

Agenda for 2023 Area Meetings

- Introductions
 - MASWCD
- MU Center for Regenerative Agriculture
 - Update on CRCL grant
- Partner Updates
 - MDC
 - MDA
 - MU Extension
 - Employee Association
 - NRCS
- Soil and Water Program and Commission Update
- MASWCD Report and area elections



SWCP and Commission Updates

Jim Plassmeyer
2023 Area Meetings
August 29 and 30

**Jeff
Lance
Member**



**Gary
Vandiver
Chair**



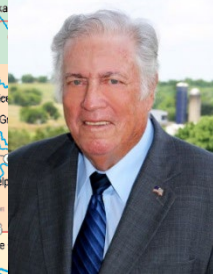
**H. Ralph
Gaw
Vice Chair**



**Keith Stevens
Member**



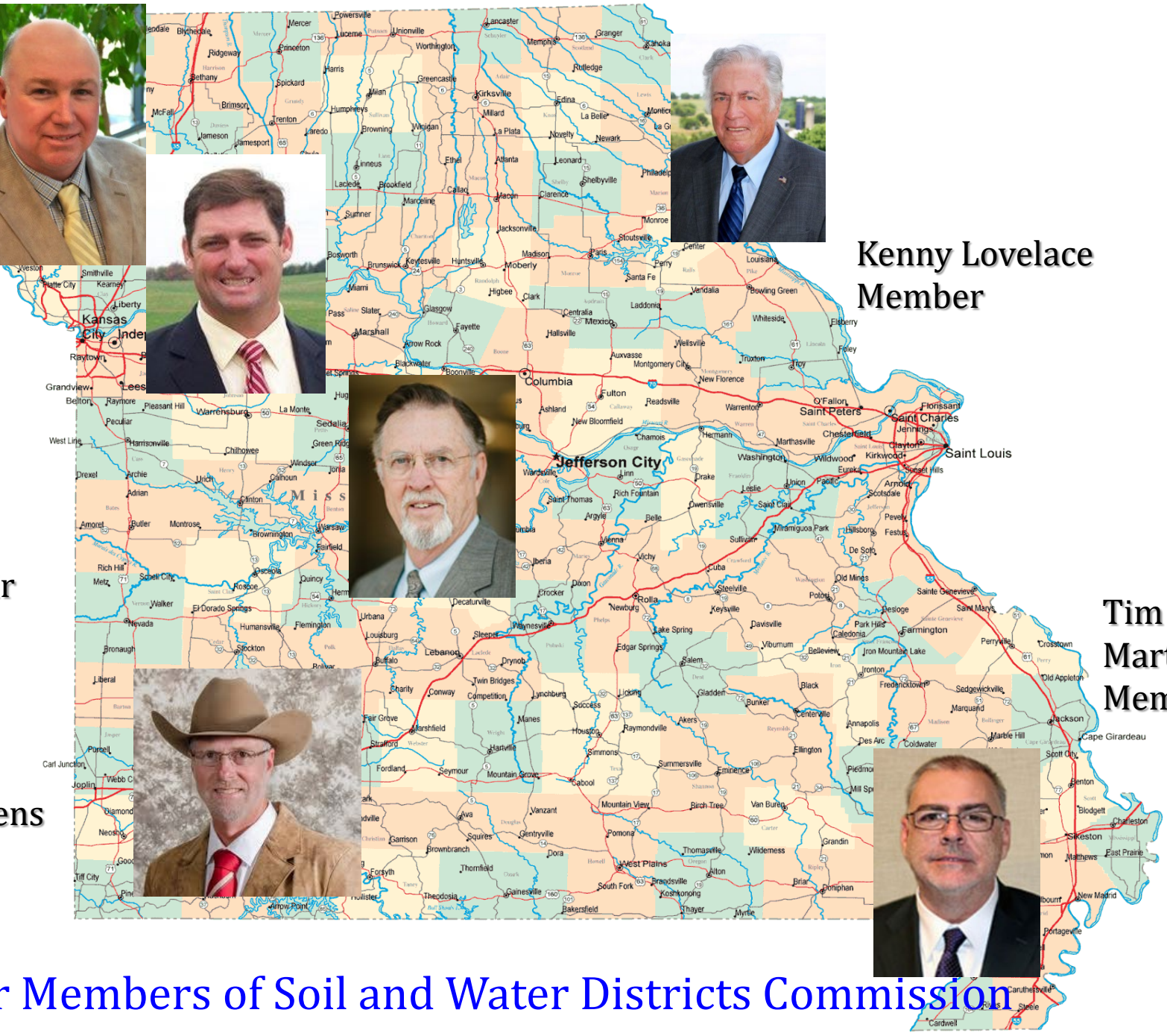
**Kenny Lovelace
Member**



**Tim
Martin
Member**



Farmer Members of Soil and Water Districts Commission



Commission Actions

- Variances for 2022 and 2023 drought.
- Increased initial cost-share allocation.
- Supported increase to progression line for 8.7% increase.
- Changed cover crop policy moving payment date.
- Initiated and approved the DSP3.6 practice to establish native warm season forages in an existing grazing system.

FY23 Expenditures

Soil and Water Conservation Program

Program Administration

- Program Salary
- Social Security/Medicare
- Health Insurance
- Retirement
- Worker's Comp
- Program E&E
- Building Costs
- ITSD
- DNR Department Support

District Oper,
\$14,177,685

24%

District Operations

- District Salary
- Social Security/Medicare
- Health Insurance
- Retirement
- Worker's Comp
- District Administration
- ITSD
- District Contract Audits
- Surety Bond
- Technical Assistance

Program Admin,
\$2,532,005

5%

Other,
\$835,349

1%

- Other
- Research
- Conservation Monitoring
- Refunds
- Sales Tax Collection
- State Auditor
- Attorney General

Total:
\$57,545,039

Cost-Share,
\$40,000,000

70%

Appropriation \$60,447,033



MISSOURI
DEPARTMENT OF
NATURAL RESOURCES

FY23 Cost-Share Final Numbers

As of May 24, 2023:

\$48 million obligated

By June 30, 2023:

\$1.21 million cancelled

\$2.03 million deferred

\$4.85 million rolled over

Includes
Cover Crops
\$4.75 Million
2,336 Contracts
145,227 acres

Resource Concern	Number of Contracts	Contract Payments
Animal Waste Management	17	\$921,319
Grazing Management	666	\$3,769,402
Irrigation Management	114	\$2,258,137
Nutrient & Pest Management	309	\$249,535
Sensitive Areas	167	\$2,471,697
Sheet and Rill/Gully	4,585	\$29,771,393
Woodland Erosion	116	\$513,856
Mozingo Lake	7	\$44,660
TOTAL	5981	\$39,999,999

