



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


## DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

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### MEMORANDUM 2014-020

DATE: June 17, 2014

TO: All Soil and Water Conservation Districts

FROM:  Ken Struempf, Section Chief  
Soil and Water Conservation Program

SUBJECT: Open Comment Periods to Cost-Share for:  
-Public Water Supply Meters and Service Lines  
-Extending Original Maintenance Life for Stream Buffer Practices

The Soil and Water Districts Commission at their June 10, 2014 meeting initiated an open comment period for: 1.) providing cost-share for water meters and service lines for livestock watering when landowners are connecting to a public water supply system and, 2.) providing an additional out-of-production incentive to extend the original maintenance life of stream buffer practices. Program staff will collect and summarize the comments received and report back to the Commission during their August 8, 2014 meeting in Sedalia. The comment period will be from June 17 to July 25, 2014. All comments must be received no later than close of business on July 25, 2014. The Commission encourages districts to involve landowners in developing your responses to open comment opportunities.

#### **Public Water Supply Meters and Service Lines**

Background: The program currently provides cost share for wells, spring developments, and ponds to create a water source for livestock. The Commission would like to receive input from the districts on the feasibility of offering cost-share for Public Water Supply meters and service lines. Cost-share is currently provided for water sources through the DSP 3.1 Planned Grazing System Water Development, N391 Riparian Forest Buffer, and WQ10 Stream Protection practices. The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) does not have a standard and specification for public water supply meters and service lines, therefore NRCS staff cannot certify the completion of these projects. Soil and Water Conservation District Technician II staff will be required to certify these types of projects.

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Information that would be helpful from districts during the comment period includes:

1. Costs associated with water meter installation and the per foot cost of service lines based on the public water supplies in your district, with supporting documentation for the cost figures provided.
2. Pros and cons of offering cost-share on these components.
3. Does your district support offering cost share for Water Meters and Service Lines?
4. Any other comments that the district wishes to share.

**Extending Original Maintenance Life for Stream Buffer Practices**

Background: The Soil and Water Conservation Program has implemented over 6,800 acres of stream buffers since 2004. Many of these buffers are nearing the end of their maintenance life and producers will have the option to return these areas back into production. The commission would like district input on the feasibility of providing the landowner an additional “Out of Production Incentive” to protect these buffers for an additional 10 years.

Information that would be helpful from districts during the comment period includes:

1. Will most of the landowners maintain the buffers past the practice maintenance life?
2. Estimate of the financial out-of-production incentive payment that will be required to maintain the buffers for an additional 10 years for the following practices:
  - a. WQ10 Stream Protection
  - b. N391 Riparian Forest Buffer
  - c. N393 Filter Strips
3. Pros and cons of offering additional incentives for buffer practices.
4. Does your district support offering an additional incentive to maintain these buffers?
5. Any other comments that the district wishes to share.

Thank you for your prompt response. Please email your comments to Alan Freeman [alan.freeman@dnr.mo.gov](mailto:alan.freeman@dnr.mo.gov) by the close of business on **Friday, July 25, 2014**. If you have any questions, please contact your district coordinator. Thank you.

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KS:mm