

Missouri State Technical Committee Meeting Minutes April 25, 2023

Meeting was called to order at 9:00 am by Nate Goodrich, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Assistant State Conservationist – Partnerships. Nate thanked everyone for attending and went through the agenda for the meeting (see attached), then he passed the meeting on to Scott Edwards, NRCS State Conservationist, for opening comments.

Scott greeted the group and then provided an update on NRCS programs and talked about the Gateway to Conservation FY 22 handout (attached) then passed the meeting on to Joe Aull, Farm Service Agency State Executive Director. Joe provided an update on FSA programs and then passed the meeting on to Mark Holtgren, Rural Development Deputy State Director. Mark provided an update on Rural Development Programs.

State Tech Committee Function, Feedback, and Follow-up: Nate explained the NRCS was going to use a new polling software today to gather committee feedback and how that feedback can and will be used. Then he proceeded on to cover the committee's purpose, function, structure, and policy that is in our Conservation Programs Manual. He also explained the NRCS State Conservationist responsibilities. He talked about the eight subcommittees and who chairs the committee and its members (see attached). Nate explained the structures and responsibilities of the subcommittees in that they are limited to ten people or less and their purpose is to have a technical specialist focus and to balance conversations between the entire state technical committee. Nate announced the addition of the new agribusiness subcommittee this year. Tim Gibbons asked what the purview is of the subcommittees. Nate replied we are developing that. The agribusiness subcommittee does not have a charter yet. The start of the agribusiness subcommittee was brought about after an individual asked for his business to be included in the state technical committee and saw the need for an agribusiness subcommittee. Jim Ball commented that he appreciated Nate explaining this information on the committee. He also commented that fielding questions from the large group can be difficult so he said that subcommittees would help that. Nate agreed and explained that subcommittees serve as a way to manage recommendations and in the future would like subcommittees to make presentations to the whole committee at meetings.

State Tech Committee: Real Life Examples:

Scott Edwards covered the new major legislation for conservation. They are Bipartisan Infrastructure Bill and Inflation Reduction Act. He explained that the Bipartisan Infrastructure Bill has funded Watershed Operations Program (PL 83-566) and covered the general purposes of this program. Scott talked about Missouri's PL-83-566 priorities. A live feedback question was given asking the committee to rank the six priorities of Missouri's PL 83-566. Scott announced that over the next month we will be developing a workload prioritization tool for watershed ranking and we will be seeking input from all committee members. Scott explained the process of how PL 83-566 projects come to fruition in that they start with a request that he receives and turns into NHQ to develop a preliminary investigative feasibility report (PIFR). A live feedback question was given asking the committee to rank the four watershed projects high priority resource concerns. He provided an update on Partnerships for Climate Smart Commodities. He said that 37 approved projects will be available in Missouri. He ended his presentation talking

about the Inflation Reduction Act. He provided a brief overview of NRCS Provisions, what makes IRA different, and Missouri IRA Funding Projections (See attached).

Tim Gibbons asked why was so low in 2023. Scott replied we received partial funding since funds were received later in the fiscal year. Frank Oberle asked about funding and percentages. Scott explained that it is targeted by priorities such as beginning farmers, Historically Underserved, etc.

Hannah Hemmelgarn asked if there is a plan if there are more funds than producers and if there are requirements how will NRCS help. Scott said there are requirements for the programs and responded that he doesn't think we will ever have a lack of producers in need. NRCS's roll will continue to be helping producers navigate applying for funds. Tim Gibbons asked a question regarding cover crops, till/no-till, and tree and shrub establishment being a form of nutrient management. Scott explained that while yes, cover crops and other best management practices are part of the whole system for nutrient management, the specific practice standard 590 for nutrient management is not being widely delivered. Scott talked about the NRCS Cover Crops Conservation Practice 340. He covered payment rates, the species, mix combinations, and multiple year contracts. He highlighted the SWCD State Cost Share Program Policy for N340 Cover Crop and the opportunities for cover crop. Scott talked about the Native Forages Initiative. He said that we are up to \$5 million for native grasses in grazing systems. Our partners are coming together for technical assistance. Amy Hamilton, Frank Oberle, Tim Gibbons complimented this initiative. Jim Ball asked about Act Now's role in Native Forages. Scott explained that Act Now is used for a new demand that we are making a priority to fund. Jim followed up with asking if there was enough funding for the Native Forages Initiative to be in full demand. Scott replied yes and the next opportunity for additional IRA funding is in June. Scott wrapped up explaining that Missouri is leading nationwide in the number (32) of Partnerships for Climate Smart Commodities approved projects.