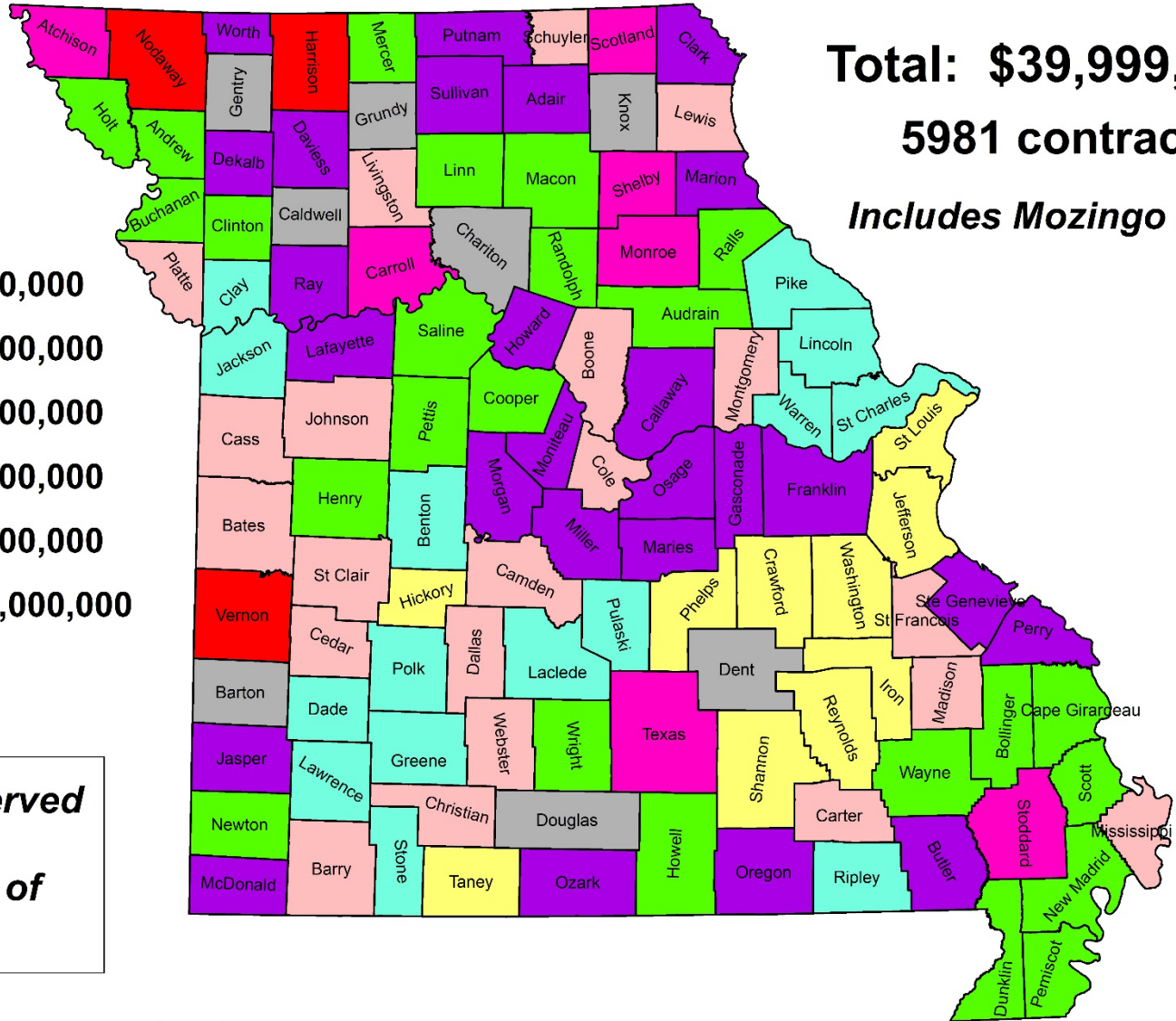
FY23 Cost-Share Payments

Legend



285,202 Acres Served

**1,462,814 Tons of
Soil Saved**



Total: \$39,999,999

5981 contracts

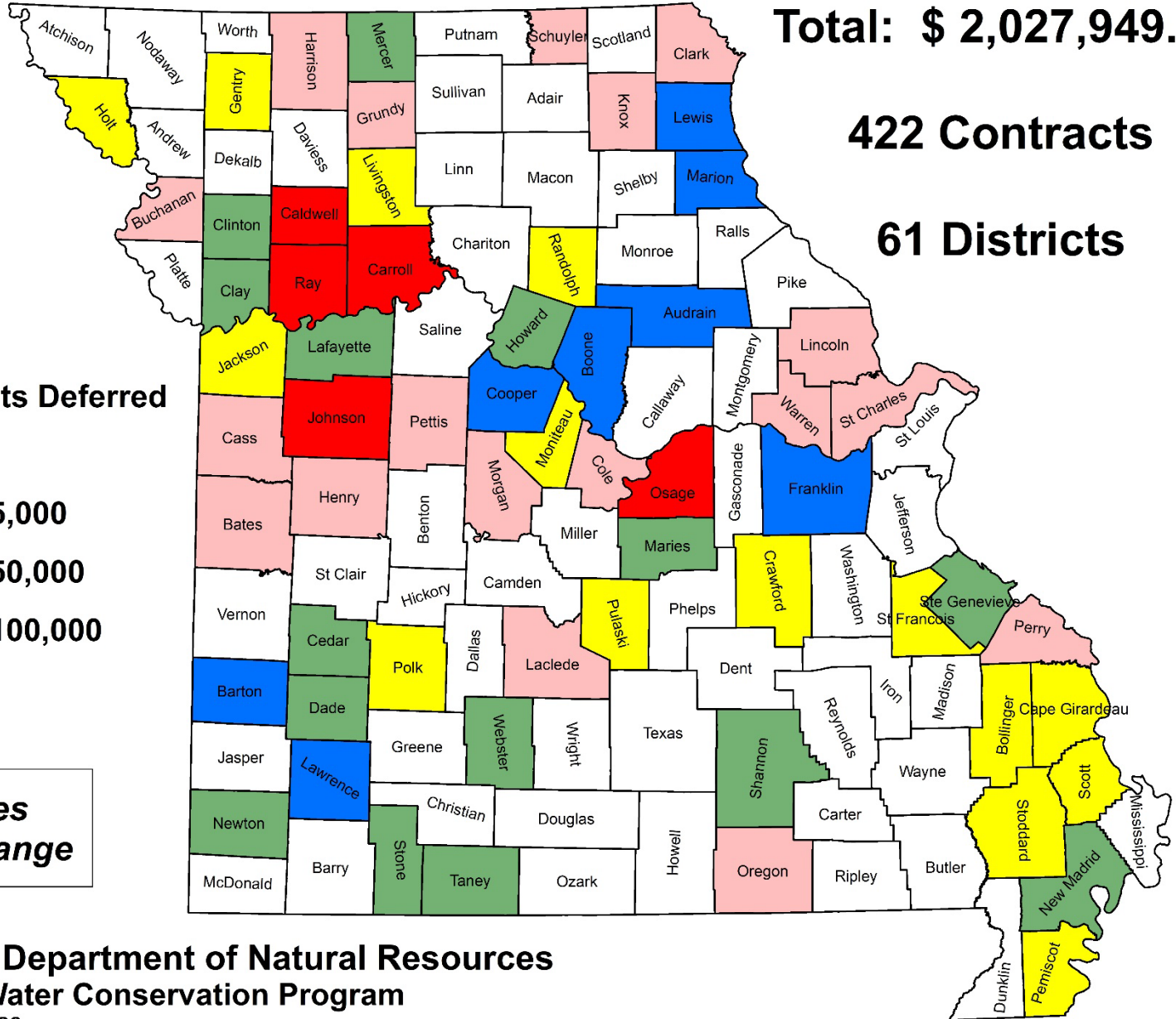
Includes Mozingo Lake

