



Missouri Department of Natural Resources

AGENDA

Missouri Soil and Water Districts Commission
Lincoln University Conference Center in Lorenzo Greene Hall
900 Leslie Boulevard, Suite C
Jefferson City, Missouri
June 10, 2014
12:30 p.m.

A. CALL TO ORDER

B. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

1. March 21, 2014

C. MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

D. SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION PROGRAM DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS

1. FY 2014 Cost-Share/SALT Fund Status
2. Plan for the Future Updates
3. E-Alert System
4. Nutrient Management and Grassland Management Training
5. 2014 Area Meetings Update
6. Cover Crop Project Update
7. Our Missouri Waters Lower Grand River Update
8. FY 2015 Budget Update
9. Envirothon Update
10. District Technician II Responsibilities
11. Staff Updates

E. REQUESTS/REVIEW

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

1. Supervisor Appointments
2. (Tabled 3/21/14) Pulaski SWCD - Variance Request for DSL-01 Permanent Vegetative Cover Establishment Impacted by Flooding
3. Lawrence SWCD – Cost-Share for Water Meter and Hookup to Public Water Supply
4. Hickory SWCD – Request to Extend Original Maintenance Life for Stream Buffer Practices
5. Ripley, Oregon, Iron, St. Francois, Carter, Washington, Wayne, Butler, Bollinger SWCD's – Increase Cost-Share for Well Drilling Component in Southeast Missouri (Informational Only)

F. APPEALS

G. REPORTS

1. University of Missouri
2. Department of Conservation
3. Department of Agriculture
4. Natural Resources Conservation Service
5. Missouri Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts

H. PUBLIC COMMENTS

I. SUGGESTED DATE(S) OF NEXT MEETING(S)

August 8, 2014 at the Missouri State Fair in Sedalia:

J. 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.



Missouri Department of Natural Resources

MINUTES

MISSOURI SOIL AND WATER DISTRICTS COMMISSION

DNR Conference Center

Jefferson City, Missouri

March 21, 2014

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT: Charles Ausfahl, Thomas Bradley, H. Ralph Gaw, and Gary Vandiver

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS: RICHARD FORDYCE, DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE: Judy Grundler; BOB ZIEHMER, DEPT. OF CONSERVATION: Clint Dalbom; SARA PARKER PAULEY, DEPT. OF NATURAL RESOURCES: Sara Parker Pauley, Joe Engeln

ADVISORY MEMBERS PRESENT: SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION PROGRAM: Bill Wilson; NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE (NRCS): J.R. Flores; MISSOURI ASSOCIATION OF SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS (MASWCD): Kenny Loveless; ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE: Tim Duggan; UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI: David Baker

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT: Jim Boschert, Van Beydler, Alan Freeman, Christa Moody, James Plassmeyer, Judy Stinson, Ken Struempfler, Leon Thompson, Matt Elliott, Patricia Chapman, Allan Clarke, Josh Poynor, Colette Weckenborg, Deanna Smith,

OTHERS PRESENT: DISTRICTS: Cole: Peggy Lemons; Gasconade: Diana Mayfield; Jefferson: George Engelbach; Lafayette: Susie Struchtemeyer, Phillip Boydston; Lafayette Landowner: Bob Ramey; Pulaski: Kassi Morgan, Kent Ledbetter; MISSOURI FARM BUREAU: Kelly Smith; MISSOURI SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION (MSWCDEA): Sandy Stratman; MISSOURI LAND IMPROVEMENT CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION (MLICA): Jeff Lance; MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES: Kurt Boeckmann; MISSOURI ASSOCIATION SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS: Beverly Dometrorch

A. CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chairman Gary Vandiver called the meeting to order at the DNR Conference Center in Jefferson City, Missouri, at 9:07 a.m. Charles Ausfahl, Thomas Bradley, H. Ralph Gaw, and Gary Vandiver were present, which made a quorum. Mr. Vandiver mentioned the appointment of former Chairman Richard Fordyce as Director of Agriculture and what a quality person he is to represent the state in that position. Mr. Vandiver mentioned that the Commission will honor Mr. Fordyce for his service to the Commission at a future meeting and was sure that Mr. Fordyce will engage with the Soil and Water Districts Commission every chance that he can.

B. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

1. December 16, 2013 Minutes

Thomas Bradley made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 16, 2013 Commission meeting. Charles Ausfahl seconded the motion. When asked by the Vice Chair, Charles Ausfahl, Thomas Bradley, H. Ralph Gaw, and Gary Vandiver voted in favor of the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

C. ELECTION OF COMMISSION CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

Joe Engeln opened the floor for nominations for the position of chair for the Soil and Water Districts Commission. H. Ralph Gaw nominated Gary Vandiver. Thomas Bradley seconded the nomination. H. Ralph Gaw made the motion to close nominations and Charles Ausfahl seconded the motion.

Joe Engeln opened the floor for nominations for the position of Vice Chair for the Soil and Water Districts Commission. Thomas Bradley nominated H. Ralph Gaw. Charles Ausfahl seconded the nomination. Due to one nominee for each position Joe Engeln offered the option of voting by acclamation. Charles Ausfahl made the motion to vote by acclamation. Thomas Bradley seconded the motion.

Commissioner Vandiver thanked Mr. Engeln for presiding over the election and thanked the other members of the commission for the confidence they put in him and Vice Chair Gaw. He said the commission will continue to operate in a way that prior Chairman Fordyce and he have in the past, with common sense, an open mind, and the knowledge that work happens at the ground-level with district boards and staff. If there is anything the commission can do to assist districts, to please let them know.

D. MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

1. Department of Natural Resources 40th Anniversary

Sara Parker Pauley, Director of Missouri Department of Natural Resources, congratulated Chairman Vandiver and Vice Chairman Gaw on their positions and thanked them for their service and that of the other commissioners. Director Pauley presented information about the 40th anniversary of the Department of Natural Resources. A video was presented showing the history and impact that the Department has had over the past 40 years.

As part of the 40th celebration, a Natural Resources Conference has been scheduled for November 12-13, 2014. The purpose of this conference is twofold: to look back at the last 40 years and determine the greatest environmental challenges that Missouri faced and how Missouri approached those challenges. The next day will include looking to the next 40 years. Key stakeholders will be invited to this conference.

The main focus of this conference will be the Missouri approach, and how Missouri does things differently from other states. The best example is the Parks, Soils and Water Sales Tax and how Missouri has dealt with soil resources, water quality protection, preserving Missouri's parks, and providing greater recreational opportunities.

Part of this conference will be to highlight the Parks, Soils and Water Sales Tax, the Soil and Water Districts Commission and its efforts, and the Missouri State Parks System. The Parks, Soils and Water Sales Tax renewal process has started. Mr. Dave Murphy who worked very closely with the Citizen's Committee during the last renewal of the tax updated the Commission on the efforts that the committee has taken to begin the renewal effort. Mr. Murphy stated that the investments made through the tax dollars entrusted to the program, under the commission's direction, has completely changed our state during his lifetime. He stated that it is a privilege to be associated with the renewal effort. During the last renewal he was Executive Director of the Conservation Federation of Missouri and worked closely with Estil Fretwell, a boyhood friend. The committee has identified the honorary chairs for the committee as Mr. Blake Hurst and Mr. Steve Mahfood; Mr. Darwin Hindman will be on the committee as well. Mr. Dave Murphy and Mr. Estil Fretwell will be the Operational Chairs for the committee. Commission Chairman Vandiver stated the Soil and Water Districts Commission will support the committees' efforts.

Mr. Vandiver thanked Directory Pauley and Mr. Murphy for presenting at the meeting and commented that each person involved with the program will work to ensure that the tax is successful again.

E. SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION PROGRAM DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS

5. Missouri State Parks Update

Deputy Director of State Parks, J.C. Kuessner, presented the Missouri State Parks update. Missouri has 87 state parks and historical sites throughout the state and most Missourians are within a 60-minute drive to reach a park. In 2013, Missouri State Parks welcomed 17.5 million visitors. Interpreters interacted with nearly 1.8 million guests, which is a 5.9 percent increase over 2012. From September through November, Missouri State Parks saw a 7 percent increase in attendance over the previous fall. The revenue generated by Missouri State Parks totaled \$9.7 million. For every dollar of sales tax funds received, Missouri State Parks returned \$27 to the state's economy and receive a 97 percent approval rating from their guests.

DRAFT MINUTES--MISSOURI SOIL & WATER DISTRICTS COMMISSION

March 21, 2014

Page 4

In 2013, Missouri was named the Best Trails State by American Trails. Missouri has been named in the top four states the last 14 years. Missouri State Parks offer almost 1,000 miles of managed trails and is the home of the Katy Trail State Park, the longest developed rail-to-trail conversion in the nation.

One year ago, the Missouri State Parks released the publication "Trails of Missouri State Parks". This book provides detailed information for more than 230 Missouri State Parks trails. The database and resulting trail books were recognized by the Society of Outdoor Recreational Professionals with the 2013 Project Excellence Award.

In 2013, to celebrate Missouri as the best trail state and encourage Missourians to enjoy the outdoors, Governor Jay Nixon and First Lady Georganne Nixon invited Missourians to join them to complete 100 miles of outdoor physical activities by the end of the year. There were more than 12,500 participants that logged more than 1 million Missouri miles. March 19, 2014, the Governor and First Lady started the 2014 program at Rock Bridge Memorial State Park in Columbia, Missouri.

Also in 2013, Missouri State Parks was named a National Gold Medal Finalist for excellence in the field of park and recreation management.

Mr. Kuessner talked about partnerships and creative actions to maintain parks. Camp Pin Oak Lodge reopened in October 2013 due to a partnership with Missouri State Parks, Department of Economic Development and State Fair Community College to rebuild the lodge which burned in 2010. Parks acquired 330 acres in Shannon County in 2013, which historically was referred to as Camp Zoe adjacent to Current River State Park.

The State Parks Youth Corps has continued since 2010 to provided 70,000 hours of stewardship in the parks in 2013. The Learn2 Camp is in its second year at selected parks and provides training in camping and paddling; it is tailored to people with little experience in the outdoors.

To highlight the award winning state trails, 2014 is The Year of Trails in Missouri State Parks. Events and activities will focus on Missouri trails and encouraging people to hike, bike and paddle in Missouri's parks and historic sites.

In 2013, the Battle of Island Mound State Historic site was opened. This site was the location where African American troops engaged Civil War combat. A film was created through a collaborative agreement between Motion Path Productions and Missouri State Parks. A group of high school students from Ruskin High School in Kansas City were the first to view the film on February 21, 2014. Mr. Kuessner presented the trailer to this film

1. Staff Updates

Bill Wilson introduced Jim Boschert who accepted the Environmental Specialist IV position. He will be the supervisor for the coordinators for the Eastern portion of Missouri.

Jim Boschert introduced Deanna Smith who accepted an Environmental Specialist II position. She has recently received her doctorate from the University of Missouri with an emphasis in plant and soil sciences. She will be coordinator for 10 counties in southeastern Missouri.

Ken Struempf introduced Van Beydler who accepted the Public Information Coordinator position. Mr. Beydler has been with the Department of Natural Resources for 16 years and looks forward to working with the Soil and Water Conservation Program.

2. FY2014 Cost-Share/SALT Fund Status

Ken Struempf presented the fiscal year 2014 (FY14) Cost-Share/SALT Fund Status. The FY14 Cost-Share Fund Status totals were as of March 17, 2014, \$30,972,559 allocated with \$20,645,030 obligated. Of that obligated amount, \$10,572,404 has been paid. The amounts obligated and paid are less than those in FY12 for the same period that year.