Marilyn Gann provided a presentation on the Water Quality Sub Committee and acknowledged who was on the committee. Then she provided an update on MRBI. She said Missouri is one of 12 states identified as part of the initiative. The focus is improving water quality in small watersheds. NRCS anticipates an opportunity to propose new priority watersheds soon for 2024. She showed a map of the proposed watersheds and then shared the top five recommendations that the subcommittee suggested. The State Technical Committee provided input on the suggested watersheds. Subcommittee member, Robert Stout shared comment about the committee and their goal, their concerns, and with that they are making a difference. Frank Oberle expressed concern regarding the science we have about water concerns and sediment. He asked for an explanation of what the science is behind figuring out if a watershed has problems with sediment. He said DNR has a certain time they do sampling. He would like to see someone sample during rain events to see what watersheds are impeding our water streams. Marilyn responded the committee will take this into consideration and will see what is within policy. Jim Ball asked if all projects involve building a lake and if any of these projects involved tax rate incentive programs. Scott said these projects are not all building lakes and are working land/farmland treatment.

Subcommittee Reports:

- **Easements Update:** Chris Hamilton provided an update on ACEP-WRE and the compensation that they will receive. He shared a copy of the ACEP-WRE Compensation GARC Map. Announced that they are moving to doing easement assessments on an individual basis instead of by area to get a more accurate value to reflect the increase cost of land. He identified the Easements subcommittee.
- **WQ/Source Water:** Marilyn Gann provided a presentation on the Water Quality Sub Committee and acknowledged who was on the committee.
- **Programs:** Marilyn Gann identified the committee and said that this committee will meet this fall.
- **Grasslands:** Selma Mascaro identified the committee and said that this committee has not met recently.
- **Forestry/Wildlife:** Selma Mascaro identified the committee and said that she has not met recently.
- **Agribusiness:** Andrew Rackers said this is a new committee that it is being formed. He intends to hold a meeting early summer.
- **Urban Ag:** Nate Goodrich said that he is taking over this committee and they have not met yet since he took over but they did meet last year to establish a charter.
- **Soil Health:** Nate Goodrich, subcommittee chair said that this committee has not met yet. Jorge Lugo-Camacho is new subcommittee Chair.

Scott made an announcement that Rex McAliley is transitioning from Water Resources staff to Ecological Sciences staff to work with partner agencies and work to find data for impaired streams. We are adding staff across the state to assist with watershed work including planners, engineers, geologists, etc. We are also adding a state training coordinator to help facilitate trainings and cope with the high turnover rate within the agency and partners.

Partnership for Climate Smart Commodities Projects: There were 5 presentations made.

- **CRCL, University of Missouri (Rob Myers):** He provided an update on this project. He explained they provide technical and financial assistance to producers to implement climate smart production practices on a voluntary basis on working lands and pilot innovative and cost-effective methods. Project components are incentive payment program, easy to use participant sign up app, technical assistance, education and training programs, monitoring, reporting and verification, market development for climate smart commodities. He talked about the practice incentives and the payments per acre. He said they have the project contract signed and hopes to hold a sign up in July. Jim Ball asked if these are one-time payments. Rob said it depends, example would be cover crop but most are one time. Rob explained that cover crop grazing can be an additional payment attached to a base payment of doing the cover crop but that the University can't pay for the same practice that NRCS is already paying for. Tim Gibbons asked how much money was coming from the Government. Rob explained that there is \$25 million in Government funding and the University is matching. Hannah Hemmelgarn asked if other groups are using farm ways and how this will be managed based on how many groups are using incentive programs? Rob replied that they are helping farmers navigate what is the most relevant program for them. Staff are designated to help navigate the number of programs available and how they can compliment each other.

