

P.O. Box 172  
Jefferson City, MO 65102

April 25, 2015

The Honorable Jeremiah (Jay) Nixon  
Governor of Missouri  
P.O. Box 720  
Jefferson City, MO 65102

ATTN: Sara Parker Pauley, Director, Department of Natural Resources

**RE: Missouri Water Plan Outline Options**

Dear Governor Nixon,

At a joint meeting of the Clean Water Commission, the Safe Drinking Water Commission, the Well Installation Board and the Soils and Water Conservation District Commission held October 1, 2014, a joint committee was formed to work with Department of Natural Resources staff on long range planning efforts dealing with state water resources. Over the past several months, this committee has been involved in the development of a work plan outline for an updated Missouri State Water Plan for the state. This document will be a tremendous asset to all in guiding decisions on the future of water resource use and development for Missouri.

Three options have been developed as far as plan content and timeframe for completion. Option 1 is an eighteen (18) month study that will provide a platform for future planning efforts; Option 2 is a twenty-four (24) month option that will include all elements of Option 1 with additional items such as stream studies, modeling and enhanced stakeholder engagement; and Option 3 is a thirty-six (36) month option that will include all elements of Option 1 and 2 but provide greater detail and modeling.

The committee was tasked with providing input to the planning team in developing the scope of work and to make a recommendation as to which option the committee feels is in the best interest of the state. The committee members participated in three conference calls with staff from DNR and consultant CDM in the outline development stage. Staff from the department and CDM did an excellent job of listening to our comments, answering questions and developing valid options.

After reviewing the final options and the costs associated with each, the committee recommends Option 2, the twenty-four (24) month plan outline. The committee feels Option 2 would best serve the water resource planning needs of Missouri and provides the best return on investment. This option would provide the needed information and analysis in sufficient detail to develop a Missouri Water Plan that could be used to support planning and resource allocation decisions into the future. Additionally, a twenty-four month plan of work will allow for more input from stakeholder-based technical work

groups, enhancing input and buy-in from the constituents important to implementing the plans' findings.

We would like to thank everyone involved in this process for allowing the joint committee to be involved and participate. Missouri's water resources are one of our state's greatest strengths and we must protect it with proper planning for future generations.

Respectfully submitted,

**Joint Committee Members**

*Todd Parnell*, Clean Water Commission, Chair

*Ashley McCarty*, Clean Water Commission, Member

*Elizabeth Grove*, Safe Drinking Water Commission, Chair

*Danny Flynn*, Well Installation Board, Chair