The FY14 SALT Cost-Share totals were, as of March 17, 2014, \$1,090,557 allocated with \$562,183 obligated. Of that obligated amount, \$365,705 has been paid. FY15 is the last year for the SALT projects.

3. FY14 / FY15 Budget Updates

Colette Weckenborg presented the FY14/FY15 Budget Updates. The current Soil and Water Conservation Program expenditures per Statewide Advantage to Missouri (SAM II) data are as of March 18, 2014, \$21,414,103. The total FY14 appropriations are \$46,870,762. Overall, 46 percent of the total program appropriations have been spent.

The Governor's FY15 recommended budget is \$49,241,034. The recommended budget includes increasing the cost-share appropriation from \$27.7 million to \$31 million. This increase in the cost-share appropriation is made possible through core budget redirects along with an expansion utilizing uncommitted funds.

Ms. Weckenborg stated that year-to-date tax revenues have increased by 4 percent in comparison to last year at this time.

4. Plan for the Future Update

Ken Struempf presented information from the Outreach and Education Subcommittee of the Plan for the Future. Mr. Struempf listed the subcommittee members and stated there have been four meetings between July 2013 and November 2013. At the December 2013 Training Conference, the goals and objectives were presented to the districts for their feedback.

DRAFT MINUTES--MISSOURI SOIL & WATER DISTRICTS COMMISSION

March 21, 2014

Page 6

The next meeting will be scheduled for late April or early May where the districts' feedback will be presented to the committee.

The mission statement that the Outreach Committee developed for their portion of the Plan for the Future is: "Through Outreach and Education increase Missouri farmers' awareness and knowledge of the Soil and Water Conservation Program opportunities to protect the soil and water resources of the state and to make known the benefits of these efforts to the general public."

The targeted audiences were defined as farmers and the public. The outreach goal for the farmers is: "To increase the farmers understanding of the benefits derived from the Soil and Water Conservation Program to enable the most effective use of the soil and water resources". The outreach goal for the public is "To increase the public's understanding of the economic, recreational, water quality and soil savings benefits of the Soil and Water Conservation Program"

Mr. Vandiver stated that he attended a Plan for the Future meeting the previous day led by Jim Plassmeyer. He encouraged stakeholders to attend meetings if the opportunity is available and provide input. Mr. Plassmeyer presented information from the Current Practices Subcommittee of the Plan for the Future. He stated that March 20, 2013 was the first meeting of that subcommittee. There were 40 invitations sent with 25-30 participants at the meeting. A summary of the information from the 2013 Area Meetings and the December training conference was presented to the committee to determine which direction this committee would like to take. The second meeting will be scheduled six to eight weeks from March 20, 2013. Commissioner Gaw also attended that meeting and commented that he was impressed how many people spoke up and provided opinions and insight. Commissioners Vandiver and Gaw both stated their appreciation to the board members that were involved with their group, and their input, opinions and interest in the purpose of the program, staying focused on soil and water resources.

Colette Weckenborg presented information from the Program Delivery and Operations Subcommittee of the Plan for the Future. This committee has met four times with the committee comprised of 10 district technicians, 10 district program specialists, 10 board members and several representatives from partner agencies.

The first action of this committee was to work on a staffing plan. This staffing plan will provide better recruitment, better retention and a career progression for employees. A plan has been created where eight counties have been asked to participate in a pilot program of sharing district staff expertise across districts. This pilot will run at least through the end of this summer, and the committee will evaluate the effectiveness of the pilot.

While working on the staffing plan, a request from the Warren and Montgomery Soil and Water Conservation Districts was sent to the subcommittee to request concurrence from the Soil and Water Districts Commission to research soil and water district employees becoming State of Missouri employees.

Mr. Joe Engeln encouraged the commission to ask the committee to carefully look at positives and negatives of this proposal and mentioned that the committee is an appropriate group to look at this because of the broad representation. It should be a thorough examination of the question but not something that leads to a recommendation. He also mentioned that this should not hold up Plan for the Future efforts since this is not tied to that document. After discussion, H. Ralph Gaw made a motion to allow the Program Delivery and Operations Subcommittee to do a thorough study to determine if the Commission should recommend to the powers that be, that district staff become state employees. Thomas Bradley seconded the motion. A poll vote was taken. Charles Ausfahl, Thomas Bradley, H. Ralph Gaw, and Gary Vandiver voted in favor of the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Colette Weckenborg presented the Program Delivery and Operations Subcommittee 2014 SWCP Intern Program. The discussion that the committee had was to identify ways to best fill staffing needs in district offices during heavy summer work periods, staff the office economically and effectively, and identify potential candidates for future employment. She stated these would be the goals of a summer intern program.

The proposed guidelines would be: the intern must be a college student, funds would only be available between May 1— September 1, 2014, an estimated \$2,500 stipend per district to provide the intern with compensation and cover related costs with recommended compensation of minimum wage or slightly higher. With additional information, the program has obtained the actual stipend would slightly exceed the previously discussed \$2,500 stipend per district.

After discussion, Thomas Bradley made a motion to concur that the Plan for the Future Program Delivery and Operations Subcommittee move forward with an Intern Program for summer 2014. Charles Ausfahl seconded the motion. A poll vote was taken. Charles Ausfahl, Thomas Bradley, H. Ralph Gaw, and Gary Vandiver voted in favor of the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

F. REQUEST/REVIEW

1. Supervisor Appointments

a. Taney Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD)

Josh Poynor presented the Taney SWCD supervisor appointment. The Taney SWCD Board requests the appointment of Mr. Wayne Gailey to complete the unexpired term of Mr. John Cantrell, who has resigned. Mr. Gailey and the board chairman have signed the Verification of Supervisor

DRAFT MINUTES--MISSOURI SOIL & WATER DISTRICTS COMMISSION

March 21, 2014

Page 8

Eligibility form, verifying the candidate meets the qualifications to serve on the board.

Charles Ausfahl made a motion to approve the appointment of Mr. Wayne Gailey to complete the unexpired term of Mr. John Cantrell to the Taney SWCD Board of Supervisors. Thomas Bradley seconded the motion. When asked by the chair, Charles Ausfahl, Thomas Bradley, H. Ralph Gaw, and Gary Vandiver voted in favor of the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

b. Webster Soil and Water Conservation District

Allan Clarke presented the Webster SWCD supervisor appointment. The Webster SWCD Board requests the appointment of Dr. Jerry Fry to complete the unexpired term of Mr. Tim Essary. Mr. Essary submitted a letter of resignation. Dr. Fry and the board chairman signed the Verification of Supervisor Eligibility form, verifying the candidate meets the qualifications to serve on the board.

Thomas Bradley made a motion to approve the appointment of Dr. Jerry Fry to complete the unexpired term of Mr. Tim Essary to the Webster SWCD Board of Supervisors. Charles Ausfahl seconded the motion. When asked by the chair, Charles Ausfahl, Thomas Bradley, H. Ralph Gaw, and Gary Vandiver voted in favor of the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

c. Vernon Soil and Water Conservation District

Jim Plassmeyer presented the Vernon SWCD supervisor appointment. The Vernon SWCD Board requests the appointment of Mr. Joe Charles to complete the unexpired term of Mr. Darren Wiley, who submitted a letter of resignation. Mr. Charles and the board chairman have signed the Verification of Supervisor Eligibility form, verifying the candidate meets the qualifications to serve on the board.

Thomas Bradley made a motion to approve the appointment of Mr. Joe Charles to complete the unexpired term of Mr. Darren Wiley to the Vernon SWCD Board of Supervisors. H. Ralph Gaw seconded the motion. When asked by the chair, Charles Ausfahl, Thomas Bradley, H. Ralph Gaw, and Gary Vandiver voted in favor of the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Briefing for next two agenda items

Commission Administration of the Cost-Share Program 10 CSR 70-5.060

Jim Plassmeyer reviewed the timeline contained in the Cost-Share Maintenance Violation Procedures Rules. The district board identifies a maintenance violation and requests that the landowner correct the problem within a reasonable and fair timeframe. If not corrected by the board established date, the board demands

DRAFT MINUTES--MISSOURI SOIL & WATER DISTRICTS COMMISSION

March 21, 2014

Page 9

repayment of a prorated amount of the cost-share payment by certified mail, to be made within 30 days of receiving the letter.

The landowner has the option to appeal the board's decision to the Commission in writing during the 30-day period. If payment or appeal is not received during the 30-day period, the board sends notification to the Commission asking for assistance to recover funds.

If the landowner makes an appeal to the Commission, the Commission reviews the request during a Commission meeting. The Commission determines whether or not there was a maintenance violation. If a violation occurred, the demand for payment within 30 days is renewed or the landowner corrects all deficiencies at landowner expense in the time specified by the Commission.

If payment is not received within 30 days or deficiencies corrected, the Commission may refer the matter to the Attorney General's Office for recovery of funds.

If no violation is found by the Commission, then the demand for repayment is withdrawn.

2. **Webster SWCD – Fick Grazing System Policy Maintenance Violation**

Leon Thompson presented the maintenance violation. The Webster SWCD requests assistance in collecting repayment of \$4,199.89 of cost-share funds from Delane and Cindy Fick for a DSP-3.1, Grazing System Water Development Practice (water well). The Webster SWCD approved contract number SN077-11-0001 on July 26, 2010 and paid \$4,199.89 on October 25, 2010.

The Commission policy for the DSP-3.1 practice number 1.c, states that: "The entire grazing system must meet the standard and specifications for Prescribed Grazing (528) within three years after payment of the first contract or the entire amount of cost-share received must be repaid."

The Fick's received cost share for a DSP 3.1 well construction on their property for a planned grazing system. At this time, Mr. Fick has only completed the well and no other portion of the planned grazing system has been installed, resulting in a violation of the policy previously described.

Mr. Thompson outlined the timeline of actions and communication that had taken place with the landowner and the request for repayment based on Soil and Water Districts Commission policy. The Webster County SWCD has documented contacts made or attempted with the landowner. The Soil and Water Conservation Program sent a certified letter that was received and signed for on February 18, 2014, asking for repayment of \$4,199.89 or to request an appeal to the Commission within 30 days of receipt of the letter. The program office has not received any feedback from the Fick's on the certified letter.

After discussion, H. Ralph Gaw made a motion to support the local board's request to obtain repayment on the DSP 3.1 Grazing System Water Development practice by maintaining current policy and referring the matter to the Attorney General's Office for collection. Thomas Bradley seconded the motion. A poll vote was taken. Charles Ausfahl, Thomas Bradley, H. Ralph Gaw and Gary Vandiver voted in favor of the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

4. Pulaski SWCD – Variance Request for DSL-01 Permanent Vegetative Cover Establishment Impacted by Flooding

Patty Chapman presented the request to utilize the DSL-01 practice on fields impacted by flooding. An Emergency Declaration was issued for South Central Missouri due to excessive rainfall and flooding that occurred in late July and early August 2013, with Pulaski County receiving over 20 inches of rain in August 2013. The rain created flooding covering thousands of acres for up to two weeks in Pulaski County. Pulaski County was eligible for the Emergency Conservation Program (ECP) through the United States Department of Agriculture Farm Service Agency. The ECP provides funding for debris removal, fencing repair and flood scouring repair, but only for reseeding in areas that have been rehabilitated after debris removal, or to repair scouring, not to reseed an entire field.

The district states the fields that were flooded have inadequate stands of grass but are not experiencing erosion rates above Tolerable Soil Loss (T) based on the RUSLE II calculations. This makes the fields ineligible for the seeding practices that require soil loss through the Soil and Water Conservation Cost-Share Program.