- **Horizon II, Roeslein Alternative Energy (Brandon Butler):** Provided an update on this project. He explained the goal is to keep Energy, Ecosystem, and Wildlife Objectives in Balance. He shared that the company was founded in 2012. They have 9 working farms in northern Missouri. He showed the source to revenue map, highlighted their major accomplishments, and their awards and recognitions. He said they created the platform prairie prophets. They have a podcast and will print and mail journals. They will buy articles and photos for their content. Their goal is to have a video series on a streaming system (Netflix is the goal). Their grant is \$80 million.
- **Industrial Hemp Supply, Lincoln University (Dr. Babu Valliyodan):** Provided an update on this project. Goal is scaling up the industry hemp supply chain as carbon negative feed stock for fuel and fiber. He provided an overview. The objective is to establish nationally recognized industrial hemp program and to extend that acknowledge to growers and producers. Aspects of industrial hemp (Funded by the USDA-NRCS-CSC) include designing for maximum carbon fixing and carbon sequestration, and measuring, monitoring, and verifying the carbon and GHG benefits associated with climate smart production practices. They are scaling up the industrial hemp supply chain as carbon negative feedstock for fuel and fiber with LU as the lead and \$5 million in funding. Need & Approach: Capacity of industrial hemp as a cover crop and/or as conservation crop rotation to fix and sequester carbon. Low carbon fuel production and sustainable low carbon building. He shared an example and their plan to develop and expand markets for hemp as a climate smart commodity by utilizing partnership to market commodities. They use smart tech to track and ensure eco benefits. He showed a video of the species they are growing to test. For more information you can view their website at <https://lincolnu.edu/web/hemp-institute>. Jim Ball asked how much nutrients they need to add and Dr. Valliyodan responded that studies will still need to be completed to answer that question.
- **Advancing US Pork Sustainability, National Port Board (Chris McLeland):** Their objective is to expand current NPB Pork Cares Farm Impact Reports program to include covering practice implementation cost and technical assistance. He named the 12 partners and identified the three states that are involved in this project (IA/MO/MN). He shared the range of practices eligible for grant participation and the timeline. They do have a signed agreement. For more information see their website porkcheckoff.org. Erin Holmes asked if there was a pasture component and the response was yes. They will work on that but right now there is only livestock integration and grazing cover crops.
- **Biochar for Climate Smart Farms in MO, Missouri Organic Association (Jackie Casteel):** Provided an update on this project. She talked about how this process started. She explained that they started putting biochar on one section of the farm and saw the activity of the soil microbes and saw more carbon sequestration in that one section They formed a committee with various partners which lead to the biochar carbon smart program. They created carbonizer that is portable, to take to participant's farm to load waste, produce biochar on farm and apply to field. The goal is to build two machines in year two and three of program, have machines running for as much of the year as possible. They are looking for participants from poultry farms, corn and soybeans, and specialty crops. MO Organic Association wants to represent farms of all sizes. She talked about the staff they have and what other organizations assist them with finding locations and make measurements. Their staff includes technicians going with machine and helping

spread biochar and deciding where it should go on the farm. Lincoln university is helping with measuring outcomes and data collection for what climate smart practices are being done.

Emerging Issues from Partners and Wrap Up:

Scott asked the group what they hoped to hear about and didn't.

- Amy Hamilton said that she hasn't heard of Diverse Natives for Grazing.
- Robert Stout said he would like to hear about RCPP so Scott explained briefly explained this program.
- Hannah Hemmelgarn asked about Subcommittees and if they are they self-elect. Scott said any state technical committee member can serve on a subcommittee.

Scott closed the meeting at 2:00 pm.