FY23 Cost-Share Payments Deferred into FY24







Total: \$ 2,027,949.84

422 Contracts

61 Districts



Legend

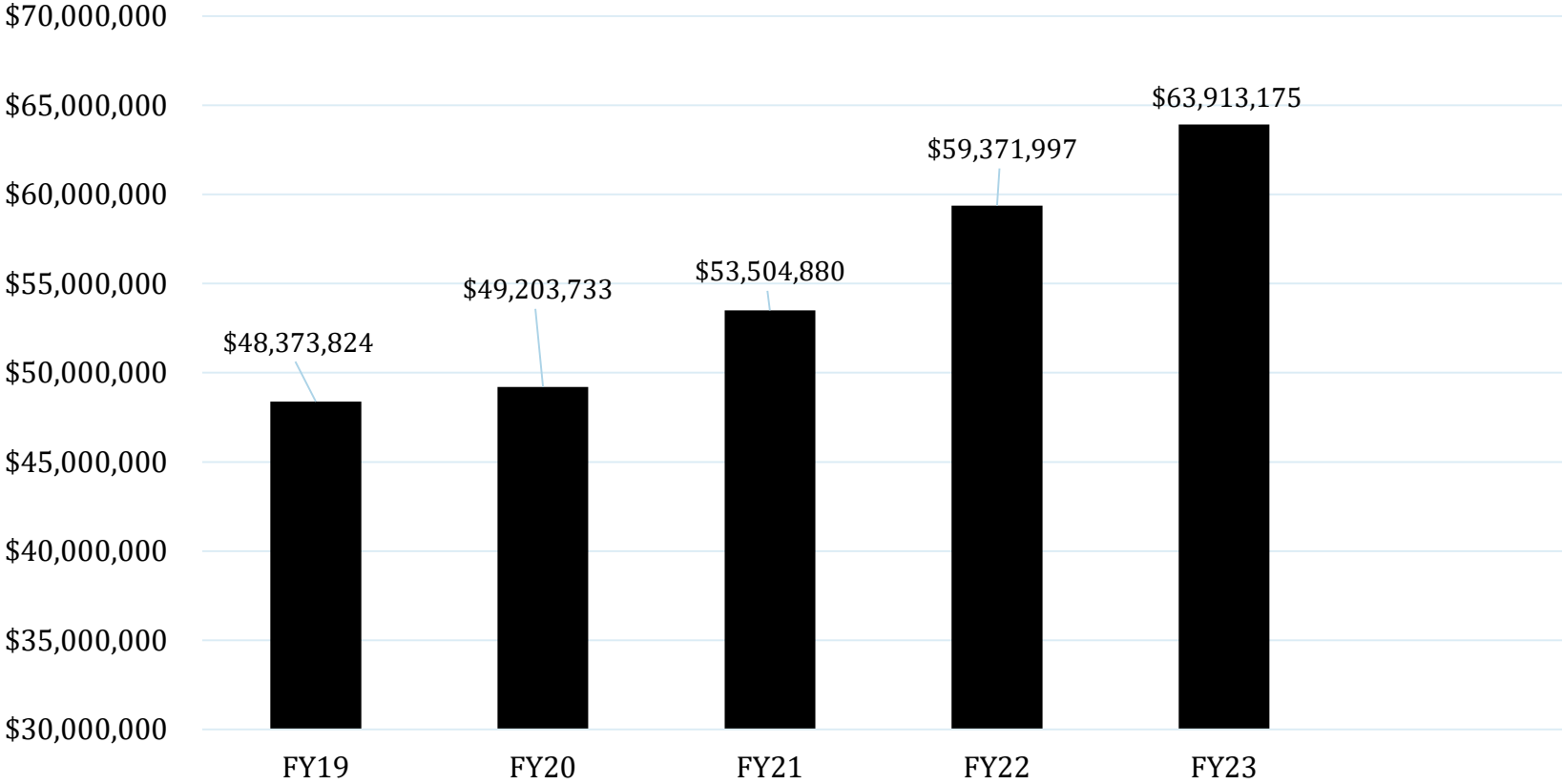
-  No Payments Deferred
-  \$1 - \$5,000
-  \$5,001 - \$25,000
-  \$25,001 - \$50,000
-  \$50,001 - \$100,000
-  > \$100,000

