed MSCWDEA election procedures.*Review of the Bylaws was tabled until the February meeting.*Sandy Hutchison will send an email requesting nominations for area awards. Nancy Kirby made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 3:00 pm. Paula Meier seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

REGISTER REPORT

2011 Beginning Balance/ Carryover on 2/27/2010	\$14,517.49
INFLOWS	
Association Membership Dues 2012	\$ 770.00
Employee Association Dues 2012	\$ 2,070.00
Interest Inc.	\$ 74.06
TOTAL INFLOWS	\$ 2,914.06
OUTFLOWS	
Area Meetings Expense	\$ 109.01
Education Scholarship	\$ 3,500.00
Newsletter Expense	\$ 25.00
Meeting Expenses	\$ 250.00
Postage and Delivery	\$ 56.98
Supplies	\$ 73.54
TOTAL OUTFLOWS	\$ 4,014.53
OVERALL TOTAL FLOW	\$ 13,417.02

TEN YEAR AWARD



Mike Reynolds, Saline County; Jamie Henderson, Benton County; Elizabeth Davis, Bates County; Sarah Stubbs, Oregon County; & Kassi Thompson, Pulaski County.

Not pictured: Larry McLain, Hickory County; Pat Buckman, Shelby County; & Barb Dune-kacke.

FIFETEEN YEAR AWARD



Beverly Dillon, Pettis County;

Not pictured: Debra Neff, Madison County; & Teona Harris, Clinton County.

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THIRTY YEAR AWARD



Lena Sharp, Monroe County

Wow, Way to go Lena!!



NEW ARRIVAL



Laura Stratton, District Technician in Webster County and husband Joseph welcomed their new baby girl, Paula Gail on July 30, 2011. She weighed 8 lbs. 13 oz. and her big sister Josie is 2 yrs. old now and loves Paula very much.

Congrats Laura...they are adorable!!!

PILOT-TIME REPORTING AWARDS

Ray County - Jerry Taylor, Kim Williamson, (Not pictured) Jason Gant

Bollinger County - Beth Eeftink and Megan Baker

Butler County - Carol Frazier

&

Not Pictured:
Saline County - Donna Smith, Carol Benedick, Cliff Lackland and Mike Reynolds



PILOT-GRANT REPORTING AWARD



Lincoln County - Janice Cragen
Ray County - Kim Williamson
Bollinger County - Beth Eeftink
Butler County - Carol Frazier
Shelby County - Carol Hubbard

NOT PICTURED:
Bates County - Joyce Rider-Diehl
Christian County - Amanda Cook
Nodaway County - Karen Parman
Saline County - Donna Smith