Missouri State Technical Committee Meeting Attendee's

April 25, 2023

Personnel Present

Scott Edwards	Kurt Boechmann
Nate Goodrich	Ethan Miller
Chris Hamilton	Reagan Bluel
Jennifer Long	Jeff Powelson
Ronna Chrisman	Ken Henderson
Selma Mascaro	Jim Plassmeyer
Tracey Wiggins	Jake Wilson
Alyssa Travlos	John Weber
Andrew Rackers	Jennifer Eggemeyer
Jim Boschert	Andrea Rice
Clayton Light	Chris McLeland
Casey Berthold	Trevor Bennett
Jeremy Redden	Andrew White
Erin Holmes	Jim Ball
Tim Gibbons	Mark Hultgren
Tammy White	Amy Hamilton
Hannah Hemmelgarn	Rex McAliley
Joe Aull	Nashad Carrington
Lisa Potter	George Kipp
Rob Myer	Brandon Butler
Rod Kallebach	Robert Stout
Babu Valliyodan	Nick Cuchetti
David Baker	Frank Oberle
Brad Powell	Nick Pough

MO STATE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA

Location: Missouri Farm Bureau Headquarters
701 S. Country Club Drive
Jefferson City, MO

Date: April 25, 2023

Time: 9:00 am – 2:30 pm

Agenda Items

9:00 – 9:30	Registration and Refreshments	
9:30 – 10:00	Welcome and Opening Comments	Scott Edwards, NRCS Joe Aull, FSA Kyle Wilkens, RD
10:00 – 10:30	State Technical Committee Function, Feedback, and Follow Up	Nate Goodrich
10:30 – 11:30	State Technical Committee: Real Life Examples Resource Concerns for IRA – Scott MRBI/NWQI Priority Watersheds – Marilyn	Scott Edwards Marilyn Gann
11:30 – 12:00	Lunch	Pre-Ordered/Carried In

MO STATE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA

Location: Missouri Farm Bureau Headquarters
701 S. Country Club Drive
Jefferson City, MO

Date: April 25, 2023

Time: 9:00 am – 2:30 pm

12:00 – 12:30

Subcommittee Reports

Nate Goodrich

Water Quality/Source Water – Marilyn Gann
Programs – Marilyn Gann
Easements – Chris Hamilton
Forestry/Wildlife – Selma Mascaro
Grasslands/Row Crops – Selma Mascaro
Soil Health – Jorge Lugo
Urban Agriculture – Nate Goodrich
Agribusiness – Andy Rackers

12:30 – 2:00

Partnership for Climate Smart Commodities Projects

Nate Goodrich

CRCL, University of Missouri – Dr. Rob Myers
Horizon II, Roeslein Alternative Energy – Rudi Roeslein
Industrial Hemp Supply, Lincoln University – Dr. Babu Valliyodan
Advancing US Pork Sustainability, National Pork Board – Chris McLeland
Biochar for Climate-Smart Farms in MO, Missouri Organic Assoc – Jackie Casteel

2:00 – 2:30

Emerging Issues from Partners and Wrap Up

Scott Edwards

Additional information

Contact: Nate Goodrich
Assistant State Conservationist for Partnerships
nate.goodrich@usda.gov
573-876-9403

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United States Department of Agriculture

April 25, 2023

Missouri State Technical Committee Meeting

Missouri Farm Bureau Headquarters



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State Technical Committee Function, Feedback, and Follow Up

April 25, 2023

Nate Goodrich
Assistant State Conservationist for
Partnerships



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Live feedback session



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State Technical Committee

The Missouri State Technical Committee plays a key role in supporting sustainable agriculture across the state:

- Assist in making recommendations relating to the implementation and technical aspects of natural resource conservation activities and programs
- Advise the NRCS State Conservationist on developing guidelines for implementing conservation provisions of the Farm Bill





State Technical Committee Functions and Structure



General Manual Title 440 – Programs, Part 501 – USDA Conservation Program Delivery

The locally led process provides USDA with conservation needs, resource concerns, priorities, and recommendations regarding program administration and implementation. USDA seeks input from State Technical Committees and local work groups on State and local conservation program delivery.