The Pulaski Board is requesting a variance to the erosion requirement of the DSL-01 Permanent Vegetative Cover Establishment practice. The proposed criteria to determine eligibility would be to utilize the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) JS Agron-24 with a "Poor" or "Very Poor" evaluation for the grass stand. The seeding and fertility standards and specifications would continue to be followed as defined in policy.

Mr. Kent Ledbetter, the Pulaski SWCD Technician, addressed the Commission. Mr. Ledbetter stated there are almost 50 miles of the Gasconade River that runs through Pulaski County. During the flood there were 10,000 acres covered by water for 10 to 15 days and requests have been made weekly asking if there are any programs for these acres to reestablish permanent vegetation. The landowners' requests for assistance total approximately 1,500 acres at this time, only for the fields that were flooded by the Gasconade River. The district proposes assisting with seeding the fields in the fall using FY15 allocations because most of the pastures affected are cool season, although some farmers are requesting help this spring. The district asks for any help the Commission can provide and proposes to use their current FY14 and FY15 allocations, and any other funds the commission might provide should they become available.

After discussion, H. Ralph Gaw made a motion to table this request until the next Commission meeting to allow for more time to evaluate the grass stands impacted by the flooding for potential fall seeding. Charles Ausfahl seconded the motion. When asked by the chair, Charles Ausfahl, Thomas Bradley, H. Ralph Gaw and Gary Vandiver voted in favor of the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

G. APPEALS

1. Lafayette SWCD – Landowner Appeal for Practice Started Prior to Contract Approval

Matt Elliott presented the Lafayette SWCD landowner appeal for a practice started prior to contract approval. The issue is: Should the Commission grant Mr. Bob Ramey a variance and allow the Lafayette SWCD to develop a contract to pay for two tile lines (lines B and D) within a terrace project that were completed prior to board approval of a contract.

The Cost-Share policy states: “Cost-Share assistance is not authorized for practices installed or started prior to board approval of the contract. A practice has been started when the required components of the practice have been applied or fabricated to an extent that they cannot be returned for a complete refund.”

The Lafayette SWCD local policy states that a landowner is limited to \$15,000 per year for cost-share. In November 2012, the project was staked by the district technician and designed in March 2013. On April 5, 2013, the NRCS technician was notified that the terraces would not be built until the fall. On September 27, 2013, Mr. Ramey signed cost-share contract SGE 021-14-0021 for two terrace tile lines A and C. During the preconstruction conference, the construction plans for the entire system were provided to Mr. Ramey because he was not sure if he would wait for cost-share funds to construct planned tile lines B and D, which were not on the original contract due to the local board policy limiting the landowner to \$15,000 per year.

In early October, the district technician completed a tile inspection for the entire system, which included all four tile lines during the USDA furlough. In late December, contractor Curtis Lewis inquired about cost-share funds on the second part of the system, but was told since the project had been started with all tile lines already installed on that portion of the system, a contract could not be created. On January 29, 2014, the board discussed Mr. Ramey’s request to have the second part of the terrace system considered for cost-share funds, but ruled since it was already started they could not create a contract. On February 14, 2014, the contractor’s checkout of the terraces was completed to process payment on SGE 021-14-0021 for lines A and C, the original contract.

Mr. Elliott provided cost estimates for lines B and D for the terrace project for the Commission’s information.

DRAFT MINUTES--MISSOURI SOIL & WATER DISTRICTS COMMISSION

March 21, 2014

Page 12

Mr. Bob Ramey, the landowner, and Phillip Boydston, the Lafayette SWCD technician addressed the Commission explaining what transpired between the Lafayette SWCD and landowner.

After discussion, Thomas Bradley made a motion to provide a variance to Commission policy and allow the board to develop and approve a contract for lines B and D of the terrace system that were completed prior to board approval. Charles Ausfahl seconded the motion. A poll vote was taken. Charles Ausfahl, Thomas Bradley, H. Ralph Gaw and Gary Vandiver voted in favor of the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

H. REPORTS

1. University of Missouri

Dave Baker congratulated Gary Vandiver and H. Ralph Gaw on being elected as chair and vice chair. Mr. Baker stated the University of Missouri is celebrating its 175th year and the University of Missouri Extension is celebrating its 100 year anniversary. He extended an invitation to the Commission to an event being held at the quadrangle on campus on May 1st.

Mr. Baker also commended the Commission for the Internship Program, stating that there is a high correlation between where a student takes an internship and where they take their first job. Mr. Baker recommended extending the Internship Program to include the summer of 2015 because most students have identified and committed to a summer internship by January.

2. Department of Conservation

Clint Dalbom reported that this time of year is wild fire season. The Missouri Department of Conservation works closely with rural fire departments across the state with \$350,000 in matching grants and training for 400 firefighters. The wild fire season is currently in effect until the first part of May.

Mr. Dalbom also reported on deadlines for MDC cost-share programs; natural grassland work in Northeast Missouri with private landowners; a flowering tree forecast is now on their website to showcase attractive drives within the state; study of bears that are radio-collared to track movement and population estimates; feral hog activities with eight internal task forces around the state that have had some successes with eradicating some of the outlying hog populations; and Governor Nixon's proclamation that April 4th is Arbor Day, one-third of the state is in forest cover and the department provides 100,000 tree seedlings to fourth graders each year.

Mr. Dalbom answered questions by the Commission concerning location of bears in the state, their movement and if there are impacts to livestock.

3. Department of Agriculture

Judy Grundler began by responding to Commission questions regarding regulation of movement of fire wood between states. It is a large concern for the walnut industry not only for the nuts but for the wood, and for transmittal of pests and diseases such as the Emerald Ash Borer and Thousand Cankers Disease. Ms. Grundler congratulated the new chair and vice chair on their positions with the Soil and Water Districts Commission. Ms. Grundler stated that the former chair of the Soil and Water Districts Commission and now Director of Missouri Department of Agriculture, Richard Fordyce, regretted not being able to attend the meeting but asked her to convey some of his priorities for the next few years as he takes on his role of Director of Agriculture. He plans to concentrate efforts on international marketing; value added agriculture and youth in agriculture.

Ms. Grundler stated the week of March 24th is National Agriculture Week. During this week, the Missouri Department of Agriculture will have its annual display of farm equipment in front of the George Washington Carver building, as well the farm equipment display at the State Capitol. These displays draw a large amount of attention from the public.

Ms. Grundler also stated there is a film called Farmland being put together by many farm agencies and will be shown at 7 p.m. March 26, 2014, in Columbia Missouri at the Regal Theatre. This film shows the next generation of farmers and the decision making processes they face to continue on with farming.

Ms. Grundler also reported on the Emerald Ash Borer quarantine that includes all of Missouri and Iowa, which means fire wood can be moved between these states. She also reported on surveys that are being conducted for Thousand Cankers Disease, the Gypsy Moth, and Pine Shoot Beetle. Judy also agreed with comments the Commissioners made earlier regarding the Plan for the Future process with the subcommittees. She is impressed with the dialogue going on in the committees and by the open, honest and thoughtful opinions for making improvements in the district offices. She applauds the efforts being taken to better improve the program.

4. Natural Resources Conservation Service

JR Flores congratulated the new chair and vice chair on their positions and looks forward to working with them as he did with Director Fordyce. He commented that he has worked for the agency for 32 years and in 7 other states and complimented the Commission on their partnership efforts and for the amount of conservation they are getting on the land. Mr. Flores reported on the Emergency Watershed Protection Program with the flooding that occurred four or five years ago. The last project was completed in February with approximately \$31 million being paid out for cleanout of several hundred miles of drainage ditches.

Mr. Flores gave updates on the new Farm Bill. The administration looked at efficiencies and cut conservation title programs from 23 to 13. Three easement programs for wetlands, grasslands and farm and ranchland protection have been

consolidated into one program, the Agricultural Conservation Easement Program. The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) is robust and will initially have \$1.3 billion nationwide, and by the end of the Farm Bill it will be at \$1.75 billion. One new program is the Regional Conservation Partnership Program that will allow Missouri the opportunity to participate and apply for funding in partnership efforts similar to the Mississippi River Basin Healthy Watersheds Initiative (MRBI). Mr. Flores attended an Ag Round Table a week ago hosted by Farm Bureau for USDA agency heads. The meeting had great dialogue directly with agricultural producers. He also attended the NACD meeting in Anaheim in February and appreciated Colleen's attendance and participation on a panel discussion, and the opportunity to show other states what we are doing and to learn what they are doing. Mr. Flores answered Commission questions on ways to compete for federal funds for Missouri and said that most of these funds begin with a proposal from the local level and will require leveraging of funds.

The next State Technical Committee Meeting is June 17, 2014 in Columbia.

5. Missouri Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts

Kenny Lovelace congratulated Chairman Gary Vandiver and Vice Chairman H. Ralph Gaw on their new positions with the Soil and Water Districts Commission and also thanked the other Commissioners for the work they do.

Mr. Lovelace reported on the Missouri River Recovery Implementation Committee (MRRIC) group made up of eight states. Bruce Biermann who is MASWCD Area 1 Director is an alternate to Jack Majeres to represent conservation districts. They work with the Army Corps of Engineers and the committee has been around for quite some time and most people know it as MRRIC.

Mr. Lovelace also reported that at the Training Conference last December, Tim Palmer from Iowa who is the Executive Board Member for the North Central Region for National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) spoke at a few sessions. Susan Schultz is now full time with NACD and is working with education. Kirk Hanlin, the Associated Chief of Natural Resources Conservation Service, was present at the Training Conference and held an invitation only White House Roundtable where Commissioner Bradley provided valuable input regarding cotton and the ability to produce a finished product in Missouri.

Mr. Lovelace stated that NACD met in Anaheim, California in early February and Missouri was well represented with eight representatives. Missouri received an award the last three years for education because of the workshops and training provided at Tan-Tar-A. He thanked all the partners, employees and supervisors for all the work they do and recognized that this is due to their passion for saving soil which can be seen driving around the state.

Commissioner Bradley commented that he attended a meeting sponsored by Farm Bureau in the Bootheel which focused on cotton and rice production. Speakers discussed the cotton industry and said that three thread mills are to be built in America. The country is finally getting back to producing thread which may bring associated industries back to America which makes us more self-sustaining.

I. PUBLIC COMMENTS

1. Missouri Soil and Water Conservation Districts Employee Association Sharing the Vision Presentation

Sandy Stratman congratulated Gary Vandiver and H. Ralph Gaw on being elected to the chair and vice chair positions. Ms. Stratman also presented the "Sharing the Vision Presentation" to the Commission which included pictures of activities going on in the districts. She was overwhelmed with the response from the districts and had to divide it into two presentations.

F. REQUEST/REVIEW (CONTINUED)

3. Jasper SWCD – Dawson, DSP-02 Permanent Vegetative Cover Enhancement Maintenance Violation

Josh Poynor presented the Jasper SWCD – Dawson, DSP-02 Permanent Vegetative Cover Enhancement maintenance violation. The Jasper SWCD requested assistance in collecting repayment of cost-share funds from Richard Dawson for a maintenance violation on two contracts in the prorated amount of \$3,427.50.

Mr. Richard Dawson has maintenance violations on contracts GM 058-11-058 and GM 058-11-059. Both contracts are for DSP-02 Permanent Vegetative Cover Enhancement practices. The fields have been removed from permanent pasture and placed into crop production. Mr. Dawson has failed to repay the prorated amount or reestablish the practice.