*Final figures
subject to change*

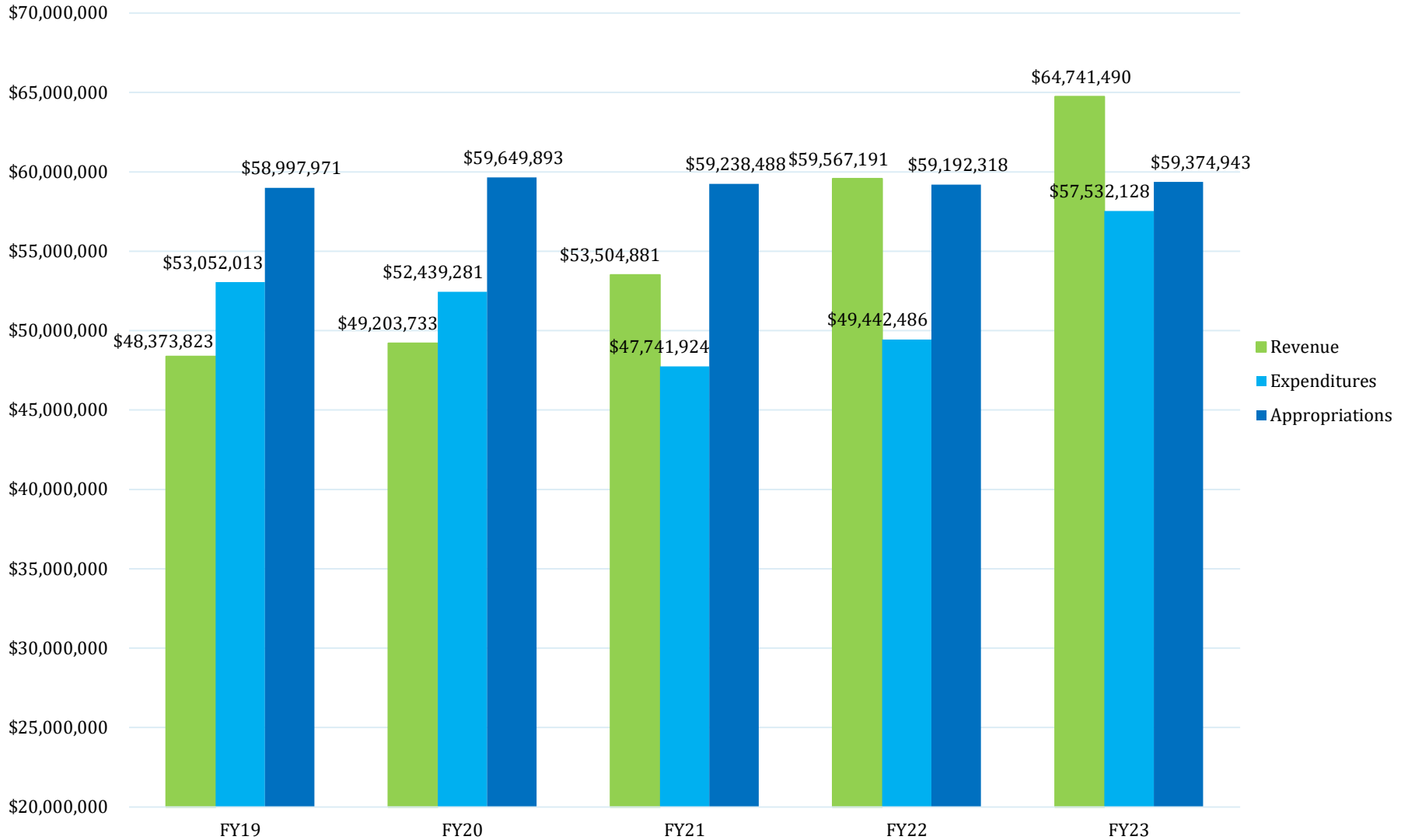
FY23 Revenue as of 06/30/2023

Revenue Source	Amount
Soil and Water Sales Tax Revenue	\$ 63,913,175
Interest	\$ 769,054
Vendor Refunds	\$ 59,261
	\$ 64,741,490

Sales Tax Revenue



Sales Tax Revenue vs. Expenditures



FY24 Appropriations

Soil and Water Conservation Program

Program Administration

- Program Salary
- Social Security/Medicare
- Health Insurance
- Retirement
- Worker's Comp
- Program E&E
- Building Costs
- ITSD
- DNR Department Support

Program Admin,
\$3,571,885
5%

Other,
\$1,253,549
2%

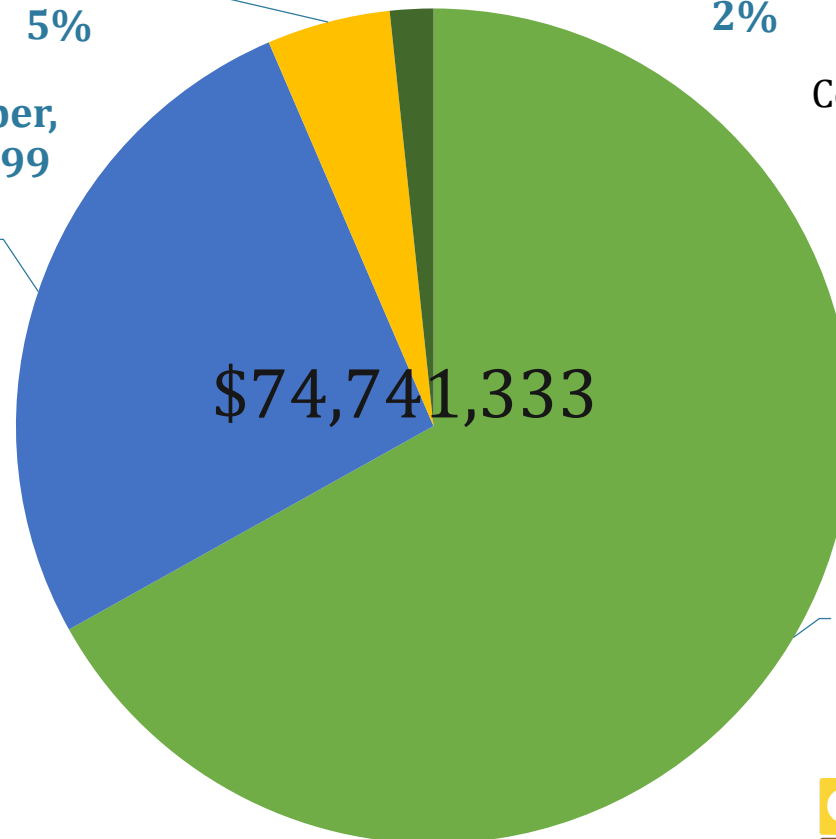
District Oper,
\$19,915,899
27%

District Operations

- District Salary
- Social Security/Medicare
- Health Insurance
- Retirement
- Worker's Comp
- District Administration
- ITSD
- District Contract Audits
- Surety Bond
- Technical Assistance
- No-Till Drill

- Other**
- Research
 - Conservation Monitorin
 - Refunds
 - Sales Tax Collection
 - State Auditor
 - Attorney General

Cost-Share,
\$50,000,000
66%



Funding Opportunities

- No-till drill grant - \$75,000 appropriation
 - \$7,500 per district
 - 24 districts submitted a request
- Funding for district trucks.