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Committee Functions and Structure

Purpose:

- Serves in an **advisory capacity** to NRCS State Conservationist.
- Meets regularly to **provide advice and technical recommendations** to implement the conservation provisions of the Farm Bill.
- Committee is chaired by the State Conservationist and membership includes diverse groups served by USDA including representatives from federal, state and local conservation agencies, tribal governments, agricultural producers, nonprofit organizations, agribusiness partners, and other professionals who represent disciplines in agriculture and conservation.



Committee Responsibilities

- **It is the responsibility of the State Technical Committee to:**
 - Provide information, analysis, and recommendations to USDA on conservation priorities and criteria for natural resources conservation activities and programs, including application and funding criteria, recommended practices, and program payment percentages
 - Identify emerging natural resource concerns and program needs
 - Recommend conservation practice standards and specifications
 - Recommend State and national program policy based on resource data
 - Review activities of the local working groups to ensure State priorities are being addressed locally
 - Make recommendations to the State Conservationist on requests and recommendations from local working groups
 - Assist NRCS with public outreach and information efforts and identify educational and producers' needs





State Conservationist Responsibilities

- **The State Conservationist will:**

- Chair the committee
- **Ensure representation** of all interests, to the extent possible
- **Give strong consideration to the committee's advice** on NRCS programs, initiatives, and activities
- Call and provide notice of public meetings
- Follow the standard operating procedures
- **Provide other USDA agencies with recommendations** from the committee for programs under their purview
- Ensure recommendations, when adopted, address natural resource concerns
- Respond to requests for membership

**NRCS has recently updated membership list and contact information*





Subcommittees



- **Specialized subcommittees composed of Committee members may be needed to analyze and refine specific issues, including technical and or programmatic topics**
- **Recently expanded the number of subcommittees to have small working groups to engage on targeted interest**
- **Missouri subcommittees are:**
 - Urban Conservation – Nate Goodrich
 - Soil Health – Jorge Lugo
 - Water Quality and Source Water Protection – Marilyn Gann
 - Programs – Marilyn Gann
 - Forestry and Wildlife – Selma Mascaro
 - Grasslands and Row Crops – Selma Mascaro
 - Easements – Chris Hamilton
 - Agribusiness – Andy Rackers





Subcommittees



- **Structure and Responsibilities**

- Intent is to keep membership at a level that allows interaction resulting in open and honest discussion
- Each subcommittee will elect a member chair responsible for setting meetings (minimum of one per year) and agenda, maintaining official minutes, ensuring inclusion, provide subcommittee brief to full Committee
- No final actions will be completed in subcommittee, as all work will be presented, discussed, and understood by full committee
- NRCS will serve as technical and/or programmatic representative(s) on subject matter
- To facilitate small working groups and allow maximum involvement:
 - each individual is limited to serving on one subcommittee
 - goal of 10 total members but everyone is welcome to attend and observe the subcommittee work
- Length of term will be 2 years per appointment. The term may be renewed provided the volunteer, subcommittee chairperson, and the State Conservationist concur.



Subcommittees



- **Addition of new Agribusiness Subcommittee**
 - Allowed via 2018 Farm Bill
 - All Agribusinesses on full committee will be offered membership on this subcommittee



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Record of Meetings



→ [Missouri State Technical Committee](#)



State Technical Committee

State Technical Committees serve in an advisory capacity to the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and other agencies of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) on the implementation of the natural resources conservation provisions of Farm Bill legislation.

[LEARN MORE](#)



Upcoming State Technical Committee Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for April 25, 2023, from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. This is an in-person meeting. If you are interested in attending, contact Nate Goodrich at nate.goodrich@usda.gov.