The DSP-02 practice is designed to improve pastureland through the demonstration of interseeding of legumes through no-till. Practice requirements are: permanent vegetative cover, adequate perimeter fence, a minimum of four paddocks, a water source for livestock and meeting the 528 Prescribed Grazing standards and specifications. The DSP-02 has a maintenance life span of five years.

Both contracts were approved by the board on March 5, 2011. Payment was issued to landowner on December 8, 2011 in the amount of \$4,113.28. The current contract maintenance requirements end December 2016 and the contract included 44.5 acres.

DRAFT MINUTES--MISSOURI SOIL & WATER DISTRICTS COMMISSION

March 21, 2014

Page 16

In June 2012, the district coordinator, along with the Jasper SWCD Technician II found no perimeter fence and wheat only in the field during a practice review. Mr. Poynor outlined the communication that had taken place with the landowner and the request for a prorated repayment of \$3,427.50 based on Soil and Water Districts Commission policy.

A certified letter was received by Mr. Dawson on February 18, 2014 from Soil and Water Conservation Program office that requested repayment and explained the process of appeal to Soil and Water Districts Commission. An appeal letter from Mr. Dawson was received on March 17, 2014 requesting the repayment to be waived.

After discussion, H. Ralph Gaw made a motion to support the local board and demand repayment within 30 days. If not received within that time, refer the maintenance violation of Mr. Richard Dawson to the Missouri Attorney General's Office for collection of cost-share funds in the amount of \$3,427.50. Thomas Bradley seconded the motion. A poll vote was taken. Charles Ausfahl, Thomas Bradley, H. Ralph Gaw and Gary Vandiver, voted in favor of the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

I. PUBLIC COMMENTS (CONTINUED)

Beverly Dometrorch congratulated the new Soil and Water Districts Commission chair and vice chair. Ms. Dometrorch has concerns about the training of district technicians. She commended Bill Wilson for assisting the MASWCD in receiving their education award from NACD. Mr. JR Flores said that NRCS is working closely with the Soil and Water Conservation Program for training district employees and moving forward with as much training as possible.

Chair Vandiver in closing mentioned that Director Pauley spoke today about our state resources and that what hit home with him was that he had two gentlemen from South Korea at their grain facility for six weeks. Every day they admired the sun and told Commissioner Vandiver that they rarely saw the sun shine in Korea due to the pollution that came from China. He said that although we have complaints about laws and regulations and how it pertains to our quality of life that we have a very good thing going in this country. He thanked the other Commissioners for their support in his becoming their chairman and thanked staff and partners. He said regardless of disagreements that our end goal is the same and we always do the best for agriculture.

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

The next suggested Soil and Water Districts Commission meeting is May 21, 2014 in Jefferson City.

DRAFT MINUTES--MISSOURI SOIL & WATER DISTRICTS COMMISSION

March 21, 2014

Page 17

K. ADJOURNMENT

H. Ralph Gaw made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 12:38pm. Thomas Bradley seconded the motion. When asked by the chair. Charles Ausfahl, Thomas Bradley, H. Ralph Gaw and Gary Vandiver voted in favor of the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Wilson, Deputy Director
Soil and Water Conservation Program

Approved by:

Gary Vandiver, Chairman
Missouri Soil and Water Districts Commission

/clm

DRAFT

Master Fund Status Summary

District	Allocated	Obligated	%Obligated	# Contracts	Contract Payment	% Contract Payment	# Contract Payments	Pending
FY: 2014 Fund Code:R	Project:AWM - ANIMAL WASTE MANAGEMENT							
	\$920,000.00	\$529,333.28	57.54%	22	\$271,492.34	29.51%	11	\$0.00
FY: 2014 Fund Code:R	Project:CC - COVER CROP							
	\$55,000.00	\$50,197.50	91.27%	23	\$0.00	0.00%	0	\$0.00
FY: 2014 Fund Code:R	Project:GM - GRAZING MANAGEMENT							
	\$4,249,250.00	\$2,990,798.92	70.38%	939	\$1,585,278.38	37.31%	510	\$75,793.05
FY: 2014 Fund Code:R	Project:IM - IRRIGATION MANAGEMENT							
	\$1,222,122.00	\$885,092.80	72.42%	202	\$496,435.41	40.62%	121	-\$21,736.57
FY: 2014 Fund Code:R	Project:NP - NUTRIENT & PEST MANAGEMENT							
	\$905,371.00	\$390,457.11	43.13%	414	\$378,187.91	41.77%	406	-\$5,935.20
FY: 2014 Fund Code:R	Project:PM - PEST MANAGEMENT							
	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.00%	0	\$0.00	0.00%	0	\$0.00
FY: 2014 Fund Code:R	Project:SA - SENSITIVE AREAS							
	\$2,317,788.00	\$1,168,512.35	50.41%	390	\$637,287.56	27.50%	235	\$57,614.80
FY: 2014 Fund Code:R	Project:SGE - SHEET AND RILL / GULLY EROSION							
	\$19,865,664.80	\$17,562,440.67	88.41%	3195	\$11,765,954.62	59.23%	2110	\$316,252.39
FY: 2014 Fund Code:R	Project:WE - WOODLAND EROSION							
	\$1,492,363.00	\$837,243.72	56.10%	265	\$441,128.85	29.56%	135	-\$20,584.91
Subtotal for R								
	\$31,027,558.80	\$24,414,076.35	78.69%	5450	\$15,575,765.07	50.20%	3528	\$401,403.56
FY: 2014 Fund Code:SN	Project:BDSP-31 - BUFFER SINKHOLE IMP							
	\$15,600.00	\$4,800.00	30.77%	16	\$4,200.00	26.92%	14	\$0.00
FY: 2014 Fund Code:SN	Project:SN083 - LOWER COLE CAMP							

Master Fund Status Summary

District	Allocated	Obligated	%Obligated	# Contracts	Contract Payment	% Contract Payment	# Contract Payments	Pending
FY: 2014	\$35,000.00	\$7,222.70	20.64%	8	\$6,822.70	19.49%	7	\$0.00
Fund Code:SN	Project:SN085 - GRAYS CREEK							
	\$44,770.00	\$44,770.00	100.00%	9	\$26,889.15	60.06%	4	\$0.00
FY: 2014	\$49,000.00	\$48,734.83	99.46%	6	\$45,325.92	92.50%	5	\$0.00
Fund Code:SN	Project:SN086 - MIDDLE FORK SALT RIVER							
FY: 2014	\$33,500.00	\$23,390.09	69.82%	10	\$7,250.57	21.64%	4	\$15,750.01
Fund Code:SN	Project:SN087 - LOWER LOUTRE							
FY: 2014	\$36,225.00	\$36,225.00	100.00%	11	\$19,291.81	53.26%	6	\$0.00
Fund Code:SN	Project:SN088 - LITTLE MARIES CREEK							
FY: 2014	\$68,700.00	\$23,962.78	34.88%	18	\$1,559.51	2.27%	2	\$8,500.08
Fund Code:SN	Project:SN089 - PEMISCOT CLAY ROOT							
FY: 2014	\$57,000.00	\$44,693.95	78.41%	8	\$44,693.95	78.41%	8	\$0.00
Fund Code:SN	Project:SN090 - SALT FORK CREEK							
FY: 2014	\$54,000.00	\$35,399.30	65.55%	6	\$17,284.35	32.01%	3	\$0.00
Fund Code:SN	Project:SN091 - ST. JOHN'S BAYOU							
FY: 2014	\$74,000.00	\$44,506.63	60.14%	9	\$20,245.02	27.36%	5	\$0.00
Fund Code:SN	Project:SN093 - HURRICANE CREEK AND LITTLE WHITEWATER							
FY: 2014	\$21,700.00	\$14,386.26	66.30%	7	\$7,130.43	32.86%	4	-\$3,300.73
Fund Code:SN	Project:SN094 - BYRD CREEK							
FY: 2014	\$75,000.00	\$22,110.97	29.48%	17	\$19,301.75	25.74%	15	\$0.00
Fund Code:SN	Project:SN095 - UPPER BIG CREEK							
FY: 2014								
Fund Code:SN	Project:SN096 - CROWLEY'S RIDGE							

Master Fund Status Summary

District	Allocated	Obligated	%Obligated	# Contracts	Contract Payment	% Contract Payment	# Contract Payments	Pending
FY: 2014	\$44,655.00	\$43,741.62	97.95%	19	\$22,160.18	49.63%	9	\$0.00
Project:SN097 - PEARSON CREEK								
FY: 2014	\$62,000.00	\$9,476.92	15.29%	7	\$9,476.92	15.29%	7	\$0.00
Project:SN098 - WARM FORK OF SPRING RIVER								
FY: 2014	\$51,450.00	\$4,454.00	8.66%	17	\$4,454.00	8.66%	17	\$0.00
Project:SN099 - HEATHS CREEK								
FY: 2014	\$66,505.00	\$65,090.05	97.87%	12	\$31,767.99	47.77%	8	\$0.00
Project:SN100 - ELK FORK SALT RIVER & COON CREEK								
FY: 2014	\$37,300.00	\$0.00	0.00%	0	\$0.00	0.00%	0	\$0.00
Project:SN101 - CROOKED RIVER								
FY: 2014	\$70,000.00	\$70,000.00	100.00%	5	\$54,259.88	77.51%	4	\$0.00
Project:SN102 - SOUTH WYACONDA								
FY: 2014	\$55,432.00	\$55,267.57	99.70%	6	\$45,267.57	81.66%	5	\$0.00
Project:SN103 - LOWER HEADWATERS OF JAMES RIVER								
FY: 2014	\$73,740.00	\$24,993.38	33.89%	11	\$622.00	0.84%	1	-\$850.00
Project:SN104 - CLARK / WOLF CREEK								
FY: 2014	\$64,980.00	\$57,591.67	88.63%	4	\$57,591.67	88.63%	4	\$0.00
Subtotal for SN								
	\$1,090,557.00	\$680,817.72	62.43%	206	\$445,595.37	40.86%	132	\$20,099.36

Master Fund Status Summary

Master Fund Status Summary (2014)

Subtotal for R	\$31,027,558.80	\$24,414,076.35	78.69%	5450	\$15,575,765.07	50.20%	3528	\$401,403.56
Subtotal for SN	\$1,090,557.00	\$680,817.72	62.43%	206	\$445,595.37	40.86%	132	\$20,099.36
Report Totals	\$32,118,115.80	\$25,094,894.07	78.13%	5656	\$16,021,360.44	49.88%	3660	\$421,502.92

Meredith, Colleen

D-4

Sent: Friday, April 11, 2014 12:03 PM
To: DNR:Soil and Water Conservation Districts staff
Cc: DNR.SWC Staff
Subject: Computer-assisted nutrient management planning course - ADDITIONAL COURSE DATE
Attachments: Registration Form - CA Nutrient Management.pdf

An additional course has been added to the available dates of the Computer Assisted Nutrient Management Planning Course as explained below. The additional course will be provided at Portageville, MO on May 9, 2014. Please complete the attached registration as explained below.

For SWCD employees interested in attending a session of the *Computer-Assisted Nutrient Management Planning Course* sponsored by University of Missouri and Missouri NRCS.

Please note: this course will not replace the nutrient management training and testing that will soon be provided to district employees for certify nutrient management plans. However, this course is strongly recommended for those that are hoping to receive nutrient management certification in the future. The registration expense for this course will be paid by the Soil and Water Conservation Program office for soil and water district employees that register with the board's approval. A registration form is attached which requires board signature for attendance by any district employee. See the below information from John Lory.

