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NATURAL RESOURCES

Michael L. Parson, Governor


Carol S. Comer, Director

MEMORANDUM

2019-009

DATE: September 27, 2018

TO: All Soil and Water Conservation Districts

FROM:  Colleen Meredith, Director
Soil and Water Conservation Program

SUBJECT: Practice Policy Changes – N574, DSL 04, DSL 44, N410, DWC 01 and C650

The Soil and Water Districts Commission at their September 12, 2018, meeting approved the following policy changes for the practices listed below. Some of the policy changes were based on recommendations from the current practices committee.

N574 – Spring Development

The Commission maintained the current policy of cost-sharing on 300 feet of pipe from the collection point to the outlet point. However, the Commission gave the Soil and Water Conservation Program (SWCP) staff the authority to review proposed sites on a case-by-case basis and approve cost-share exceeding 300 feet of pipe if the location warrants the need for additional pipe to get to a stable outlet. During the discussion, the Commission indicated they wanted SWCP staff oversight of the practice to ensure all N574 practice policies are met. If a district has a site where more than 300 feet of pipe is planned, the district will need to save shapefiles of the practice showing the planned collection area, planned tank, and planned pipe on the district's T:\ drive when the contract is submitted for approval.

N410 – Drop Pipe

The Commission changed policy to allow cost-share on both an elbow and weir box on the same contract if they are both technically necessary for the location. The approval of this policy change will reduce the need to do two contracts for two different practices when they are needed at the same location.

DSL-04 - Terraces and DSL-44 - Terraces with Tile

The Commission adopted policy to allow districts to pay on topsoiling on all soil types. The board needs to reevaluate a current policy or develop a policy on topsoiling, so it is clear what is allowed in each soil and water conservation district (SWCD).



Recycled paper

The second change on the terrace practices was related to the farming over terraces. The Commission removed the reference to the Cherokee Prairie Region as the only area where farming is allowed over terraces. The new changes to the policy allows planting of crops over terraces in any field with a slope less than three percent, but other ground contact farming practices have to be on the contour with the terraces with the exception of some incidental crossing of the terraces such as planting end rows and point rows.

DWC-01 - Water Impoundment Reservoir

The Commission removed the restriction of not cost-sharing on structures over 25 feet in height with 50 acre feet of storage. With the level of approval for dam heights of 25 feet established in NRCS's policies, the Commission was comfortable with removing the height limitation.

The Commission also reviewed the policy of not allowing cost-share on a structure that will be placed in an area where total tree canopy covers the proposed site. The Commission voted to maintain current policy.

C650 - Streambank Stabilization Practice

The Commission approved changing the practice maximum to \$25,000 per landowner annually from the previous limit of \$5,000 per landowner or farm. The technical determination and oversight of the practice was changed to include a SWCD engineer and Missouri Licensed Professional Engineer in addition to NRCS and MDC staff. The SWCD engineer is one of the two engineers that will be hired through the Boone and Cole SWCDs included in the NRCS Contribution Agreement with the Department. The Commission approved using a private engineer realizing that there may still be limited technical assistance available through the partners. If a landowner hires an engineer to design and oversee a project, cost-share assistance can be provided for the engineering assistance not to exceed \$5,000. The component for the engineering services will be based on the number of hours the engineer works on the project. Any amount paid for engineering will be included in the \$25,000 maximum. Attached is the policy showing the changes approved by the Commission.

The policy changes made at the meeting are effective as of September 12, 2018. The Cost-Share Handbook will be updated with the changes and a new version placed on the SWCD Intranet. If you have any questions about these policy changes, please contact your district coordinator. Thank you.

CM:jpd

Attachment

C650 *Streambank Stabilization*

Purpose

1. Protect streambanks from accelerated erosion.
2. Provide adequate streambank vegetation.
3. Improve water quality.

Applicability

1. Applies to agricultural land along streams where significant streambank erosion problems exist.
2. ~~A district must work with the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) and NRCS staff to determine eligibility and whether technical assistance can be provided~~ Eligibility will be determined by the appropriate technical authority. NRCS is able to offer technical assistance in federally funded partnership projects. MDC is able to offer technical assistance within priority watersheds. A private, Missouri licensed Professional Engineer (PE) with significant streambank stabilization experience may also be used for technical assistance.

Erosion Requirements

Practice has no erosion requirements.

Specifications

The completed practice must meet MDC Policies and Procedures for MDC 650 Streambank restoration if MDC staff is the technical authority; and NRCS Standards and Specifications for Fence (382), livestock exclusion under Access Control (472), Tree/Shrub Site Preparation (490), Streambank and Shoreline Protection (580), and Tree/Shrub Establishment (612), and Riparian Herbaceous Cover (390) contained in the Field Office Technical Guide.

Policies

1. Plantings will be protected from fire and livestock throughout the life of the practice.
2. Stabilization structures will remain in place ~~until sufficient vegetation is present to sustain bank stability. This will be determined by MDC or NRCS technical staff.~~ for the life of the practice. Cost-share for reconstruction will not be available.
3. A vegetated buffer area must be maintained for a minimum of 50 feet from the top of the streambank.
34. ***Cost-share is authorized for:***
 - a. Components necessary for cedar tree revetments, rock riprap, and bioengineering materials.
 - b. Seedling or other plantings needed to stabilize the constructed area.
 - c. Exclusion fence. ~~Corridor width must be a minimum distance of 50 feet from the top of the streambank.~~
 - d. Grading and shaping.
 - e. Hourly engineering incentive if a private PE is used. Engineering incentive is \$3,000 for up to 29 hours, \$4,000 for 30-39 hours and \$5,000 for 40 or more hours. Engineering incentive component may not exceed \$5,000 per site.

5. *Cost-share is not authorized for:*

- a. Any stream with substantial watershed or in-channel problems, such as channelization or excessive streambank erosion.
- b. Planting of trees for commercial production.
- c. Fence that does not serve the purpose of excluding livestock, such as property lines, rights-of-way, or farm road boundaries.
- d. Clearing of rocks or other obstructions from the areas to be treated.
- e. Labor, material, and equipment supplied at no charge by any agency or organization.

Maximum State Cost-Share

1. Not to exceed ~~\$25,000~~ 5,000 per landowner and/or farm, distinct project site.
2. Utilize the Practice Limits Detail Report in MoSWIMS to ensure compliance with applicable maximums.

Map Requirements

A legible, aerial photography map that shows the completed practice must be scanned and attached as document type "Map" in MoSWIMS prior to contract payment submission. The map must have the following:

- Landowner name and locational data (section/township/range or coordinates)
- Farm perimeter
- Field numbers, field boundaries, and field acres
- Any other features that may affect the contract payment
- If multiples of the same practice are shown on the map, clearly identify which practice is associated with the contract payment

Technical Responsibilities

~~MDC, or NRCS technical staff, SWCD Engineer or a private Missouri licensed PE~~ has the responsibility for determining the need for the practice, for design of the practice based upon the minimum extent necessary, and to certify that the completed practice meets NRCS standards and specifications within commission policy.

Acres Served

Acreage is equal to zero.

Extent Installed

Linear feet of stream treated.

Maintenance Life

10 years.