[Missouri State Technical Committee April 2023 Agenda \(92.95 KB\)](#)

State Technical Committee Meeting Minutes

- [May 28, 2020 MO STC Minutes \(56.07 KB\)](#)
- [March 11, 2020 MO STC Natural Resources Subcommittee Minutes \(12.62 MB\)](#)
- [January 17, 2023 MO STC Minutes \(4.6 MB\)](#)
- [September 26, 2022 MO STC Minutes \(2.34 MB\)](#)
- [May 25, 2022 MO STC Minutes \(10 MB\)](#)
- [August 25, 2021 MO STC Minutes \(88.34 KB\)](#)
- [June 24, 2021 MO STC Minutes \(86.54 KB\)](#)
- [March 1, 2021 MO STC Minutes \(119.79 KB\)](#)



Response to Committee Recommendations

- **The State Conservationist will inform the Committee as to decisions made in response to all recommendations following each meeting**
 - Notification will be made in writing to all Committee members and posted to the MO NRCS website





Questions/Discussion



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Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; or***

(2) Fax: (833) 256-1665 or (202) 690-7442; or

***(3) Email: program.intake@usda.gov
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United States Department of Agriculture

April 25, 2023

Major Investments in Missouri Conservation

Scott Edwards,
State Conservationist



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Major New Legislation for Conservation

Bipartisan Infrastructure Bill - November 15, 2021

Inflation Reduction Act - August 18, 2022

Investments in Conservation

NRCS Farm Bill Programs

Partnerships for Climate Smart Commodities

DNR Soil and Water Conservation Program



Bipartisan Infrastructure Bill has funded Watershed Operations Program (PL 83-566)

General Purposes

- Preventing damage from erosion, floodwater, and sediment
- Furthering the conservation, development, utilization, and disposal of water
- Furthering the conservation and proper utilization of land

Missouri's PL 83-566 Priorities

Projects that have already been planned but unfunded.

Capacity of the sponsor to administratively complete the project.

Projects that can be completed in less than 5 years.

Projects that have already acquired land rights or control.

Projects that address multiple high priority resource concerns.

- Flood Prevention
- Ag Water Management
- Watershed Protection
- Public Fish and Wildlife

Disadvantaged communities receiving benefits from federal action.

- Low income, Poverty, and low enrollment in higher education
- Health Burdens and low life expectancy
- Expected ag or population losses from climate change
- Energy Burden, Pollution and Traffic, Affordable Housing

Actions impact significant portions of the watershed.



Live feedback session



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PL 83-566 Projects



- Sponsor makes a formal request in writing to NRCS for assistance.
- Missouri NRCS seeks NHQ approval to develop a Preliminary Investigative Feasibility Report (PIFR). If the PIFR is favorable, next step is to develop a watershed plan.
- If approved by NHQ, funds will be made available to the Sponsor for a watershed plan.
- Once the planning phase is completed, a request will be made to NHQ to fund engineering designs.
- Upon completion of the engineering phase, a construction authorization will be requested from NHQ.



Cost-Share



Purpose	Install Construction	Engineering	Real Property Rights
Flood Prevention	100%	100%	0
Watershed Protection	Variable, not to exceed existing programs	100%	0
Public Fish and Wildlife or Public Recreation	No more than 50%	100%	No more than 50%
Agricultural Water Management	Up to 75%, but not to exceed existing programs	Up to 100%	0
Municipal and Industrial Water Supply	No more than 50%, assistance involves loans	0	0
Water Quality Management	To be determined by the Secretary of Agriculture	Up to 100%	
Conservation Easements		Not less than 50%	Not less than 50%
Mitigation of Habitat Loss		No more than 50%	No more than 50%

PL 83-566 Projects in Missouri



- In construction:** 1 in Northwest MO (A1) Little Otter Creek Multipurpose – water supply, flooding, recreation
- In Design:** 1 in North Central MO (A2) Roy Blunt Reservoir Multipurpose – water supply, flooding, recreation
- 4 in Planning:** 3 in Southeast MO (A3) – flooding, ag water management
1 in Southwest MO (A4) - flooding
- 17 in PIFR:** 2 in Northwest MO (A1) - flooding
3 in Northwest MO (A2) - flooding
11 in Southeast MO (A3) - flooding, ag water manage
1 in Southwest MO (A4) - flooding, ag water management
- 6 PIFR Request:** 6 in Northwest MO (A1) – flooding
- REHAB:** No request to date