Status of the Cash Balance of the Soil and Water Sales Tax Fund

Cash Balance July 1, 2022	\$27,719,939
Cash Balance July 1, 2023	\$34,929,301

FY 25 Budget

- Currently developing budget proposals to be included in DNR's budget recommendations to the Governor and Office of Administration.
 - Program had to submit budget expansion requests by July 7th

- Budget Questions??

District Operations and Program Delivery

- Met July 26th
 - Agenda
 - Health Insurance Survey and Discussion
 - 04 Fund Usage and Vehicle Expenses
 - DOM Update
 - Progression Line and Performance Based Funding
 - District Staffing Levels

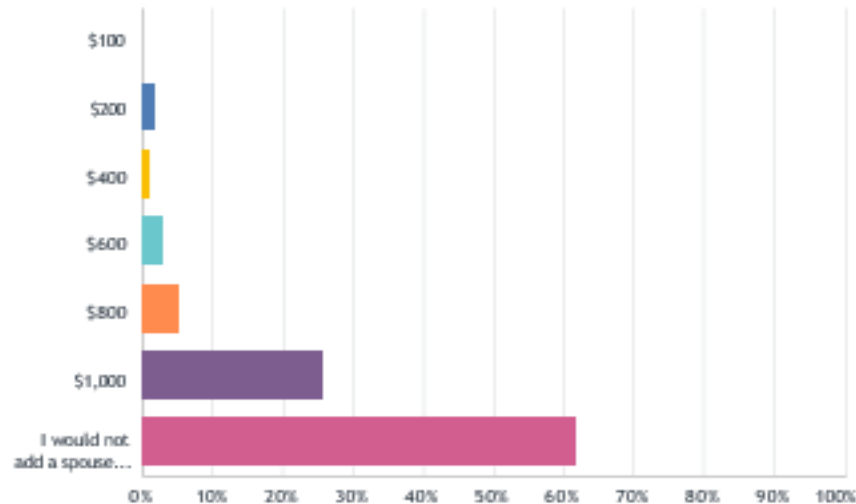
Dependent Health Insurance Survey

- A survey was deployed to gauge the interest in and potential impact from increased funding for dependent/family care insurance.
 - Tried to determine how many district employees would be interested at different funding levels.
 - Results used to estimate potential fiscal impact

SWCD Health Insurance Survey

Q3 With the above costs in mind, would you consider adding a spouse to your insurance plan if the program office provided a minimum additional monthly healthcare stipend of:

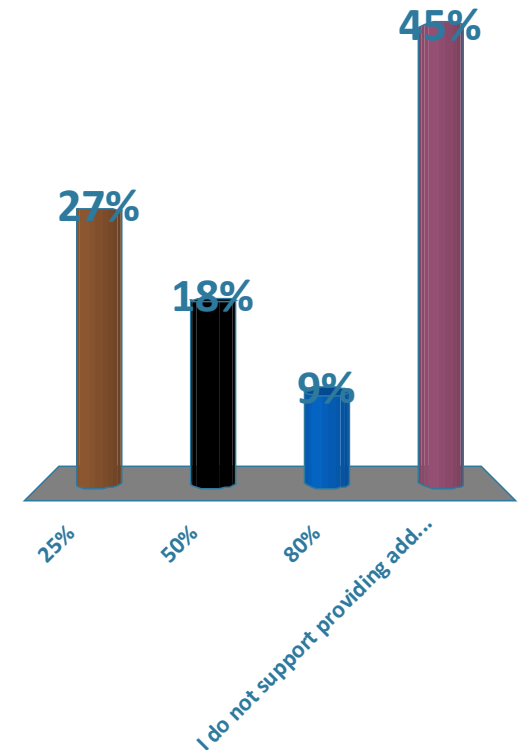
Answered: 161 Skipped: 4



ANSWER CHOICES	PERCENTAGE	RESPONSES
\$100	0.00%	0
\$200	1.86%	3
\$400	1.24%	2
\$600	3.11%	5
\$800	5.59%	9
\$1,000	26.09%	42
I would not add a spouse for any of the amounts shown above	62.11%	100
TOTAL		161

At what level would you support funding for dependent/family coverage

- A. 25%
- B. 50%
- C. 80%
- D. I do not support providing additional funding for health coverage.



Dependent Health Insurance

- There was additional discussion centered around other options such as the HAS plan.
 - The need for additional information on HAS plans and benefits it could provide to dependent coverage.

FY23 04 Fund Usage

- Discussed the amount of 04 administrative funding that is rolled over FYs
- Discussed number of districts that received extra funding for vehicle expenses

DOM Updates

- Most changes were just wording changes to clarify current policy, but a few significant items were added or removed.
- 1. Annual Financial Report
- 2. Civil rights training
- 3. Shared time in MoSWIMS
- 4. Sunshine law written policy
- 5. Sales tax collection
- 6. Rental equipment expenses and state funds
- 7. Deposit accounts for state allotments
- 8. Election advertisement documentation retention

Progression Line

- Discussed wage compression and different ways to address it.
 - Blanket years of service increases vs. performance based

District Specialist V

- How to determine eligibility (process)
- What are desired traits of a District specialist V
- Other possible performance metrics for districts/individual employees that could be used to help with wage compression

District Specialist V

- SWCP is working to develop policy for the DSV with the goal of rolling it out this winter
- A few summary items from committee discussion:
 - Will be an application process, not automatic if minimum requirements met
 - Will be limited in number so that pay differential can be significant
 - Will not be permanent (CLEs/PD, etc. will be required annually)
 - Must be a capable mentor/trainer

State-wide Staffing Levels

- Currently 270 positions (not counting interns)
- Historically, numbers were reduced by not refilling vacancies
- We receive around 6 formal requests per year to add staff to districts.
- More cost-share dollars available to spend this FY, can it be done with current staff?

