



Jeremiah W. (Jay) Nixon, Governor • Harry D. Bozoian, Director

## DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

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### MEMORANDUM

2017-012

DATE: December 12, 2016

TO: All Soil and Water Conservation Districts

FROM: Jim Plassmeyer *JP*  
Soil and Water Conservation Program

SUBJECT: Practice Policy Reviews

The Plan for the Future Current Practices Committee developed a practice policy review process that was approved by the Soil and Water Districts Commission at their April 8, 2015, meeting. The process divides the practices into five groupings with the intention of every practice having a policy review completed at least two times in ten years. The grouping of the practices in the order of the review are Sheet and Rill/Gully - Seedings; Grazing Management/Animal Waste/Nutrient and Pest; Sheet and Rill/Gully - Structural; Sensitive Areas/Woodland; and Irrigation. The process was established so all districts will know when practice policies will be reviewed. Attachment 1 is a table showing the groups and practices within each group.

Due to the possibility of needing to deviate from the schedule, the committee determined some reasons to alter the schedule. The reasons include: significant change in Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) standard and specifications that impacts a practice; practice implementation issues found during practice reviews or audits; and major agriculture or economic shifts that impact practice implementation or use. The recent policy changes that the commission has approved were due to one of these reasons.

The review process includes a 60-day comment period to allow all districts the opportunity to provide suggestions about the policies. After the 60-day period, the practices committee will review the comments and draft any necessary changes to policies. Some districts have previously sent comments on practices to the commission/program office. These have been saved and will be included in comments. The draft policies will then be available to all districts for a second comment period of 30 days. Comments will be reviewed with the practices committee to determine if any further changes need to be made to the draft policies. The policies will then be presented to the commission for approval.

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The practice policy review process will begin with the seeding practices. Also due to the passage of the Missouri Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts resolution about evaluating the per acre limits on the grazing system practice, comments are also being solicited on the practices in the Grazing Management/Animal Waste/Nutrient and Pest grouping as well.

The committee developed some questions that should be taken into consideration when providing comments on the practices, which are listed in Attachment 2. The questions were developed to help stimulate conversation at the district level to aid in the process. Comments are not limited to answering the questions and the district does not have to provide comments on all the practices. Comments must be emailed to [soil&waterconservationprogram@swcd.mo.gov](mailto:soil&waterconservationprogram@swcd.mo.gov) by February 8, 2017. Please ensure that the comments state the practice they refer to. Thank you.

JP:djs

Attachments

**Attachment 1**  
**Practice Policy Review Grouping**

Group 1  
Sheet and Rill/Gully – Seedings

DSL-01, DSL-02, DSL-11, DSL-111  
DSL-15, N332, N380, N585, N340

Group 2  
Grazing Management/Animal  
Waste/Nutrient and Pest

DSP-02, DSP-3.1, DSP-3.2, DSP-3.3  
DSP-3.4, DSP-3.5  
N312 Beef/Small Ruminant, N312 Dairy  
N312 Swine, N312 Poultry, N316, N317,  
N590, N595

Group 3  
Sheet and Rill/Gully – Structural

DSL-04, DSL-44, DSL-05, DWC-01  
DWP-01, DWP-03, N410

Group 4  
Sensitive Areas/Woodland

N574, N725, WQ10, C100, DFR-04, N472  
N655, C650, DSP-31, BDSP-31, N351  
N386, N391, N393

Group 5  
Irrigation Management

N430, N442, N443, N447, N554, N587

See in the Cost-Share Handbook, Section 5, for practice name and policies.

**Attachment 2**  
**Questions for District Consideration**

What currently is making the practice successful and needs to continue?

Are there limitations in the policies that are prohibiting the practice from being successful? If so what are they?

Does the district have any suggestions on improvements or changes to current policies for the practice?

Does the district have any suggestions on policies to add to the practice?