

Missouri Department of dnr.mo.gov

NATURAL RESOURCES

Michael L. Parson, Governor


Carol S. Comer, Director

MEMORANDUM

2019-004

DATE: July 12, 2018

TO: All Soil and Water Conservation Districts

FROM:  Colleen Meredith, Director
Soil and Water Conservation Program

SUBJECT: LAGERS Retirement System

The legislation to allow Soil and Water Conservation Districts to join the Missouri Local Government Employees Retirement System (LAGERS) has been signed by the Governor. We appreciate the hard work and dedication that the Missouri Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts (MASWCD) put towards getting this legislation passed.

If your soil and water conservation district (SWCD) is interested in LAGERS, the next step is to have an actuary study done. Recently the Program Office sent an email asking which SWCDs would be interested in having an actuary study done and approximately 85 SWCDs are interested.

MASWCD, the Program Office and LAGERS have discussed the potential workload to get all SWCD employees signed up for LAGERS over the next few of months. It has been determined the only way to schedule SWCDs for the actuary study is on a first come first serve basis. Located on the SWCD intranet site <https://mosoilandwater.land/internal/home> is an Excel spreadsheet that includes a letter and two forms from LAGERS. SWCDs will be scheduled for an actuary study based on when the forms from LAGERS are completed and sent to LAGERS at the following email address, ealthoff@molagers.org. Both forms must be received prior to the actuary study being started. Once requested, the actuary study will take 2-3 weeks to complete. The time needed to complete these studies may be delayed due to the large number of request from SWCDs. Once the actuary study is completed it will need to be released for public comment for 45 days before the SWCD can sign their staff up for LAGERS. The SWCD will be billed for the actuary study only after it is completed. The cost of the actuary study is \$500 and the SWCDs can use their administrative funds for this expense. The actuary study is good for two years.



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Once several actuary studies are done, the Program Office will make a determination on what level of LAGERS retirement will be funded with state funds. The SWCDs will know the level of funding provided by the state prior to the SWCD making a final decision on whether to change their retirement to LAGERS. The Program Office will only adjust the retirement allocation at the beginning of each quarter. If a district chooses to sign their employees up for LAGERS prior to the beginning of the quarter any additional cost will need to be paid with local funds.

If you have any question please contact either your district coordinator or Elizabeth Althoff with LAGERS at 573-632-6377. Thank you.

CM:jbl