Practice Committee

- Met August 2nd
 - 2022 MASWCD Resolutions
 - Pettis – Cover Crop incentive payment
 - Webster – Existing fence definition
 - Howell – Addition of brush management practice
 - Newton – After a pond is fenced with N472 then allow the DSP3.2 to replace the water source

Resolution 2022-001

- Pettis SWCD
- Request to remove the lifetime maximum of \$20,000 per cooperator. Set a new yearly maximum of \$4,000 per cooperator.
- Also require the initial soil sample on all fields and follow-up sample after five crop rotations, which include the cover crops.
- Yes-23 No-16

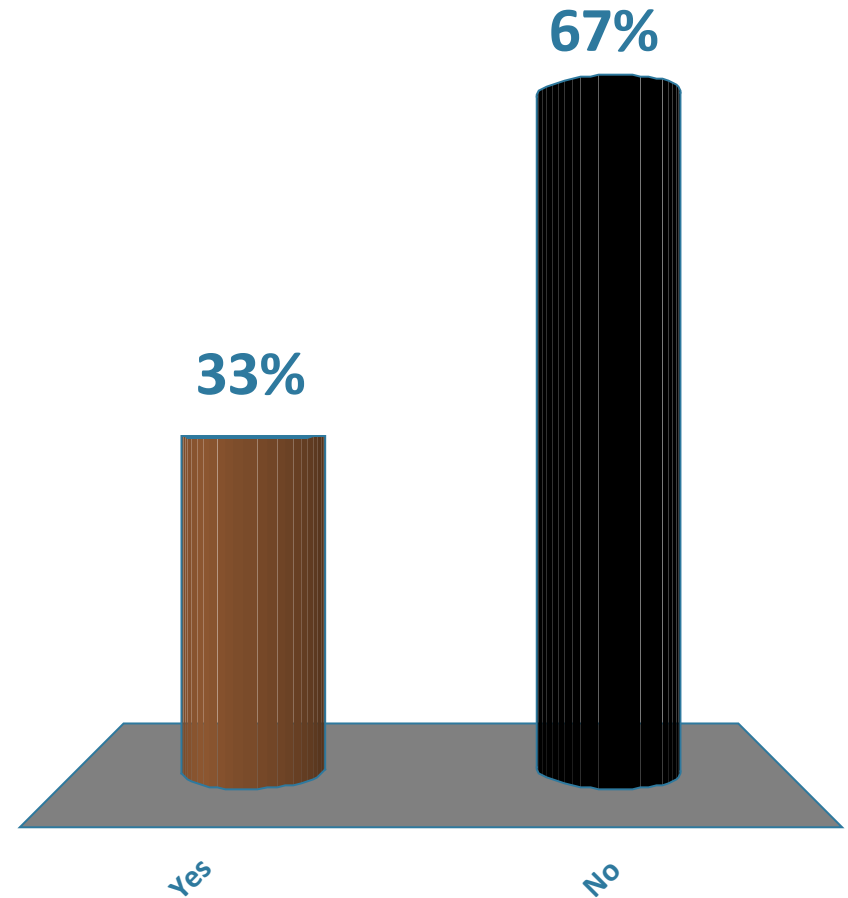
Discussion

- Providing cost share on a practice intended as a demonstration without a practice lifetime maximum was questioned.
- Felt the practice policy should be reviewed again, possibly to require a multiple year commitment if allowed so the cover crop process would be required to be followed through.
- Multiple agencies providing funding for cover crops, difficult to make sure cooperators are not using multiple sources of funding.
- Discussion on allowing haying with the drought exception was questioned.

Should lifetime max be removed and use a yearly contract?

A. Yes

B. No



Resolution 2022-003

- Webster SWCD
- Request to allow District staff to determine if fence is adequate.
- Yes-35 No-10

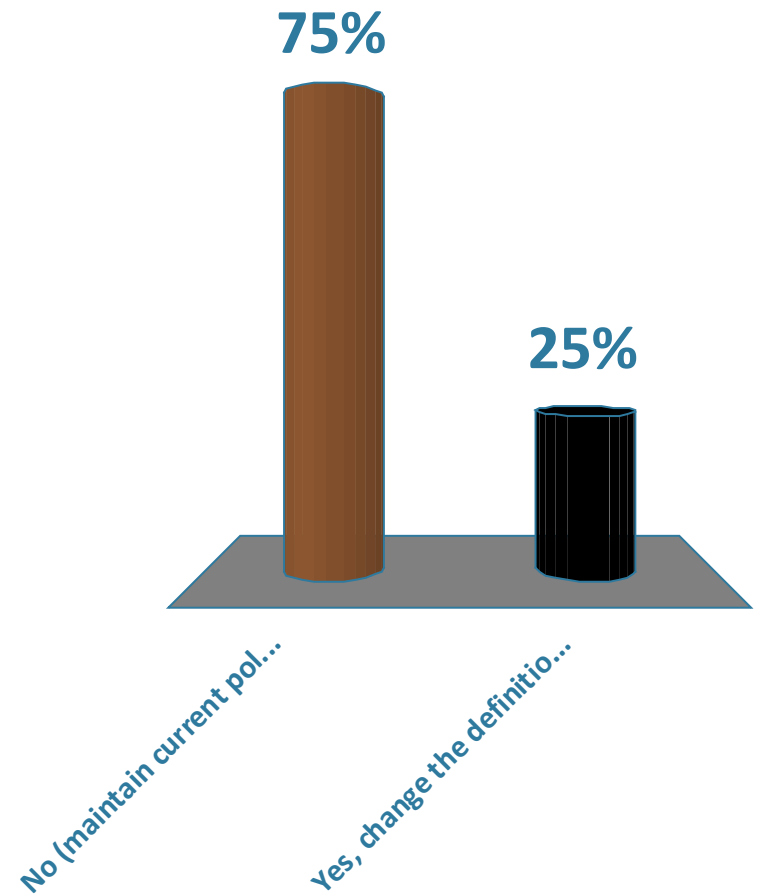
Background

- Commission voted in past not replace existing features in grazing system. Example water tanks
- Multiple contracts submitted with existing fences or grazing systems visible on map.
- February 2021 Commission voted to add following statement to DSP 3.3 Applicability Statement:
The practice is not intended to be used to replace or maintain existing fence
- Also added to section 5. Cost-share is not authorized for:
g. Replacement of existing fence which is being used as a component of a current forage management plan.



Should the Commission adopt a change in existing fence policy?

- A. No (maintain current policy)
- B. Yes, change the definition of existing fence



Resolution 2022-004

- Howell SWCD
- Request to add a herbaceous weed and brush control practice. With either the 314 or 315 specification.
- Yes-38 No-11

Background

- N595 Pest Management practice was added for SALT practices
- Practice was selected due to the water quality benefits from demonstrating the proper use of chemical
- Current pest management practice is for educating producers on correct amount, timing and selection of target species
- Not intended to be used as cost share for spraying practice

Brush Management 314

- The management or removal of woody (non-herbaceous or succulent) plants including those that are invasive and noxious.
- Mechanical treatments, chemical treatments, burning, biological allowed.

Herbaceous Weed Treatment 315

- Herbaceous Weed Treatment is the removal, reduction, or manipulation of undesirable herbaceous vegetation, including invasive, noxious and prohibited plants on all lands except cropland
- Mechanical removal allowed, includes manual tools or machinery to control unwanted species such as hand shears, mowing and disking...Mechanical treatments often require multiple treatments
- Chemical treatments are allowed

Questions

- How does the practice insure there is not a water quality impact?
- If ground cover is reduced, will there be an increased potential for erosion?

