



Missouri Department of Natural Resources

AGENDA

Missouri Soil and Water Districts Commission
Conference Call Green Island Conference Room
Jefferson City, Missouri

May 28, 2014

10:30 am

- A. CALL TO ORDER**
- B. SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION PROGRAM DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS**
 - 1. Cover Crop Project Update – **Jim Plassmeyer**
- C. REQUESTS/REVIEW**

(If a supervisor request is received in advance of meeting, it may be presented to the commission at that meeting.)

 - 1. **Johnson SWCD** – Request to Reconstruct Storm Damaged Practices Under Maintenance – **Jim Plassmeyer**
 - 2. **Callaway SWCD** – Request Approval for Lease Agreement for Demonstration Plot – **Jim Plassmeyer**
- D. ADJOURNMENT**

Those wishing to address the commission on any of the above issues need to contact a program staff member, Christa Moody or sign up on the comment card at the commission meeting.

If you have any questions regarding this meeting, special accommodation needs, or would like a copy of any material provided at the commission meeting, please contact Christa Moody at 573-751-1172.

Soil & Water Districts Commission may go into closed session at this meeting if such action is approved by a majority vote of the commission members who constitute a quorum to discuss legal, confidential, or privileged matters under 610.021(1), RSMo; personnel actions under 610.021(3), RSMo; personnel records or applications under 610.021(13), RSMo; records under 610.021(14), RSMo; or audit issues under 610.021(17), RSMo; which are otherwise protected from disclosure by law.



*Johnson County Soil & Water
Conservation District*

727 PCA Road, Suite B
Warrensburg, MO 64093

(660) 747-8400 Ext. 3
(660) 747-5980 Fax

Soil and Water Conservation Program Commission
PO Box 176
Jefferson City, MO 65102

May 7, 2014

Dear Soil & Water Program Commission,

The Farm Service Agency in Johnson County requested funding for the Emergency Conservation Program (ECP) due to the recent extreme rainfall event in parts of Johnson County that occurred April 2, 2014. This rainfall event caused severe damage to farm fields, terraces and fencing. In addition to the request of ECP funding, the County Executive Director requested authorization to utilize ECP funds to repair practices which are still under their applicable maintenance agreements and within their lifespan. Johnson County was granted ECP funding, however due to extremely limited funding and the provision stating that "A producer is not eligible to receive compensation to rehabilitate any land on which the producer is required to maintain the practice or the land under any other Federal or State C/S program," this latter request was denied on May 1, 2014.

Due to the extensive damage to these fields that are currently under maintenance agreements and the cost to our farmers to repair these fields in order to get this year's crops planted, we are asking the Commission to grant funding to these producers that will otherwise not be covered through ECP. In addition, we are requesting that a variance be granted to those cooperators who have already begun or completed this repair work, as long as detailed documentation and pictures show proof of damages. We are requesting an initial amount of \$15,000.00 with the ability to request additional funding, up to \$50,000.00 if the need in Johnson County proves to be this great.

Your consideration of this request is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,
Stephen Ring

Steve Ring, Vice Chairman
Johnson County Board of Supervisors

May 7, 2014

The Callaway SWCD

4549 State Road H

Fulton, MO 65251

To the Missouri State Commission of Soil and Water Conservation Districts:

The Callaway SWCD would like to ask for the Commission's permission and approval to enter into a five-year lease on the five acre property adjoining the Fulton USDA building, for the purpose of providing a demonstration plot to show the benefits of cover-crops to the landowners of Callaway County.

Thank you for your time,



Matt Blansett – District Manager



Proposal for Cover-Crop Demonstration Plot
Matt Blansett
District Manager
Callaway County Soil and Water Conservation District

Introduction: The Callaway County Soil and Water Conservation District believes firmly in improving soil health, not only in Callaway County, but throughout Missouri. Cover-crop practices are a proven method of promoting good soil health. Good soil health has been shown to increase moisture infiltration and retention, lessening both the severity of drought in dry years and reducing the impacts of soil erosion during heavy rainfall years. Good soil health increases and better utilizes nutrient retention and promotes good soil biology, which can lower the input costs associated with fertilizers, and in many cases, increases the profitability of farming.

Objective: To demonstrate the successful application of cover-crop practices and non-traditional crop rotations to the landowners of Callaway County, through the use of a piece of ground adjoining the Callaway County Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD) and Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) office property. The correct application of cover-crop practices and non-traditional rotation can be both profitable, in terms of reduced input costs and production per acre, and beneficial to the land from the viewpoints of conservation and sustainability. During the five year lease, a demonstration of changes in input costs and yields will be documented as well as soil testing,, as the cover-crop and non-traditional rotation is perform as planned.

Methods: This is strictly a non-profit venture, and will be used only for the purposes of demonstration, education, and gathering of information. A plot of land, 5.79 acres, adjoining the office property will be cash-rented for a five-year lease. The land will be managed using SWCD Commissioners and NRCS recommended best practices of land use and conservation of crop land. In 2014, a no-till cash crop will be planted followed by a cover-crop after harvest. Next spring a planned rotation will begin. Independent farmers will be contacted to do the planting and harvesting of the grain, under agreement that they may keep all the profits derived from said grain.

Partners: To the ends of completing this project, the offices and/or agents of the Callaway County SWCD, the local USDA – Farm Service Agency (FSA) NRCS Plant Materials Center, Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC), and US Forest Service (USFS) have all offered to provide either: labor, equipment, or expertise as required towards the successful completion of the project.

Benefits: If successful, this area will provide a prime example close to home of how cover-crop and non-traditional (other than strictly corn/soybean) rotations can influence soil health and be beneficial to the land and the landowner. If the goal is accomplished, the area will be open year-round during normal office hours to educate and serve as a demonstration to members of the community and general public, as well as other agencies. The area will be used for educational programs to show that cover-crop and non-traditional rotation can work to benefit soil health on the same type of non-irrigated crop land that our local farmers face in their environment. Cover-crop and soil health conferences have been great for initiating and furthering the conversation;

however, having a living, breathing, thriving, and operational farm that demonstrated the principles which are encouraged through the agencies, we can show people – firsthand - the benefits of the practices.