

Missouri State Technical Committee Meeting
Boone Electric Conference Room
Columbia, MO
9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon
November 19, 2009

Opening Comments – Dwaine Gelnar, Assistant State Conservationist for Programs and Operations, welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced J. R. Flores, Missouri NRCS State Conservationist.

J. R. welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked each person to introduce him or herself. J. R. explained the role of the State Technical Committee and reviewed the meeting agenda. J. R. pointed out that Missouri has a very diverse State Technical Committee and he looked forward to building a strong working relationship with them.

Recap of FY 2009 NRCS programs.

Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP)

Dwaine Gelnar, Assistant State Conservationist for Programs and Operations, stated that in 2009 we had just under 4,500 EQIP application requesting \$70 million. Those applications resulted in 1,006 contracts were signed for just under \$18 million. Dwaine presented the committee with a handout that indicated the number of applications and contracts each county had received in 2009. Dwaine also presented a handout that illustrated the types of applications funded in 2009. He stated that nearly 60% of Missouri's contracts went towards addressing livestock concerns, which is nationally mandated.

Dwaine informed the group of the six special emphasis sign ups conducted in 2009. He presented the committee with a handout that broke down those sign ups and illustrated the number of applications and contracts that each special emphasis received.

Wildlife Habitat Improvement Program (WHIP)

Dwaine stated that in 2009 Missouri had 191 WHIP applications, requesting just over \$1.6 million. He pointed out that with the limited funding we received, 117 contracts were signed totaling just over \$1.2 million. Dwaine presented to the committee a handout that illustrated the number of applications and contracts each county received.

Dwaine informed the group that the 2010 WHIP funding in Missouri would be considerably less than it was in 2009 due to a new funding formula used at that National level. He indicated that the allocation for 2010 WHIP was close to \$270,000.

Conservation Security Program (CSP)

Dwaine Gelnar presented a handout which outlined all the current CSP watersheds in Missouri. He stated that some of the 5-year CSP contracts would be expiring in 2009.

Dwaine pointed out that Missouri currently has 1,619 active CSP contracts with 2009 obligations totaling just over \$27 million.

Dwaine explained a handout that illustrated the different CSP regions in Missouri.

Harold Deckerd, Assistant State Conservationist for Water Resources, presented a recap of the 2009 Easement Programs in Missouri. He presented the committee numerous handouts which broke down Easement participation.

Wetland Reserve Program (WRP)

Harold indicated that Missouri funded 30 permanent easements totaling 2,633 acres. He stated, in addition to funding permanent easements, Missouri funded five 30 year easements totaling 214 acres. Harold covered and handout that indicated the WRP rate caps statewide.

Grassland Reserve Program (GRP)

Harold stated that 20 GRP contracts were funded, totaling 2,663 acres and 5 permanent easements totaling 1,080 acres. Harold reviewed a handout that indicated the GRP rate caps statewide.

American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Emergency Watershed Protection Program-Flood Plain Easement (ARRA EWPP-FPE)

Harold stated that 7 permanent easements were funded totaling 1,187 acres. He also mentioned that the deadline for project completion under this program was December 31, 2010. He pointed out that the ARRA EWPP FPE had a much shorter completion deadline than other easement programs.

Emergency Watershed Protection Program-Flood Plain Easement (EWPP-FPE)

Harold stated that 6 permanent easements were funded totaling 1,678 acres.

Farm Service Agency (FSA)

Eddie Hamill, FSA State Executive Director, informed the committee that Missouri had over 3,500 CRP contracts totaling 1.4 million acres. He also indicated that in the next couple of years nearly 35,000 acres will be coming out of CRP and he would like the committee's input on how to handle those acres.

Eddie mentioned that a new renewable energy program, BCAP (Bio-Mass Crop Assistance), is now available through FSA. This program is designed to encourage the production or accumulation of bio-mass which will be converted into energy. Eddie stated that Missouri currently has two plants now in operation to convert bio-mass into energy with the first one being in Centerview, Missouri.

FY 2010 Conservation Programs (CSP EQIP WHIP)

Conservation Stewardship Program CSP

Dwaine stated that the new 2010 Conservation Stewardship Program will, in effect, replace the Conservation Security Program. Dwaine covered the CSP funding regions for 2010 and presented the committee with a CSP fact sheet. He also discussed the estimated payment ranges for the new Conservation Stewardship Program.

Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP)

Dwaine pointed out some changes in the way 2010 EQIP would be funded. He stated that in 2010 EQIP funding pools will be based on application type. A particular application type such as cropland will compete within their county with other cropland applications. He covered the suggested Missouri State Concerns that will be used in the ranking of 2010 EQIP applications. Dwaine asked the committee to look over the list of conservation practices they were presented with and make any recommendations for change.

Dwaine indicated that in 2010 a new initiative will be offered in EQIP. The Mississippi River Basin Initiative will be offered in certain 8 digit watersheds this year. He also presented the committee with a handout giving additional information on the initiative.

Wildlife Habitat Improvement Program (WHIP)

Dwaine stated that 2010 WHIP will not be funded at a very high level in Missouri. He stated that we will initially only receive about \$270,000 in WHIP funds but, we may have an opportunity later in the year to receive additional funding.

2010 Program Input from State Technical Committee

Dwaine asked the Committee for their input on 2010 EQIP and WHIP programs. The following items were presented by Committee members.

- Target more EQIP funds towards closing of Waste Lagoons.
- Reallocate EQIP funds from Animal Feeding operations to allow more Waste Lagoon Closings.
- Continue to address at-risk species.
- Target conservation activities in watersheds that have been identified by DNR as having environmental issues.
- Place more emphasis on addressing Atrazine issues.
- Additional emphasis on Forestland throughout the State.
- Additional funding for Nutrient Management throughout the State.
- Explore the pooling of DNR and NRCS funds when addressing the closure of waste impoundments.
- Consider additional emphasis on Wildlife.

J.R. instructed the Committee to submit any additional feed back to him or Dwaine by November 30, 2009.