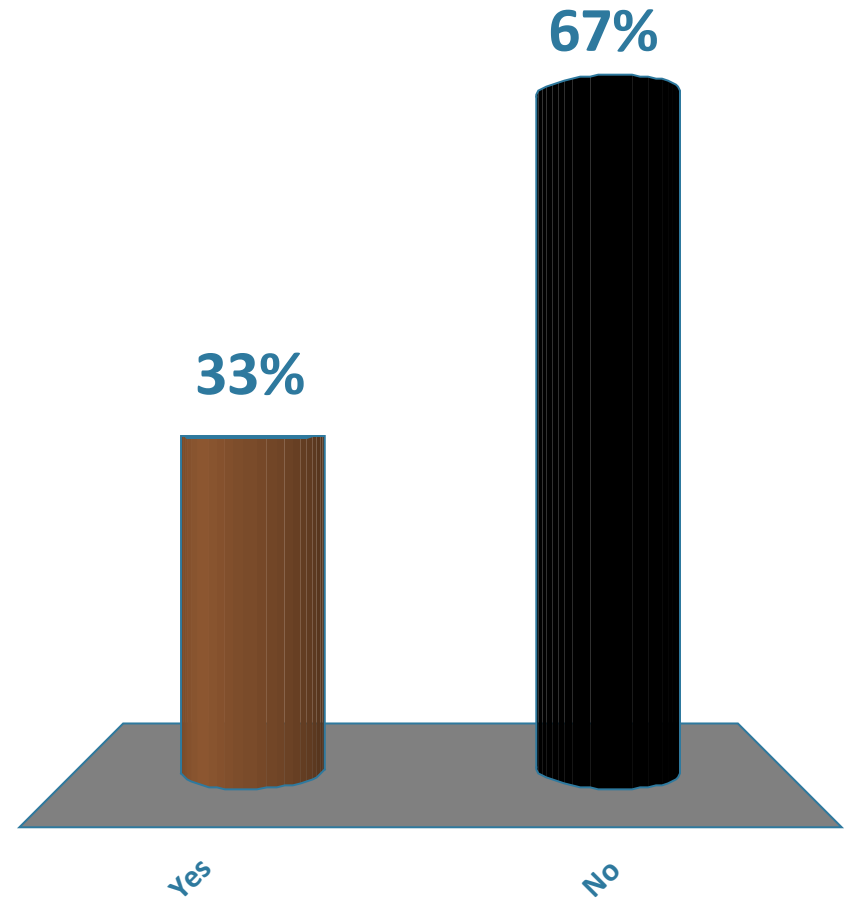
Discussion

- Few planners available for these practices
- Questioning of making mechanical clearing available
- Possible water quality impacts

Should the Commission adopt a brush management practice?

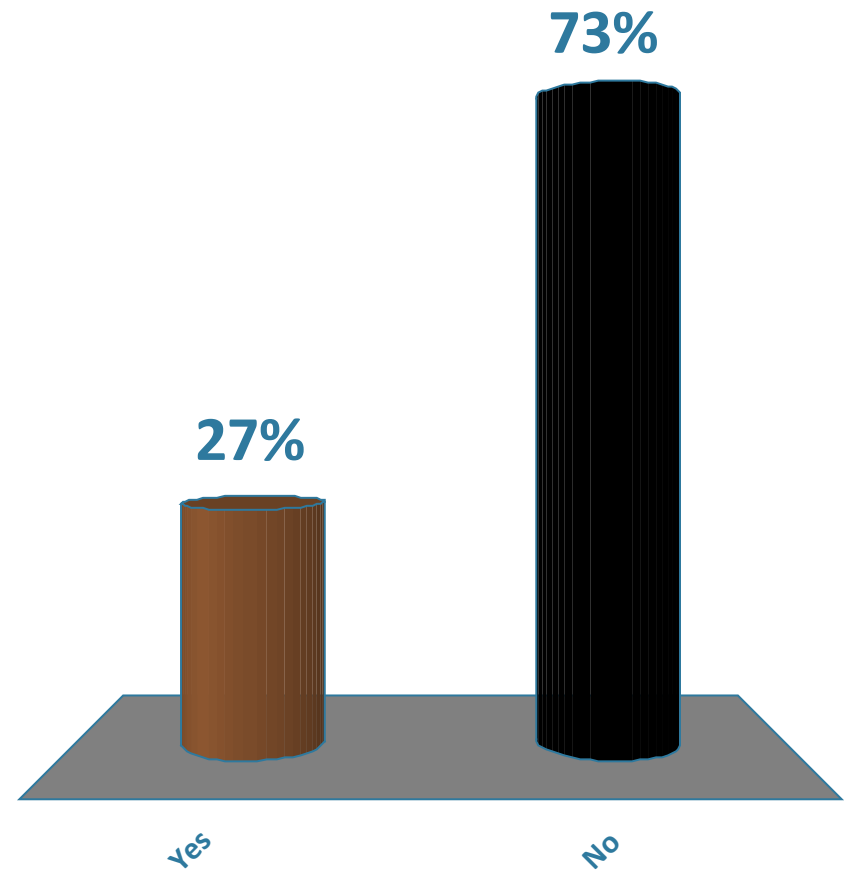
A. Yes

B. No



Should the Commission adopt the herbaceous weed practice?

- A. Yes
- B. No



Resolution 2022-006

- Newton SWCD
- Amend DSP 3.2 policies to allow cost-share dollars to be used to fence off an existing pond with the N472 practice and receive cost-share assistance to install a watering facility.
- Vote Yes – 40 No - 6