Colette Weckenborg
Fiscal and Administrative Manager
Soil & Water Conservation Program
Missouri Department of Natural Resources
(573)751-1173

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The primary goals of this course include:

- Train people on the use of WebSNMP for delineating fields and setback features and making farm maps;
- A refresher on using Purdue's Manure Management Planner for developing a nutrient management plan;
- Instructions on using the Missouri web-based Document Generators to create your nutrient management plan.

Some details about the course:

1. This course is a one-day session with instruction starting at 9:00 AM and finishing by 3:30 PM.
2. We will have laptop computers available for all participants. You can bring your own laptop if you prefer.
3. Lunch will be provided.
4. See the attached agenda for more details about the course curriculum.

To register for the course please do the following:

1. Complete the attached registration form.
2. Email the completed registration form to Lori Bax (lori.bax@dnr.mo.gov).

Thank you for your interest.

John A. Lory

Associate Professor of Extension
Division of Plant Sciences

108 Waters Hall

University of Missouri

Columbia, MO 65211

phone: 573-884-7815

Cell: 573-823-9702

fax: 573-882-1467

email: lorvi@missouri.edu

Web page: <http://nmplanner.missouri.edu>

Computer-Assisted Nutrient Management Course

REGISTRATION APPROVAL FORM

<i>Employee Name</i>	
<i>Position Title</i>	
<i>SWCD</i>	
<i>E-mail</i>	
<i>Telephone</i>	
<i>Please list any dietary restrictions for lunch</i>	

Please select the training you want to attend. If there is a second date/location that will work, indicate first and second choices (space is limited to 10 at each location).

Selection	Location	Facility	Date
	Columbia	Bradford Extension Center	April 8, 2014
	Linneus	Forage Systems Research Center	April 15, 2014
	Columbia	Bradford Extension Center	April 25, 2014
	Mt. Vernon	Southwest Research Center	April 29, 2014
	Mt. Vernon	Southwest Research Center	April 30, 2014
	Novelty	Greenley Experiment Station	May 6, 2014
	Portageville	Delta Research Center	May 8, 2014
	Columbia	Bradford Extension Center	May 22, 2014
	Linneus	Forage Systems Research Center	May 29, 2014

Please check on the following website for additional sessions and for sessions that are already full:
<http://www.nmplanner.missouri.edu/training/#computer>

<i>Name of Supervisor</i>	
<i>SWCD</i>	
<i>Board Approval Signature</i>	

Submit the completed form to Lori Bax by e-mail (lori.bax@dnr.mo.gov).

Subject: Nutrient Management Training Sessions
Attachments: Nutrient Management Enrollment Form.pdf

The Soil and Water Conservation Program is pleased to announce that training for Nutrient Management, in preparation for Nutrient Management certification will be offered at regional locations. This training is through Lincoln University and will be required for those who plan to test to become certified in Nutrient Management. Lincoln University has subcontracted with Ron Miller who many of you may know – he was the State Conservation Agronomist with the Natural Resources Conservation Service State Office prior to his retirement. The Nutrient Management certification will allow district staff to sign off on nutrient management plans and is equivalent to the certification held by NRCS staff. The training includes a computer module for the Manure Management Program (MMP) from Purdue University on developing a plan for commercial fertilizers and then for manure applications.

The training is a precursor to the testing phase to become a certified Nutrient Management planner. The training and testing are only available to district staff that are Technician IIs. A study guide will be provided to those who participate in the training as preparation for further Nutrient Management certification.

Two dates have been scheduled at this time. This is a two-day training and will be held from 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. each day. If hotel accommodations are required, the program office will be making these arrangements, as well as funding the costs associated.

May 13-14, 2014
Lincoln University Jefferson City, MO

May 20-21, 2014
Missouri State University, Springfield, MO

District Technician IIs that are interested in attending must complete the attached form and submit electronically to Lori Bax (lori.bax@dnr.mo.gov). Space is limited and spots will only be reserved upon receiving the completed enrollment form. Confirmation will be issued via e-mail upon receipt of the completed form with additional information (parking passes, maps to the location, etc.).

Please note: district staff may have participated recently in Nutrient Management training provided by the University of Missouri Extension (Dr. John Lory). These are different training classes, although both classes do complement each other. Thank you.

Celebrating 40 years of taking care of Missouri's natural resources. To learn more about the Missouri Department of Natural Resources visit dnr.mo.gov.

Nutrient Management Certification Training

ENROLLMENT FORM

Employee Name	
SWCD	
Position Title	
E-mail	
Telephone	

Please select the training you would like to attend (space is limited at each location):

Selection	Location	Facility	Date
	Jefferson City, MO	Lincoln University	May 13-14, 2014
	Springfield, MO	Missouri State University	May 20-21, 2014

- Hotel Accommodations Needed Night Before
 Hotel Accommodations Needed Night Between

Name of Supervisor	
Board Signature	
SWCD	

Submit the completed form to Lori Bax by e-mail (lori.bax@dnr.mo.gov).

Moody, Christa

Sent: Monday, May 05, 2014 10:07 AM
To: Moody, Christa
Subject: FW: Grassland Training

The Soil and Water Conservation Program, through Lincoln University, will offer training in grassland planning and application for SWCD employees (this is not limited to Technician II level staff). Several regional sessions are planned to minimize travel time and expense. The training will be presented by retired NRCS State Grassland Conservationists Mark Kennedy and John Turner.

The training will include classroom instruction in Plant Growth and Forage Quality, Fertility, Animal Nutrition, Economics, Evaluating Farm Resources, Grazing System Layout and Design, Fencing and Water Systems. Hands-on training will be provided on Livestock-Forage Balance (GRAZE4) and pipeline design (MOPipeline). A field exercise will be held to inventory a farm and prepare a grazing system plan.

The first grassland planning and application training session is May 28th and 29th at Lincoln University's Carver Farm, 3804 Bald Hill Rd, Jefferson City. It will begin at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, May 28 and adjourn at 5:00 p.m. Hours for the second day, Thursday, will be 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

This training is not designed as a preparatory exercise to the Grazing Management Certification exam, although much of the training will benefit Tech IIs to prepare for the Grazing Management Certification. Many technicians who are already certified at the Tech II level will benefit.

Please complete the attached form and e-mail to lori.bax@dnr.mo.gov. Space is limited, spots will only be reserved upon receiving the completed enrollment form. Confirmation will be issued via e-mail upon receipt of the completed form.

If you have any questions please let your district coordinator know.

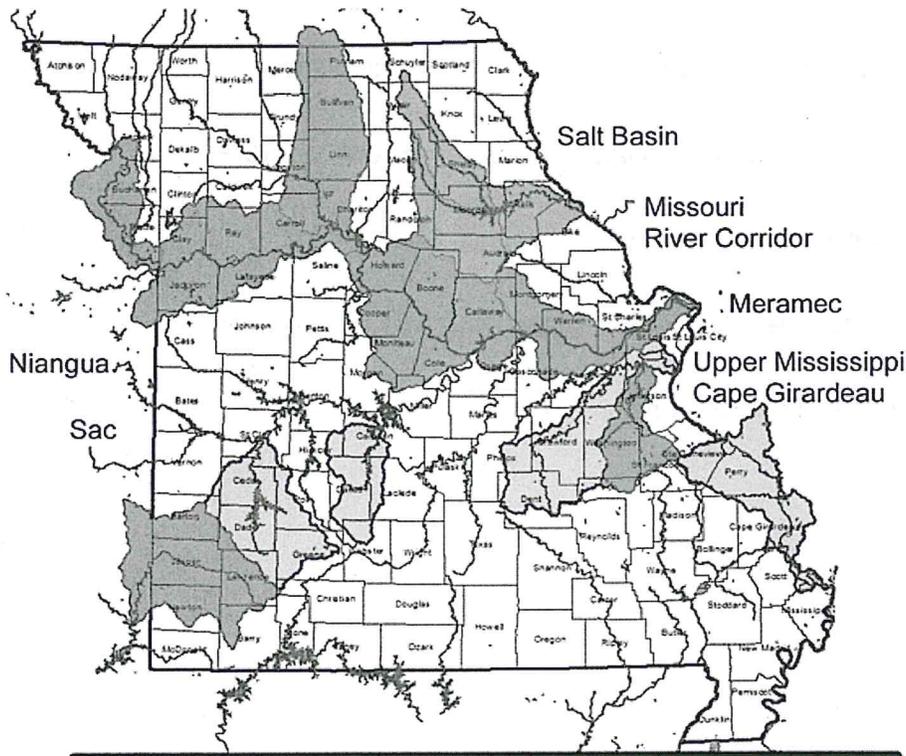
<http://dnr.mo.gov/omwi.htm>

2014 Focus Watersheds

During the past year and half, the Department of Natural Resources has been working through the pilot phase of its Our Missouri Waters. We have joined with many of you as our partners to begin or continue conversations about our efforts within the local communities of the Spring River, Lower Grand and Big River watersheds. With your help, we have made great strides in bringing into focus the shared vision for water resources within these watersheds.

The three pilot watersheds –Big, Lower Grand and Spring – will remain in focus during 2014. In addition, the department is expanding its focus to include the Salt River Basin, Meramec Basin and the Missouri River corridor as well as the Sac, Niangua and Upper Mississippi – Cape Girardeau individual watersheds. Following is a full listing of each watershed with its HUC-8 identifying number:

Our Missouri Waters



umber:

Missouri River Corridor watersheds

Independence – Sugar; 10240011; Lower Missouri – Crooked; 10300101; Lower Missouri – Moreau; 10300102; Lower Missouri; 10300200

Salt Basin

North Fork Salt; 07110005; South Fork Salt; 07110006; Salt; 07110007

Meramec Basin

Meramec; 07140102; Big; 07140104

Other Watersheds

Spring; 11070207; Lower Grand; 10280103; Sac; 10290106; Niangua; 10290110; Upper Mississippi – Cape Girardeau; 07140105;

