



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

## DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

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### MEMORANDUM 2015-006

DATE: October 21, 2014

TO: All Soil and Water Conservation Districts

From: Colleen Meredith, Director  
Soil and Water Conservation Program

Subject: Technician II Duties

The Soil and Water Districts Commission discussed the results of the technician survey at their October 1, 2014 meeting. The Commission appreciates the soil and water conservation districts (SWCD) taking time to complete the survey. The results of the survey revealed that over one quarter of SWCDs are not using their current staff certified as a Technician II, to sign off on state cost-share documents for the 14 practices listed below. The Commission concurred with the expectation that Technician II staff have the responsibility to sign off on the required practices included in the Technician II Certification. Technician II staff that are not currently signing off on practices within their certification, should begin to do so by January 1, 2015.

The practices include:

DSL-1	Permanent Vegetative Cover Establishment
DSL-2	Permanent Vegetative Cover Improvement
DSP-2	Permanent Vegetative Cover Enhancement
DFR-4	Forest Plantation
N472	Woodland Protection through Livestock Exclusion
N386	Field Border
N393	Filter Strip
N391	Riparian Forest Buffer
N380	Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment
N725	Sinkhole Treatment
N574	Spring Development
N351	Well Decommissioning
WQ10	Stream Protection
N340	Cover Crop

A reason multiple SWCDs listed in the survey for not allowing their Technician II to sign off on state cost-share was concern about liability. All SWCDs must have liability coverage. The majority of SWCDs use Missouri Public Risk Management (MoPERM) for this coverage.

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Whether your SWCD uses MoPERM or another insurance company, please review your policy to ensure your district has appropriate coverage. Liability associated with Technician II certified practices was discussed in Memorandum 2009-019, which can be found on the SWCD intranet page, <http://swcd.mo.gov/internal/memos-fy09.htm>. Please refer to this memorandum for additional guidance.

Another reason listed on the survey was either the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) or the SWCD board preferred NRCS sign all cost-share documents. Technician II staff have passed the appropriate certification and need to sign cost-share forms associated with the practices listed above for best efficiency of the cost-share program. As you are aware NRCS staff are going through personnel changes and reductions and can assist signing documents associated with the practices listed above, but only if a Technician II is not available. If the board believes that additional training is needed for your Technician II(s) before signing cost-share documents, please discuss this with your local NRCS personnel and respective NRCS Area Conservationist.

For the SWCDs that have not utilized their Technician II for signing cost-share forms in the past, your district coordinator will be available to discuss concerns at a future board meeting. If you have any questions, please contact your district coordinator. Thank you.

CM:jbt