Fencing an Existing Pond Used as a water source

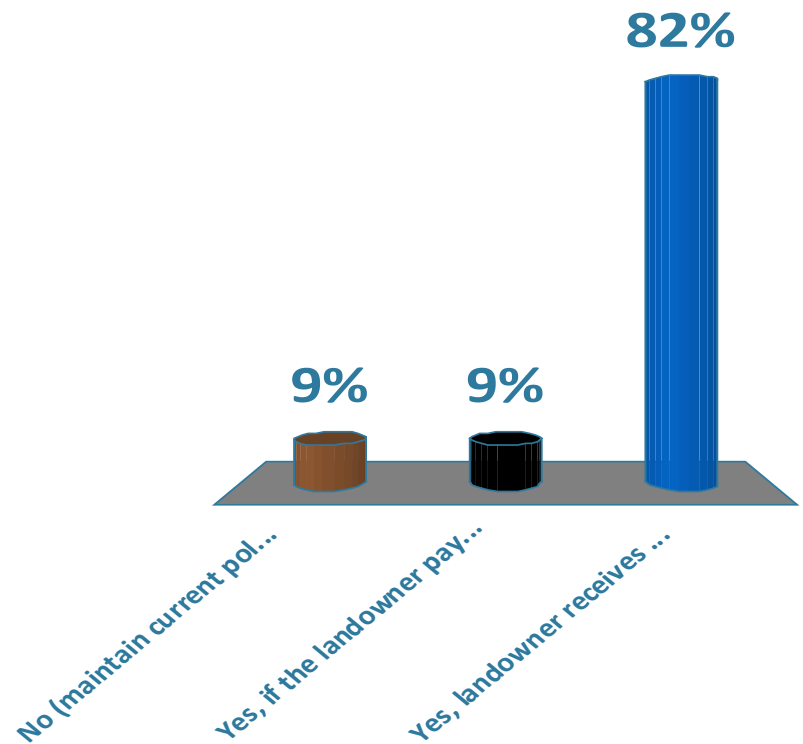
- Pros
 - Benefits to surface water.
 - Possible reduction in erosion around pool.
 - Production impacts.
- Cons
 - Using tax dollars to replace a viable water source.
 - Production related.

Discussion

- EQIP does allow a pond to be fenced and water brought to the paddock.
- Felt the resource concern of the pond should be protected as well.
- Cost share should be provided to fence out the water source and water brought to replace it.

Should the Commission provide cost-share assistance on a water tank when a viable pond has been used a water source

- A. No (maintain current policy)
- B. Yes, if the landowner pays for the cost of the fence
- C. Yes, landowner receives cost share on fence and tank



Future Projects

- Targeted Watershed
- Farm Resilience – drought and flood
- EPA – Gulf Hypoxia funding
- Staffing levels/progression line

District Support Section

Coordinator Assignments

District Assistance
Supervisor: Josh Poynor

Stacy Breesawitz
Allan Clarke
Myranda Gillispie
Ashley McDaniel

District Assistance
Supervisor: Jeremy Redden

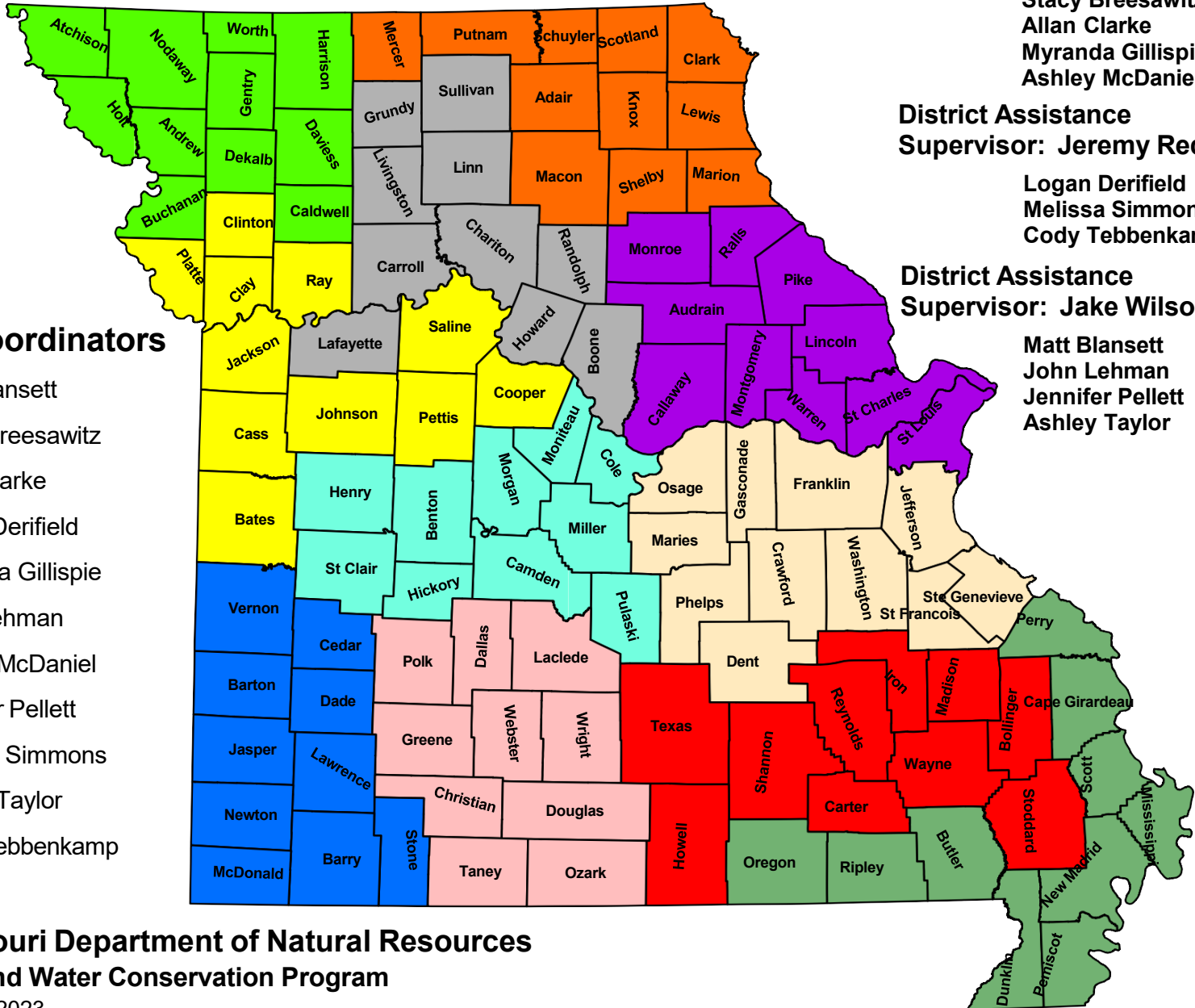
Logan Derifield
Melissa Simmons
Cody Tebbenkamp

District Assistance
Supervisor: Jake Wilson

Matt Blansett
John Lehman
Jennifer Pellett
Ashley Taylor

District Coordinators

- Matt Blansett
- Stacy Breesawitz
- Allan Clarke
- Logan Derifield
- Myranda Gillispie
- John Lehman
- Ashley McDaniel
- Jennifer Pellett
- Melissa Simmons
- Ashley Taylor
- Cody Tebbenkamp



Questions