Contact Your Watershed Coordinator

Northeast Region Watershed Coordinator - Mary Culler, 660-385-8000

Kansas City Region Watershed Coordinator - Andrea Smith, 660-562-1876

St. Louis Region Watershed Coordinator - Tracy Haag, 314-416-2960

Southeast Region Watershed Coordinator - Travis Abernathy, 573-840-9750

Southwest Region Watershed Coordinator - Gwenda Bassett, 471-891-4300

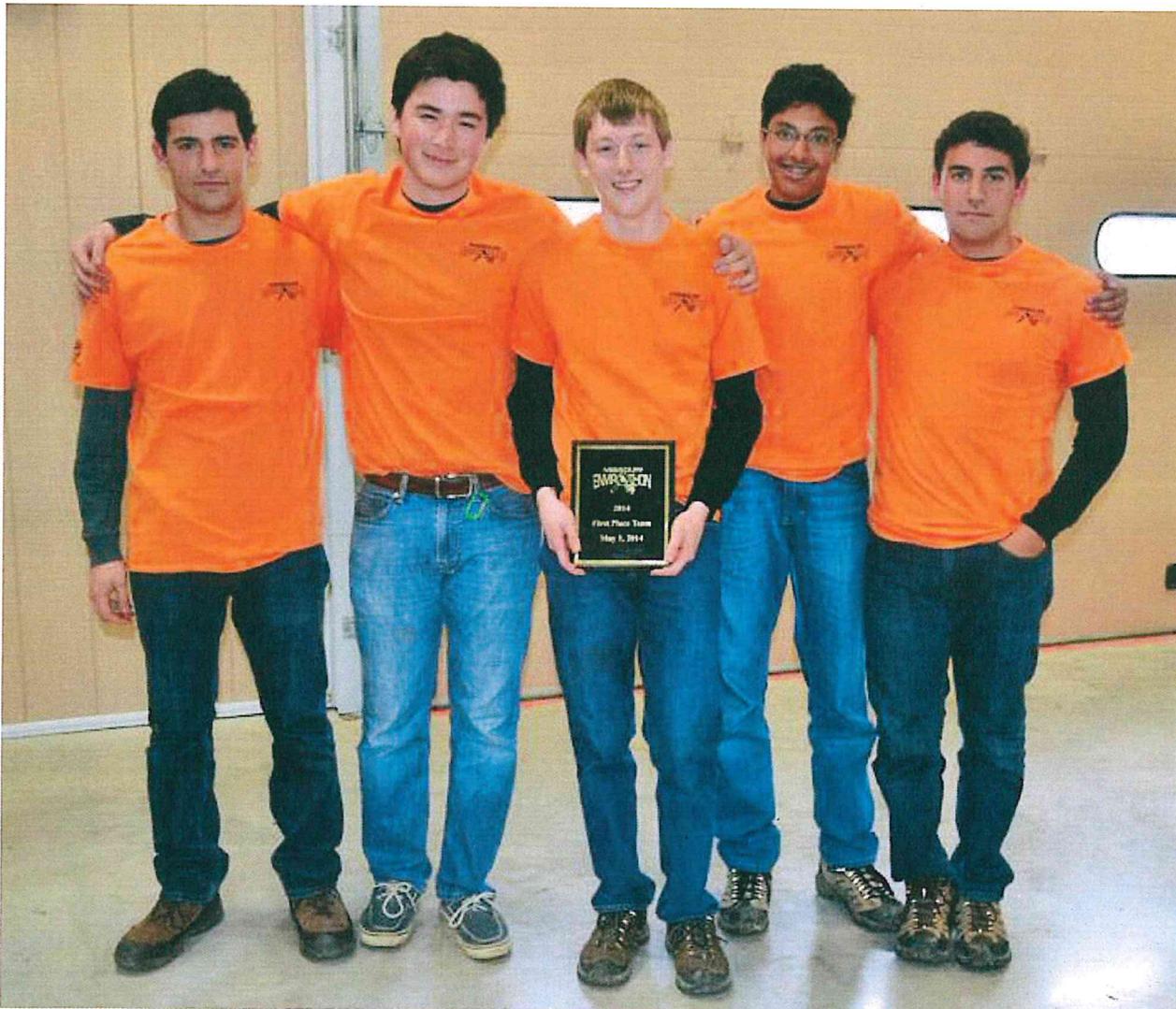
D-9**Internal Information Sharing for Soil and Water Conservation Districts****Pembroke Hill High School Wins 2014 Missouri Envirothon**

Pembroke Hill High School took the top score in the 2014 Missouri Envirothon. The 18-team competition took place on May 1 at the Audrain County 4-H Center in Mexico, Missouri.

Students competed at five different outdoor testing stations - aquatic ecology, forestry, soils and land use, wildlife and the 2014 current conservation issue. Test stations required the teams to complete a variety of both hands-on and written natural resource questions. Each team also was scored on an oral presentation to a panel of judges.

To learn more about the Missouri Envirothon, including previous team rankings and regulations, visit the [Missouri's Envirothon website](#) or contact the Soil and Water Conservation Program at 573-751-4932. Local soil and water conservation districts, in conjunction with cooperating agencies and educators, organize and run local Envirothon competitions.

In 1998, Missouri held its first state Envirothon. The Envirothon was started in 1979 by three Pennsylvania soil and water conservation districts. By 1998, the idea had caught on and the first national contest was held. In 2012, the program attracted participation from 54 states and Canada.



Pulaski County Soil & Water Conservation District
301 Historic 66 East Suite 201 Waynesville, Mo. 65583
(573) 774-4767

August 26, 2013

Soil & Water Districts Commission
PO Box 176
Jefferson City, Mo. 65102

Dear Sirs,

August 1st through August 7th Pulaski County received 19.8 inches of rain. Governor Jay Nixon declared Pulaski County a disaster area.

The Big Piney, the Gasconade and the Rubidoux Rivers all run through Pulaski County. These three rivers got out of their banks and flooded valuable established river bottom hay and grazing pastures.

Employees have been gathering names and information of the damage to Pulaski County.

Damages range from gravel in pastures, fence missing, some hay and grazing pastures were under water for more than a week. Some acreage was just completely washed away.

After reviewing the flood damage, the Pulaski County Board of Supervisors would like to request FLOOD DAMAGE ASSISTANCE for the cooperators of Pulaski County.

The Board would like to be able to assist our cooperators with emergency efforts to replace lost fencing, gravel removal from pastures and we would like to be able to help our producers reseed these river bottom hay and grazing pastures.

We understand that FSA is reviewing Pulaski County as well. We realize that the federal government may not provide any assistance to Pulaski County farmers due to lack of funds. We as a collective board would like the Commission to intervene in helping the farmers of Pulaski County by offering some Emergency Flood damage assistance to help our agriculture remain in production.

Thank You,

Sarah Traub
Secretary, Univ. Extension



Jeremiah W. (Jay) Nixon, Governor • Sara Parker Pauley, Director

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

www.dnr.mo.gov

April 3, 2014

Board of Supervisors
Pulaski Soil and Water
Conservation District
301 Historic 66, Ste. 201
Waynesville, MO 65583

Dear Supervisors,

The Soil and Water Districts Commission reviewed the district's request for a variance to the erosion requirement qualification for the DSL-1 Permanent Vegetative Cover Establishment practice at their March 21, 2014 meeting. The district made the request to assist landowners that had grass stands impacted by flooding along the Gasconade River in August 2013.

After reviewing the request and discussing the issue with your district technician, the commission tabled the issue until the May commission meeting. The commission tabled the issue so the district could complete an assessment of the impacted fields once the plants start growing. The assessment will be used by the Commission to determine the scope of the variance request. The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for May 21, 2014 in Jefferson City.

If you have any questions, please contact your coordinator Patty Chapman at the Soil and Water Conservation Program, PO Box 176, Jefferson City, MO 65102-0176 or by phone at 573-522-3323. Thank you.

Sincerely,

SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION PROGRAM

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jim Boschert".

Jim Boschert
Environmental Specialist IV

JB:pcm

Celebrating 40 years of taking care of Missouri's natural resources. To learn more about the Missouri Department of Natural Resources visit dnr.mo.gov.

CRITERIA

GENERAL:

This Job Sheet was designed for use by persons with different levels of technical ability. It can be used quickly and without tools, to visually estimate the condition and trend on grassland. For example, when the form asks for a "%", the user should make their best visual estimate. It reminds the user to evaluate 10 items important to grassland condition/trend. With experience, condition/trend surveys will be quite consistent among users. Use this form to inventory up to 10 different fields or sites or monitor changes over time in one or more fields.

SPECIES COMPOSITION:

List the percent of various plant species in relation to the total plant volume. This should equal 100% and not to be confused with plant density, which includes bare ground, litter, etc.

VALUE:

Where needed, use weighted values and interpolate. For example, if you can't decide between a value of 2 or 3 use a value of 2.5.

CATEGORY:

- 1) Plant Population – Visually estimate the % composition by weight of each plant grouping and assign a weighted value. Desirable, intermediate, and undesirable will vary with site, kind of grazing animal and intended use.
- 2) Plant Diversity – Is the number of different kinds of desirable and intermediate plants that are well represented (greater than 5% by weight) on the site. Diversity promotes stability.
- 3) Plant Density – Ignore undesirables and visually estimate canopy of living desirable and intermediate species that would be present at the minimum recommended grazing heights. This is the % of total ground cover that is made up of desirable and intermediate species.
- 4) Plant Vigor – Are the desirable and intermediate species healthy and growing at their potential? Some things to look for are: color, leaf area index, reproduction, presence of weeds, rate of initial growth and regrowth, etc.
- 5) Legumes in Stand – Visually estimate the % composition by weight, of the legumes present in the stand, for the area being evaluated. If you are unaccustomed to estimating % composition by weight, a good rule of thumb for legumes is to estimate % canopy that the legumes make up and divide by 2.
- 6) Severity of Use – Close and frequent use causes loss of vigor, reduces desirable species, increases erosion and runoff. Light use allows excessive residue buildup, blocks sunlight, reduces palatability, and production. If the site is used Heavy or Light, add an H or L beside the score given.
- 7) Uniformity of Use – Uniform grazing results in all plants grazed to a moderate, uniform height throughout the field. Spotty grazing appears uneven, with some plants or parts of the field grazed heavily and others lightly used.
- 8) Soil Resources – Visually observe and evaluate the soil resource. Note all erosion, soil productivity and concentrated livestock areas and collectively determine their condition for the area being surveyed.
- 9) Undesirable Plant Canopy – Canopy of weedy and/or woody species that are present in amounts sufficient to hinder production of desirable species. Changes in management or more extreme remedial action is needed to restore a desired plant community.
- 10) Plant Residue – Appropriate residue (about 1/4") provides adequate ground cover to retard runoff, improve water intake, return nutrients to the soil surface and provide a favorable microclimate for biological activity. If the site has Heavy or Light residue, add an H or L beside the score given.



**Title 10—DEPARTMENT OF
NATURAL RESOURCES**
Division 70—Soil and Water Districts
Commission
Chapter 1—Organization

10 CSR 70-1.010 Organization

PURPOSE: The purpose of this rule is to comply with the requirements of section 536.023, RSMo 1986 which requires each agency to adopt as a rule a description of its operation and the methods where the public may obtain information or make submissions or requests.

(1) The Soil and Water Districts Commission is a state agency created by section 278.080, RSMo Supp. 2007 for the administration of the soil and water conservation districts provided for in sections 278.060-278.300, RSMo. The commission is comprised of six (6) farmer members and four (4) non-voting ex officio members and operates with an assigned staff as an agency within the Department of Natural Resources. Its primary responsibility is the determination of policies and procedures to be used by soil and water conservation districts. In addition, the Soil and Water Districts Commission has the authority and responsibility to—

(A) Encourage the formation of soil and water conservation districts;

(B) Formulate and fix rules and procedures for the establishment or disestablishment of soil and water conservation districts and sub-districts and the selection of soil and water conservation districts' supervisors;

(C) Receive petitions, hold hearings and conduct referenda on the establishment of soil and water conservation districts;

(D) Advise soil and water conservation districts in developing programs for saving soil and water;

(E) Obtain technical, financial or material assistance for soil and water conservation districts; and

(F) Provide any assistance it may judge as useful to any soil and water conservation district in the saving of soil and water.

(G) Unless prohibited by any federal or state law, the commission may grant individual variances to Soil and Water Districts Commission rules upon presentation of adequate proof, that compliance with sections 278.070 to 278.300, or any rule or regulation, standard, requirement, limitation or order of the commission will have an arbitrary and unreasonable impact on landowners participating in soil and water conservation eligible practices. In determining under what conditions and to what extent a variance may

be granted, the commission shall exercise a wide discretion in weighing the equities involved as well as the advantages and disadvantages in approving or disapproving a request for a variance.

1. The variance request shall:

A. Be in writing;

B. Filed with the program director of the Soil and Water Conservation Program; and

C. Set out reasons the applicant believes a variance should be granted.

2. The burden shall be placed on the applicant of a variance to show the inequities if the variance is not granted.

3. The program director shall promptly investigate the application and make a recommendation to the commission after the application is received as to whether the variance should be granted or denied.

