

MACD Annual Meeting Minutes

November 30, 2009

Meeting called to order at 10:20 AM

Meeting attendance – Lee Davis, Joe Smith, Fred Farmer, Carolyn Ness, Kim LaFleur, Matthew Goode, Glynn Lloyd, John Omasta, Bob Lear, Chris Clarke, Diane Petit, Tom Anderson, Lisa Trotto, Sharon Randall, Liz McGuire, Julie Weiss, Mary McCaffrey, Martha Higgins, Amy Cook, Charlotte Bedet, Bruce Howlett, Shenquia Archer

Member introductions and group sharing

FY2010 Budget Approval

Motion to accept Joe Smith, Seconded by Bob Lear

Motion passes

State Commission Update –

Joe Smith provided an update of state commission activities. Meetings have been rotated geographically around the state to encourage participation. There have been meetings without a quorum. Joe encouraged members to attend the January 14th meeting in Holden.

Supervisors Pocket Guide – update> this is a user friendly version of the full pocket guide. Draft copy (20 pages) is ready for final review. It is a supplement, not a replacement for the full handbook.

Cooperator Agreement coordination efforts - Latest draft was circulated a couple of weeks ago by Tom Anderson. Final comments are being solicited until January 8th. It is expected to be finalized at January State Commission meeting.

Soil Evaluators Workshops – discussion on the format for next year’s NEWIPIC program. Attendance has been declining. There is possibly one training date, plus three field dates.

There are additional possibilities for Districts to conduct soil evaluator’s professional development courses. The courses are approved by NEWIPIC.

Tom requested a block of time be set aside at the next MACD meeting to discuss the process that Districts need to go through to arrange the professional development courses.

NRCS Updates –

Chris Clarke provided an update on NRCS activities. The NRCS budget has already been received. This is the first time in a couple of years that the budget has been approved this early in the fiscal year. There is additional funding for staff. However, the funding may not be present next year, so the hiring of temporary employees is being considered.

State office also benefited from the Recovery Act. 10 new vehicles were received.

There is a re-emphasis on Local Work Groups. This will provide Districts the opportunity to provide input at the state level based on local need. District input will be used to help determine the ranking process on local projects.

Diane Petit talked about Farm Bill outreach. New releases are scheduled to go out in the next couple of days. She requested that Districts forward the information to anyone they feel may be interested. New brochures have been developed for EQIP and WHIP. There are some targeted outreach areas for the New England Cottontail rabbit. The Strategic Communication Plan will incorporate education and outreach materials.

NRCS will be exhibiting at the Farm Bureau Annual Meeting, the NE Vegetable & Fruit Conference, NOFA Conference, the Mass Land Conservation Conference (Diane felt this conference would provide an excellent opportunity to promote Districts)

Big E Report

Over 1 million people visited the Big E this year. Governor Patrick visited the booth on Mass Day. Volunteer coordination was a big challenge. Lisa Trotto provided a breakdown of where the staff members came from.

Diane relayed the importance of the prep work that must be done ahead of time. Matthew suggested that a commentary be added to the MACD website to explain more about the program.

Big E Booth Planning Committee - Bob Lear, Matthew Good, John Omasta, Lisa Trotto

Motion by Bob Lear, Second by John Omasta – motion passes

ACCP Program Update

Sharon provided a brief report of the ACCP program over the past year. Staff members have received numerous compliments from the District Conservationists. All program goals have been exceeded for the year. Sharon presented each employee with a token of appreciation.

FRPP/APR Monitoring Program Update

Julie Weiss provided an update of the Monitoring Program thus far. Preliminary reports have been made available to MDAR and NCRS. Feedback has been received from NRCS and MDAR on the projects completed thus far. Julie is planning a training session for Districts interested in becoming involved in the Monitoring Program. There are still details being worked out for payments, project assignments, etc.

Nominating Committee Report

Joe Smith opened nominations from the floor. No nominations received.

Joe nominated the following:

President – Kim LaFleur

Vice President – Fred Farmer

Secretary – Carolyn Ness

Treasurer – Rob Russell

Matthew Goode moved to close nominations. John Omasta seconded. Motion pass.

Motion to accept the slate made by John Omasta. Seconded by Bob Lear. Motion passes.

NACD Board Member Designation

Joe Smith motioned to have Kim LaFleur serve as NACD Board member, Carolyn Ness to serve as alternate. The motion was seconded by Bob Lear. Motion passes.

New Business

Matthew Goode reported on the EOEEA budget hearings. He reported that e recommendation was made at the Budget hearing to move Conservation Districts under the umbrella of MDAR. Lee Davis provided background information as to how the Division of Conservation Services came directly under EOEEA and not under MDAR.

NACD poster Contest –

Fred Farmer made a motion to Have MACD sponsor the NACD poster contest. Carolyn Ness seconded. Motion passes.

Lee Davis Motion to adjourn. Carolyn Ness seconded.

Meeting adjourned at 1:07 PM