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**NATURAL RESOURCES**


Eric R. Greitens, Governor

Carol S. Comer, Director

**MEMORANDUM  
2017-014**

DATE: June 6, 2017

TO: All Soil and Water Conservation Districts

FROM:  Colleen Meredith, Director  
Soil and Water Conservation Program

SUBJECT: Reconstruction Approval Due to April 2017 Heavy Rains and Flooding –  
FEMA 4317-DR

The Soil and Water Districts Commission discussed the potential damages from the heavy rains and flooding starting in late April 2017. The Commission passed the following motion to enact their reconstruction policies for districts listed in the FEMA disaster declaration 4317-DR.

- Approval for reconstruction of soil and water conservation practices currently under a maintenance agreement with assistance on fence reconstruction at 50% and group components to be paid based on individual components damaged.
- Provide program staff the authority to grant a variance on a case-by-case basis to the no-till requirement in the N340 Cover Crop practice for the incorporation of sand deposits and smoothing flood damaged fields.
- Allow landowners, who prior to having an approved contract, repaired the practices under a maintenance agreement to receive cost-share provided they have appropriate documentation.
- Allow additional extents to be added to provide cost-share at a rate of 75% (except for fencing components allowed at 50%) on components damaged for practices that are in the construction phase.

The motion included that the reconstruction contracts must be approved by the district board by December 31, 2017. The motion by the Commission gives blanket approval for soil and water conservation districts to approve contracts in the 48 counties included in the disaster declaration which are Barry, Barton, Bollinger, Butler, Camden, Carter, Cedar, Christian, Cole, Crawford, Dade, Dallas, Dent, Douglas, Dunklin, Franklin, Gasconade, Howell, Iron, Jasper, Jefferson,

Lawrence, Madison, Maries, McDonald, Miller, Morgan, Newton, Oregon, Osage, Ozark, Pemiscot, Perry, Phelps, Pike, Pulaski, Ralls, Reynolds, Ripley, Shannon, St. Louis, Stone, Taney, Texas, Washington, Wayne, Webster and Wright.

Please follow the guidelines in the Cost-Share Handbook for reconstruction of practices, Section V. Eligible Practices, part F. Reconstruction, page V-6. The district must choose “Reconstruction” from the Special Practice Description dropdown menu, enter the original contract number in the Original Contract(s) field and “Acres Served” is to be reported as zero as the acres were reported on a previous contract. However, for reconstruction on grazing contracts, the acres served must be the acres that are addressed by the contract due to the per acre maximum calculations. For all reconstruction contracts associated with this disaster, select the note type of “**FEMA 4317-DR**” in MoSWIMS for tracking purposes.

Districts submitting reconstruction contract(s) for practices that originally used the TANK-PERMANENT component, instead of using the group components (TANK-PERMANENT) for reconstruction practices, must instead use individual components for only the items that were damaged. Components such as GRAVEL-RECONSTRUCTION, GEOTEXTILE-RECONSTRUCTION and CONCRETE-RECONSTRUCTION have been added to MoSWIMS. These components must only be used for reconstruction contracts.

For the practices that were damaged during the construction phase and have not received payment, there is policy in the reconstruction section of the Cost-Share Handbook that addresses how to handle the components that were damaged. Since the policy does not address fence, the Commission, for this disaster declaration, adopted a policy to allow the footage of fence that was damaged to be added to the contract at a rate of 50%. On these contracts, please enter the note type of “**FEMA 4317-DR**” stating the footage of fence damaged.

Districts need to be assured that no other funds are being used for reconstruction of the cost-share practice such as federal or insurance payments. If other funds are available, cost-share contracts should not be approved for reconstruction of the practice.

Please contact your district coordinator with questions or if you need additional assistance. Thank you.

CM:jpd