(2) Requests for services or information may be directed to locally organized soil and water conservation districts or to the commission office, PO Box 1368, Jefferson City, MO 65102.

AUTHORITY: section 278.070.4, RSMo 2000 and sections 278.080.1 and 278.080.5(8), RSMo Supp. 2007. Original rule filed Dec. 31, 1975, effective Jan. 10, 1976. Amended: Filed Jan. 2, 2002, effective Aug. 30, 2002. Amended: Filed Sept. 26, 2007, effective May 30, 2008.*

**Original authority: 278.070, RSMo 1943, amended 1961, 1969, 1980 and 278.080, RSMo 1943, amended 1961, 1980, 1986, 1995, 2000, 2001.*

Op. Atty. Gen. No. 465, Norbury, 12-29-66. The appointment of a member of the State Soil and Water Districts Commission, or a member of the board of supervisors of a soil and water conservation subdistrict, or a member of the trustees to the governing body of a subdistrict as the contracting officer for a soil and water conservation subdistrict is against public policy and void.

Variance Authority



**Title 10—DEPARTMENT OF
NATURAL RESOURCES**
Division 70—Soil and Water Districts
Commission
Chapter 5—State Funded Cost-Share
Program

10 CSR 70-5.010 Apportionment of Funds

PURPOSE: This rule establishes commission guidelines for allocation of funds available for the Missouri State Soil and Water Conservation Cost-Share Program.

(1) General Availability of Funds. State cost-share funds shall be available only to landowners of land located in soil and water conservation districts which have agreed to locally administer the program and have executed a Memorandum of Understanding with the commission setting forth the terms of assistance. To be eligible, a landowner must have a conservation plan as approved by the district.

(2) Annual Apportionment of Funds. All funds apportioned to the cost-share program for any fiscal year shall be apportioned by the commission to the participating districts by considering the character of the districts' needs according to criteria developed by the commission.

(A) Fiscal Year Limitations. Funds allocated to districts but unclaimed at the end of each fiscal year shall be returned to the commission.

(B) Release of Funds for Reapportionment. A district, at any time, may provide notice to the commission that it has not obligated all funds made available under section (2), that it does not expect to do so by the end of the fiscal year and that it releases any portion of those funds for reapportionment by the commission.

(C) Termination of the Memorandum of Understanding. In the event that the Memorandum of Understanding required by section (1) is terminated by any district or by the commission, the district shall release all funds unobligated as of the effective date of termination and shall further release, as they become available, obligated funds for which no claim for payment is made in a timely manner.

(D) Use of Released Funds. Funds released by any district in accordance with subsections (2)(A)–(C) shall be returned to the Cost-Share Program to be reallocated by the commission considering the relative need basis or reserved by the commission for special allotment under subsection (2)(E).

(E) Special Allotments. The commission may withhold funds from the general apportionment under section (2) and may reserve funds released by the districts under subsections (2)(A)–(C) for the purpose of cost-sharing special projects which the commission considers necessary and of high priority for the abatement of soil erosion and the controlling of sediment. The funds thus withheld for the general apportionment or returned to the commission shall be allotted to a district(s) specified by the commission for the cost-sharing of certain critical-needs projects. The special critical-needs projects shall be planned and designed by the commission incorporating the cooperative assistance of the local district(s) involved and with the technical assistance available to the district(s).

AUTHORITY: sections 278.070 and 278.110, RSMo 2000 and section 278.080, RSMo Supp. 2007. Original rule filed Aug. 12, 1980, effective Jan. 1, 1981. Emergency amendment filed July 29, 2009, effective Aug. 8, 2009, expired Feb. 25, 2010. Amended: Filed Sept. 26, 2007, effective May 30, 2008.*

**Original authority: 278.070, RSMo 1943, amended 1961, 1969, 1980; 278.080, RSMo 1943, amended 1961, 1980, 1986, 1995, 2000, 2001; and 278.110, RSMo 1943, amended 1961, 1980.*

10 CSR 70-5.020 Application and Eligibility for Funds

PURPOSE: This rule establishes criteria and methods of application for persons desiring funds from the Missouri Soil and Water Conservation Cost-Share Program.

(1) Establishing Practice Eligibility. The commission shall establish a list of eligible practices for which cost-share funds should be utilized and annually shall affirm or modify the list as it considers appropriate. The participating districts shall develop annual priority listings of preferred practices from the commission eligibility list upon which they will base their considerations for cost-sharing. Landowners shall be eligible for cost-share funds only for the types of practices designated as eligible for these purposes by the Soil and Water Districts Commission and by the participating districts. No eligible practices are available to treat flood scouring problems.

(2) Application for Assistance. To be eligible for assistance from the Cost-Share Program, a landowner must make application on forms provided by the commission. Copies of these forms shall be available at district offices.

The district's board will act upon only those applications for cost-sharing from landowners who have a conservation plan as approved by the district, except as provided in sections (7) and (8), and for eligible practices on which construction or implementation has not yet begun. In commission-approved Special Area Land Treatment (SALT) program projects, the district board of supervisors may approve SALT cost-share applications at the date of the conservation plan approval or at the approval date of the SALT project, whichever is later. However, governmental agencies, political subdivisions and public institutions are excluded from participation in the Cost-Share Program. As a further stipulation for receiving cost-sharing assistance, the land upon which the practice is to be implemented or constructed must be eroding at rates greater than tolerable soil loss limits or be experiencing active gully erosion, except that cost-sharing assistance also may be available in the following instances when excessive erosion is not necessarily occurring:

(A) For eligible practices to prevent gully erosion when needed to complete a water disposal system;

(B) For the establishment of permanent forest cover on marginal or riparian lands;

(C) For the exclusion of domestic livestock grazing from existing woodlands on marginal or riparian soils;

(D) For a no-till practice for forage conversions;

(E) For grade stabilization structures that are greater than ten (10) years old when the principal pipe has failed;

(F) For a no-till practice to improve the vegetative cover of pasture and rangeland to provide continued erosion prevention; and

(G) For a practice to demonstrate benefits of a planned grazing system.

(3) Funding Determination and Limits. It shall be the responsibility and duty of the board of supervisors to determine the actual dollar amount of cost-sharing on individual applications. State cost-share rates shall not exceed the limits established in 10 CSR 70-5.040(1). In the event that the landowner wishes to construct or implement practices over and above the size or scope determined by a qualified technician to be of minimum and necessary need for soil and water conservation, the board shall provide cost-share assistance on only that part of the practice necessary for soil and water conservation purposes.

(4) Availability of Federal Funds. Applications for cost-sharing assistance may be



Lawrence County
Soil and Water Conservation
District

10763G Highway
Mt. Vernon
Phone: 417-466-7682, Ext. 3

May 15, 2014

Soil and Water Districts Commission
Soil and Water Conservation Program
P.O. Box 176
Jefferson City, MO 65102

Dear Commissioners,

This is in regard to our ongoing issue of adding a cost-share component to hook onto a public drinking water system to cost-share practices which include digging wells and constructing ponds for livestock water.

Back in the middle of August 2013 we had a landowner install a WQ10 which included the development of a water source. This landowner had access to public drinking water on his property and was willing to tap into this source in lieu of drilling a more expensive well.

Unfortunately, the cost of tapping into such a water source was not an allowable component of the WQ10 or any other regular cost-share practice. It was, however, a component of the Emergency Drought Program in 2012.

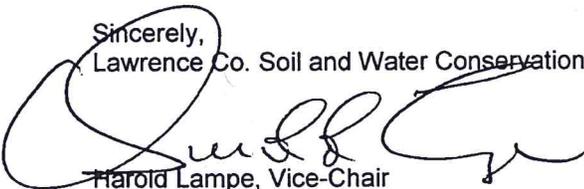
We have received a couple different "reasons" why this component hasn't been added to the approved component list.

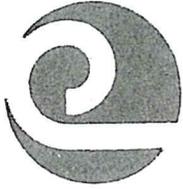
First, we were told that this component couldn't be added because NRCS has no standard and specifications for such a component. This, we are sure, is because the procedure to tap a public drinking water system would fall under the jurisdiction of the public water supplier and NRCS would have no authority to direct such activities.

Second, we were told that the Program Office staff could not determine a state average cost for such a component. On December 16, 2013 we were able to provide a list of connection costs from 230 municipalities all over the state of Missouri that operate their own water company; yet we have been unable to get any kind of response from the Soil and Water Program staff regarding this issue.

We are asking the Commission to resolve this issue if for no other reason than tapping onto a public drinking water system when it is available, and when a livestock water source is needed, would be the least cost option for providing livestock water.

Sincerely,
Lawrence Co. Soil and Water Conservation District


Harold Lampe, Vice-Chair



SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT OF HICKORY COUNTY

P. O. BOX 146—HERMITAGE, MISSOURI 65668

417 745-6613

Date: May 5, 2014
To: Soil and Water District's Commission
CC. Colleen Meredith, Program Director
From: Hickory County Soil and Water Conservation District
Subject: N391 Riparian Forest Buffers: Past Their Maintenance Life

RECEIVED

MAY 06 2014

BY: _____

The Hickory County Soil and Water Conservation District is seeking direction from the Soil and Water District's Commission concerning how to handle N391 Riparian Forest Buffers that have exceeded the maintenance life for the practice. Several landowners have requested to enter their old N391's into a new WQ10 practice. The District is aware of the pros and cons of such a decision but is asking the Commission to consider approving the landowner's request.

We feel the advantages in making sure these sensitive areas continue to be protected far outweigh any of the problems that may be associated with this decision. The infrastructure is already in place so the only component would be the incentive payment which is \$500.00 per acre for 10 years. We believe this is a very inexpensive way to assure these areas are protected from livestock and erosion from high water events.

The Hickory County SWCD thanks you for your consideration.

Yours in Conservation,

Hickory County

Soil and Water Conservation, Board Member



RIPLEY COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
#3 Confederate Ridge Road • Doniphan, MO 63935-9466
Phone: (573) 996-7116 Ext. 3 • Fax (573) 996-5230

February 21, 2014

Missouri Soil & Water District Commission
P. O. Box 176
Jefferson City, MO 65102

Dear Commissioners:

The Ripley County Soil and Water Conservation District Board and staff strive to serve the landowners of Ripley County. One issue which has been brought to our attention many times is the amount of cost-share dollars paid on our well-drilling component.

The amount paid for this component is based upon the state average price for well-drilling, which is set at \$6.44 per foot. This state average falls far short of the actual price for drilling a well in our county, as well as many other counties throughout the state. In Ripley County, the majority of wells drilled have cost our landowners \$15.00 per foot. According to the Wellhead Protection Section of the Missouri Geological Survey, this price is based on many factors, including the harder and more abrasive rocks (such as granite and dolomite) which are common in southeastern Missouri, as well as the number of well-drillers available, and the distance which they must travel to the drill sites. (See attached correspondence.) What this high price means for our landowners, regardless of the reasons for it, is that at our 75% cost-share, in Ripley County we are only able to pay \$4.83 towards the \$15.00 per foot cost. This leaves our landowners to pay a price of \$10.17 per foot, which is in itself well beyond the set state average.

Even during the drought relief program in 2012, where cost-share was advertised at 90% of cost, we were only able to pay our landowners \$5.79 toward their wells. This presented a hardship for many landowners. For example, it cost one land owner \$6150.00 to drill a 410 ft. well, while we were only able to assist through 90% cost-share with \$2,102.40, leaving the landowner to pay \$4047.60, or 66% of actual cost out of pocket. This was the case for several landowners who participated in the drought relief program in our county.

