



YEAR END REMINDERS



As we head into the fourth quarter, there are a few things to note for your awareness.

Please ensure that cost-share payments are submitted in a timely manner, as contract payments are reviewed in the order they are received and once we reach our appropriation authority, some cost share payments may have to be rolled into FY25. Contracts should be submitted by midnight June 14, 2024, in order to be paid by FY 24. The program's cost-share appropriation authority for FY24 is \$50 Million, which is a \$10 million increase to last fiscal year's appropriation.

Remember that the contract payment review process allows the program to ensure that Missouri taxpayer money is used according to commission policy. During the review process, program staff try to remain as consistent as possible. It is important that districts include any relevant notes that would aid in the review process. For example, items that make the contract unique or clarify questions that may arise. One of the issues that we see frequently is that the Cooperator Authorization form is filled out incorrectly. Please double check all required fields, ensuring the form is filled out accurately and contains the correct name and address listed in MoSWIMS. Another frequent issue is that the EFT status is incorrect. Please ensure that the EFT status is a green circle with checkmark before submitting for payment. The program office cannot process payments that do not have an active EFT status and will have to return them.

Another important item to note is that shared employees must have 200 hours outside their administrative district recorded in MoSWIMS by the end of the fiscal year to continue to receive the additional stipend from state funds. Any expenses for FY 23, including payroll tax liabilities, must be paid on or before June 30, 2024. MOSWIMS should be unlocked around July 10, 2024.

DISTRICT VEHICLES

Most districts have received state funding for district trucks. If your district finds that the state-funded vehicle expenses are causing the district to fall short in the 04 Fund, please send a letter that explains the need and provides documentation to the program office at soil&waterconservationprogram@swcd.mo.gov by June 10, 2024. Expenses for district vehicles from the 04 Administrative Grant may be eligible for reimbursement.

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ENVIROTHON

Soil and water districts have been long-time supporters of this program, encouraging students to enhance their knowledge about the environment and Missouri’s natural resources. High school students from around the state are asked to demonstrate their skills in the following categories: Aquatics, Forestry, Soils, Wild Life or Current Issue, in addition to an oral presentation topic provided by the NCF-Envirothon.



The State Envirothon Committee would like to thank all regional and state volunteers. Without the support of district sponsors and volunteers, this event would not be possible.

The 2024 State Envirothon was held May 1, 2024, at Lincoln University’s Carver Farms. Fourteen teams competed, with Rockwood Summit in St. Louis earning the top spot. Rockwood Summit will represent Missouri at this year’s national competition in Geneva, New York. We wish them luck as they compete for the National Envirothon title.

NEW EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

Tyler Reece joined the program office staff in April, filling Jennifer Pellet’s vacant coordinator position. Tyler has a bachelors degree in Agriculture Business from the University of Missouri and is pursuing a masters degree in Agroforestry. Tyler is from a large family of nine children and is a seasoned traveler, having visited nine different countries. In his spare time he enjoys spending time outdoors hiking, camping and fishing.



DISTRICT SPOTLIGHT— CAPE GIRARDEAU

This quarter, the District Spotlight is on Cape Girardeau. This district has seen some significant changes in the last couple of fiscal years that are worthy of recognizing. In FY22, the district paid out \$277,039 and in FY23, the district was able to pay out more than double the amount of cost share at \$512,552. They are currently on track to payout over \$1 million in cost share for FY24.



“There’s no denying that the increased workload is intense. We have found that staying organized and in clear communication is of the utmost importance,” said Hannah Doolen, district technician.

There are several things that the district attributes to the increased amount of cost-share spent. In part, having consistent, full time staff has been a large help, in addition to assistance from partner organizations.

“Collaboration with NRCS/MDC/Quail Forever employees that have expertise in particular resource concerns has helped expand the practices we could engage in to benefit our landowners,” said Doolen “Our County has the potential to utilize almost all the cost-share practices available, but it is difficult to become an expert in all of them.”

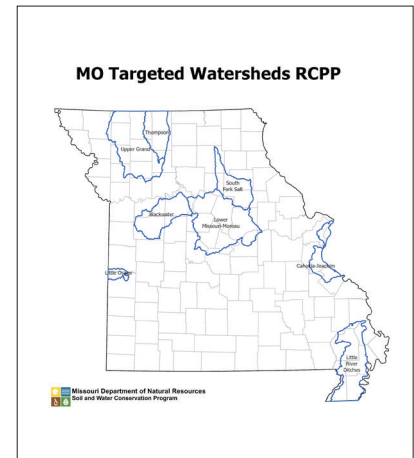
Cross training has also been one of the tools that the district has used to bolster their success. Cross training has allowed the district staff to assist each other and keep things running smoothly if one of the staff members is unavailable.

The district is also very involved with the community, hosting the Cape Girardeau County Women in Ag event, annual public meeting and a Grazing Management & Native Warm Season Grass Pasture Tour in partnership with NRCS and MDC.

Congratulations to Cape Girardeau and the improvements that they have seen!

TARGETED WATERSHEDS & MO RESILIENCY RCPP

The program is actively conducting watershed modeling and edge of field and instream water quality monitoring for nutrient and sediment loss. This effort is designed to help ensure the most effective practices will be implemented through the cost-share program one such program is the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP), titled Missouri Targeted Conservation. The goal of the RCPP is to identify areas within targeted watersheds where conservation practices can provide the most cost-effective loss reductions for sediment, nutrients and pathogens into the state's water bodies.



So far in 2024, eight contracts have been preapproved for a total of \$872,179 in the targeted watershed areas. The targeted conservation areas include the Blackwater, Cahokia-Joachim, South Fork Salt, Little Osage, Thompson Upper Grand, Lower Missouri Moreau and Little River Ditches watersheds. The project is slated to end in September 2025 with approximately \$1.8 million left to spend.

In addition, the Soil and Water Program is in negotiations with NRCS on a second RCPP project. The Increasing on-farm Resilience to Drought and Flood in Missouri program aims to help livestock producers in Missouri build resiliency to weather extremes through implementation of carefully planned best management practices. Assistance will be available during drought and flood events with minimal impact to landowner operations, while also helping to mitigate future climate-related effects through climate-smart conservation practice implementation. The budget for this project brings an additional \$5 million in federal cost-share assistance to Missouri producers.

UPCOMING DATES

June 12: Commission Meeting Novelty, MO.

June 19: Program Office Closed in observance of Juneteenth holiday.