



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

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

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MEMORANDUM

2013-006

DATE: October 10, 2012

TO: All Soil and Water Conservation Districts

FROM: *Ken* Ken Struempf, District Operations Section
Soil and Water Conservation Program

SUBJECT: **MDC Incentives for Seeding and Fencing Practices**

The Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) has FY13 funding to provide an incentive to landowners who are interested in planting native species for seeding practices or establish a minimum 30 foot habitat strip in addition to excluding livestock for livestock exclusion practices. This incentive is in addition to Soil and Water Conservation Program (SWCP) funding for these practices. Below are guidelines to be followed:

Cost-Share on Seeding Practices with MDC

- 1) The landowner requests assistance for one of the following SWCP seeding practices:
 - a. DSL-01 Permanent Vegetative Cover Establishment
 - b. DSL-11 Permanent Vegetative Cover- Critical Area
 - c. DSL-4 Terrace System
 - d. DSL-44 Terrace System with Tile
 - e. DWC-01 Water Impoundment Reservoir
 - f. DWP-01 Sediment Retention, Erosion, or Water Control Structure
 - g. DWP-03 Sod Waterway
 - h. DSL-05 Diversion
- 2) District staff must consult with an MDC Private Land Conservationist (PLC) to determine eligibility and fund availability prior to discussions being held with a landowner interested in planting native grasses and receiving cost-share from the SWCP and an additional incentive for establishment from MDC.
- 3) If the PLC determines the practice would qualify and MDC funding is available, the PLC should be involved in discussions with the landowner to explain MDC program requirements and to ensure the seeding mixture planned is acceptable before the SWCP cost-share contract is initiated.

- 4) Seeding rates shall be based on NRCS Standards and Specifications for Critical Area Planting (342) or Forage and Biomass Planting (512). Species with an erosion control rating of "poor" on Table 1 of the NRCS Vegetation Establishment, Herbaceous Seeding specification (723) are not eligible for SWCP funding.
- 5) A general note should be entered in MoSWIMS for the contract stating cost-share is in conjunction with an MDC incentive for planting native species prior to submission of the contract to the program office for review. The landowner should also sign an MDC incentive form at this time.
- 6) The practice must then be completed and certified to NRCS Standards and Specifications as well as commission policy contained in the Cost-Share Handbook.
- 7) Once the SWCP contract payment has been board approved, district staff should forward a copy of the signed contract payment to the PLC who will initiate payment through MDC.
- 8) If a maintenance violation is reported for the seeding practice, the district shall notify the PLC.

MDC incentive rates are as follows:

- \$50/acre for a 1-3 species planting of native grasses as per applicable NRCS Standards and Specifications.
- \$80/acre for a 3 species mix of natives grasses, with 2 pounds of alfalfa per applicable NRCS Standards and Specifications.
- \$125/acre for a 3 species mix of native grasses and 2 pounds of native forbs per applicable NRCS Standards and Specifications.
- \$150/acre for MO source identified native grass or forbs seed when used adjacent to a natural community.

There is no minimum planting acreage size, but the minimum payment amount will be \$50.00.

Cost-Share on Fencing Practices with MDC

- 1) The landowner requests assistance for one of the following SWCP livestock exclusion practices:
 - a. DFR-05 Woodland Protection through Livestock Exclusion
 - b. N472 Use Exclusion
 - c. N472 Livestock Exclusion (effective 01/01/2013)
- 2) District staff must consult with an MDC Private Land Conservationist (PLC) to determine eligibility and fund availability prior to discussions being held with a landowner interested in receiving cost-share from the SWCP and an additional incentive for establishment from MDC.
- 3) If the PLC determines the practice would qualify and MDC funding is available, the PLC should be involved in discussion with the landowner to explain MDC program requirements and to ensure the fencing practice is acceptable before the SWCP cost-share contract is initiated.

- 4) A general note should be entered in MoSWIMS for the contract stating cost-share is in conjunction with an MDC incentive prior to submission of the contract to the program office for review. The landowner should also sign an MDC incentive form at this time.
- 5) The practice must then be completed and certified to NRCS Standards and Specifications as well as commission policy contained in the Cost-Share Handbook.
- 6) Once the SWCP contract payment has been board approved, district staff should forward a copy to the PLC who will initiate payment from MDC.
- 7) If a maintenance violation is reported for the fencing practice, the district should notify PLC staff.

MDC incentive rate is as follows:

A payment of \$330 will be made to a landowner for completing the minimum required eligibility of one-quarter mile of fence and 30 foot average habitat strip width. Additional habitat strip length beyond the one-quarter mile of fence will be based at \$363 per acre and calculated on a 30 foot maximum average habitat strip width. Fescue eradication and a wildlife friendly seeding, between the fence and woodland or other habitat, must be completed prior to receiving the incentive. The PLC may determine that fescue eradication is not needed in the habitat strip where site conditions are subject to erosion or other environmental considerations.

If you have any questions regarding this memo, please contact your district coordinator.

KS:abd