Because of this discrepancy in well-drilling price and the amount we are able to pay in cost-share dollars, the Ripley County SWCD board asks that the Commission would move to address this concern.

This problem has been brought to our attention by many landowners and other Soil & Water Conservation District Boards in our area. We have agreed to voice these concerns to you as Commissioners in hopes that you will consider this issue. In addition to Ripley County, please see attached correspondence from the following counties: Bollinger, Butler, Carter, Iron, Oregon, St. Francois, Wayne & Washington.

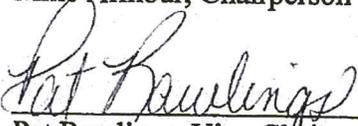
We wish to serve Ripley County landowners in hopes that they will continue to cooperate with our conservation efforts. Thank you for your consideration of our proposal.

Sincerely,

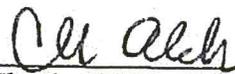
Ripley County Board of Supervisors



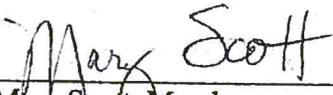
Mike Armour, Chairperson



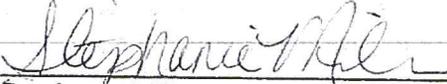
Pat Rawlings, Vice-Chairperson



Chuck Aldrich, Treasurer



Mary Scott, Member



Stephanie Milner, Secretary

Oregon County Soil & Water Conservation District

Rt 2 Box 2924 Alton, MO 65606 (417-778-7561 Ext 3)

Missouri Soil and Water District Commission
PO Box 176
Jefferson City, MO 65102

July 24, 2013

Dear Commission,

The Oregon County Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors is submitting this letter requesting a rate increase for the Well Drilling component on the current cost-share component list. The current Well Drilling rate is \$6.44 per foot. Oregon County SWCD processed 33 livestock well payments through the Disaster Assistance Program approved by Governor Nixon in 2012. The average rate for drilling these 33 wells was \$8.51 per foot. Therefore, we are supporting the Ripley County SWCD in their efforts of getting the current Well Drilling component increased.

Thank you in advance for considering this matter and we look forward to hearing a positive outcome. If you have any questions feel free to contact our office at 417-778-7561 Ext. 101.

Sincerely,



Oregon County Soil and Water
Conservation District
Board of Supervisors



Iron County Soil & Water Conservation District
250 S. Main St., Ironton, MO 63650
Phone: 573-546-6518 Fax: 573-546-0403

ken.wooten@swcd.mo.gov terri.matthews@swcd.mo.gov

October 2, 2013

Soil & Water Districts Commission
PO Box 176
Jefferson City, MO 65102

Dear Commission;

After the drought assistance of the summer of 2012, the landowners of Iron County have brought it to the attention of the District employees and the Board of Supervisors that the average cost for well drilling in our county is considerably higher than the state average. Due to our geographical location and topographic make-up, it simply costs more to have a well drilled in our area.

The average cost for well drilling was \$10.79 per foot for our landowners, with \$7.50 per foot on the low end and \$15.00 per foot on the high end. At \$15.00 per foot, our landowner is getting paid \$4.83 (75% of \$6.44). This averages out to a little over 32% per foot of the reimbursement through the Cost-Share Program. While our landowners are grateful for any reimbursement they receive, they are falling way short of the 75% max for reimbursement. At \$15.00 per foot, with the Cost-Share reimbursement, our landowner is paying \$10.17 per foot out of pocket.

Our board feels that due to the higher cost for drilling a well in our area, that the Water Well Drilling component should be adjusted to an average more fitting to our area's average cost.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Tony Harbison
Iron County SWCD Chairman

812 Progress Drive
Farmington, MO 63640
(573) 756-6488
FAX: (573) 756-8719

.....

ST. FRANCOIS COUNTY SWCD

February 20, 2014

Soil & Water Conservation Program
Missouri Department of Natural Resources
P.O. Box 176
Jefferson City, MO 65102

To: Vice Chairman Gary Vandiver and fellow Commissioners;

The St. Francois County Soil and Water Conservation District board of supervisors would like for the Commission to consider an increase for the Well Drilling component in our county.

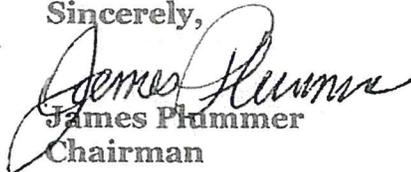
Last year during the drought assistance program we saw that the cost for this component in our county was extremely higher than the allowable cost through the Cost-Share program.

The average cost in our county for well drilling was \$ 10.50 to \$15.00 per foot for our landowners. While our landowners were happy to receive funding and a source for water, it was quite a bit higher per foot from the 75% of the \$6.44 they were allowed.

As supervisors and farmers ourselves, we feel this higher cost for drilling a well in our county might need to be looked at and adjusted to better suit our area.

We would like to see this component increased and be more suitable for our county. We are thanking you in advance for your consideration in this matter.

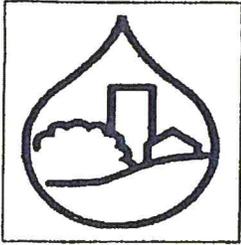
Sincerely,


James Plummer
Chairman

Board Of Supervisors

James Plummer, Chairman
Glenn Jarvis, Vice Chairman
Warren Shelley, Treasurer
Kendra Graham, Secretary
Kenny Kollmeyer, Member

.....



Carter County Soil & Water Conservation District
PO Box 154 3 E Cleveland, Ste. A
Ellsinore, MO 63937
Phone: 573-322-0233

To the SWCD Commission:

The issue of the state average cost for the well drilling and the components involved being way below the average cost in our area has come up several times in the past. In light of the drought last year and the state assistance program that helped the affected farmers, it is now more evident than before to all involved that the cost for the drilling should be set by the individual districts same as the earth moving component.

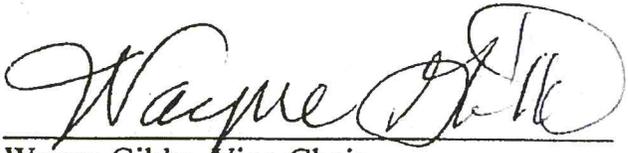
With every contract we had during the drought assistance, we had to explain to the landowners that participated in the program, that while the news reported that up to 90% of the cost for a well would be covered, for our area, it would only be around 60%. This was not fair to the landowners in our area who were just as severely affected as the landowners in the rest of the state

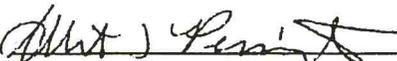
Our board of supervisors is requesting that the commission please consider this issue again and change the policy to be the same as that of the earth moving component.

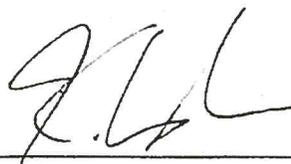
Thank you:

Carter Co. SWCD Board of Supervisors

Mike Kelley, Chair


Wayne Gibbs, Vice-Chair


Bert Pennington, Treasurer


Kevin Anderson, Secretary

Andy Stieger, Member



SUPERVISORS

Martin Strauser, Chairman
Shirley Turnbough, Vice-Chairman
Frank Meyers, Treasurer
Lynn Heins, Secretary
James Phares, Board Member

**WASHINGTON COUNTY SOIL AND
WATERCONSERVATION DISTRICT**
103 N. MISSOURI STREET
POTOSI, MO 63664
PHONE (573) 438-9214

STAFF

Rhonda Davault, NRCS Conservationist
Jeff Dierking, MDC PLC
Tiffany Woods, Technician

Dear Commissioners:

We are writing this letter in regards to increasing the well drilling price from \$6.44 in Washington County.

During the 2012 Drought Program we received invoices from three different well drilling companies in the area. These well drilling companies charged different rates for drilling through limestone and granite. The wells varied in depth from 180 feet to over 400 feet. The prices were from \$7.50 per foot in limestone to \$10.77 per foot in granite. The \$10.77 price was because the drill company had to drill through 230 feet of granite to get to a good water table. This particular landowner called the US Geological Service in Rolla and they informed him to drill through the granite to get to a good water source, which is why the drill company drilled over 400 feet.

After some discussion of this matter, the Board of Supervisors of Washington County are recommending a rate increase of approximately 25%, which would raise the drilling compensation rate to about \$8.05 per foot.

Thank you for your time and consideration of our request.

Sincerely,

Washington County SWCD Board of Supervisors



**Wayne County Soil and Water
Conservation District
P.O. Box 489
Greenville, MO 63944
Phone#573-224-3410 Fax#573-224-3733**

July 23, 2013

To: Missouri Soil and Water Districts Commission

The Wayne County Soil and Water Conservation District request the DSP 3.1 Grazing System Water Development Water Well Drilling Component be based on County Average Cost rather than State Average Cost, similar to how the costs for Earthmoving Components are based.

During the 2012 Emergency Drought Assistance Program we had several Missouri permitted well drillers drill wells in the Wayne County Area. The Cost-Share rate was ninety percent (90%) State Average Cost. The landowners received about fifty-five (55%) back on the water well drilling component due to the well drillers rates for our area. Our Regular Cost-Share rate is seventy-five (75%) State Average Cost so the landowners receive about thirty-five (35%) back on the water well drilling component. The landowners are thankful for the cost-share assistance but complain the water well drilling rate (\$6.44 Ft.) is too low for our area. We explain this rate is based on the State Average Cost and due to our regional geology the drillers in our area charge more per foot for well drilling.

Listed below are the drilling charges from permitted well drillers that were used in Wayne County. (Cost does not include casing or lining charges)

Company	City/State	Drilling Cost per Foot
M&T Drilling	Silva, MO	\$10.00
Richard Burton Drilling	Ellington, MO	\$12.00
Reddish Drilling	Doniphan, MO	\$17.00



Butler County Soil and Water Conservation District
4327 Hwy. 67 N – Poplar Bluff, MO 63901 – (573) 785-6160

November 6, 2013

The Butler County Board would like an increase in the well prices since the expenses are higher due to the geology in our county and neighboring counties.

Curtis Worley, Chairman

Rusty Eaker, Vice Chairman

Irvin Mansbridge, Treasurer

Andy Clark, Member



**Bollinger County Soil and Water
Conservation District**

P O Box 199 Marble Hill, MO 63764
573-238-2671 ext. 3

TO: Soil & Water Commission
FROM: Bollinger Soil and Water Conservation District

SUBJECT: Well Drilling Rates

The Bollinger County Soil & Water District (SWCD) Board would like request the Soil & Water Commission increase the Well Drilling rate for our area of the state. The cost-share rate for FY14 is \$6.44 per foot, well below the \$12.00/ft. average from wells drilled in Bollinger County this time last year.

The current rate is almost half of the actual drilling cost in our county. Please take in consideration the different geology of the state that determines the well drillers charge.

Sincerely,

Saliene Dowd, ^{by} BE

**Saliene Dowd, Chairman
Bollinger County SWCD**

Moody, Christa

From: Griffin, Rachel
Sent: Wednesday, April 02, 2014 5:29 PM
To: Boschert, Jim; Moody, Christa
Cc: Pellett, Jennifer
Subject: Well Drilling Component
Attachments: WELL LETTER TO COMMISSION.pdf

Attached is a letter from several boards in our area requesting that the well drilling component price be increased.

Please route this as necessary for review and consideration.

Thank you.

Rachel C. Griffin

**District Manager
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Doniphan, MO 63935-9466
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Phone: (573)996-7116 Ext. 3
Fax: 855-824-0777**