Partnerships for Climate Smart Commodities

Missouri has 32 Approved Projects

25 - Projects \$5 Million to \$90 Million

Scaling up the industrial hemp supply chain as carbon negative feedstock for fuel and fiber-- Lead Partner: Lincoln University

Major Commodities: Hemp

Approximate Funding Ceiling: \$5,000,000 (Project area is only in Missouri)

An Integrated Approach to Scaling-Up Climate-Smart Practices for Crop, Livestock and Agroforestry Production-- Lead Partner: The Curators of the University of Missouri

Major Commodities: Corn, Soybeans, Wheat, Oats, Sorghum, Cotton, Beef, Forage, Specialty Crops

Approximate Funding Ceiling: \$25,000,000 (Project area is only in Missouri)



Partnerships for Climate Smart Commodities

25 - Projects \$5 Million to \$90 Million

Farmers for Soil Health Climate Smart Commodities Partnership-- Lead

Partner: National Fish & Wildlife Foundation

Major Commodities: Corn, Soybeans

Approximate Funding Ceiling: \$95,000,000

Horizon II: A climate-smart future for corn, soybean, livestock, and renewable natural gas production-- Lead Partner: Roeslein Alternative Energy, LLC

Major Commodities: Corn, Soybeans, Pork, Beef, Grass

Approximate Funding Ceiling: \$80,000,000

National Pork Board's Advancing US Pork Sustainability and Market Value Proposal--

Lead Partner: National Pork Board

Major Commodities: Pork, Rice, Soybeans, Corn

Approximate Funding Ceiling: \$20,000,000

Partnerships for Climate Smart Commodities

25 - Projects \$5 Million to \$90 Million

Rice Stewardship Partnership for Climate-Smart Commodities--

Lead Partner: USA Rice Federation, Inc

Major Commodities: Rice

Approximate Funding Ceiling: \$80,000,000

Strengthening Grassroots Leadership & Capacity to Scale Climate-Smart Production Systems and Facilitate Historically Underserved Producers' Access to Markets--

Lead Partner: National Association of Conservation Districts

Major Commodities: Corn, Soybeans, Wheat, Sorghum, Rice, Livestock

Approximate Funding Ceiling: \$90,000,000

The Climate-Smart Agriculture Innovative Finance Initiative --

Lead Partner: Field to Market

Major Commodities: Corn, Soybeans, Cotton, Peanuts, Wheat, Potatoes, Barley, Sorghum, Alfalfa, Peanuts, Rice, Sugarbeets, Livestock

Approximate Funding Ceiling: \$70,000,000

Partnerships for Climate Smart Commodities

7 Projects less than \$5 Million

Biochar for Climate-Smart Farms in Missouri--_Lead Partner: Missouri Organic Association

Major Commodities: Corn, soy and other organic and specialty crops

Approximate Funding Ceiling: \$4,935,000 (Project area is only in Missouri)

Increasing Accessibility to Regenerative Farming Practices and Markets for Small and/or Underserved Producers-- Lead Partner: Greener World

Major Commodities: Fruit, Vegetables and Specialty Crops; Beef, Livestock

Approximate Funding Ceiling: \$4,000,000

Innovative Cover-crop Opportunity, Verification and Economy stimulating technology for underserved farmers using Robotics (iCOVER)-- Lead Partner: University of Illinois

Major Commodities: Corn, Vegetables and Livestock

Approximate Funding Ceiling: \$4,999,999



Inflation Reduction Act (IRA)

Brief Overview of NRCS Provisions

- Signed into law August 18, 2022
- Single largest investment in climate and clean energy solutions in American history
- NRCS with \$19.5 billion in additional funds over five years for its existing conservation programs, including the
- Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP), and the Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP).

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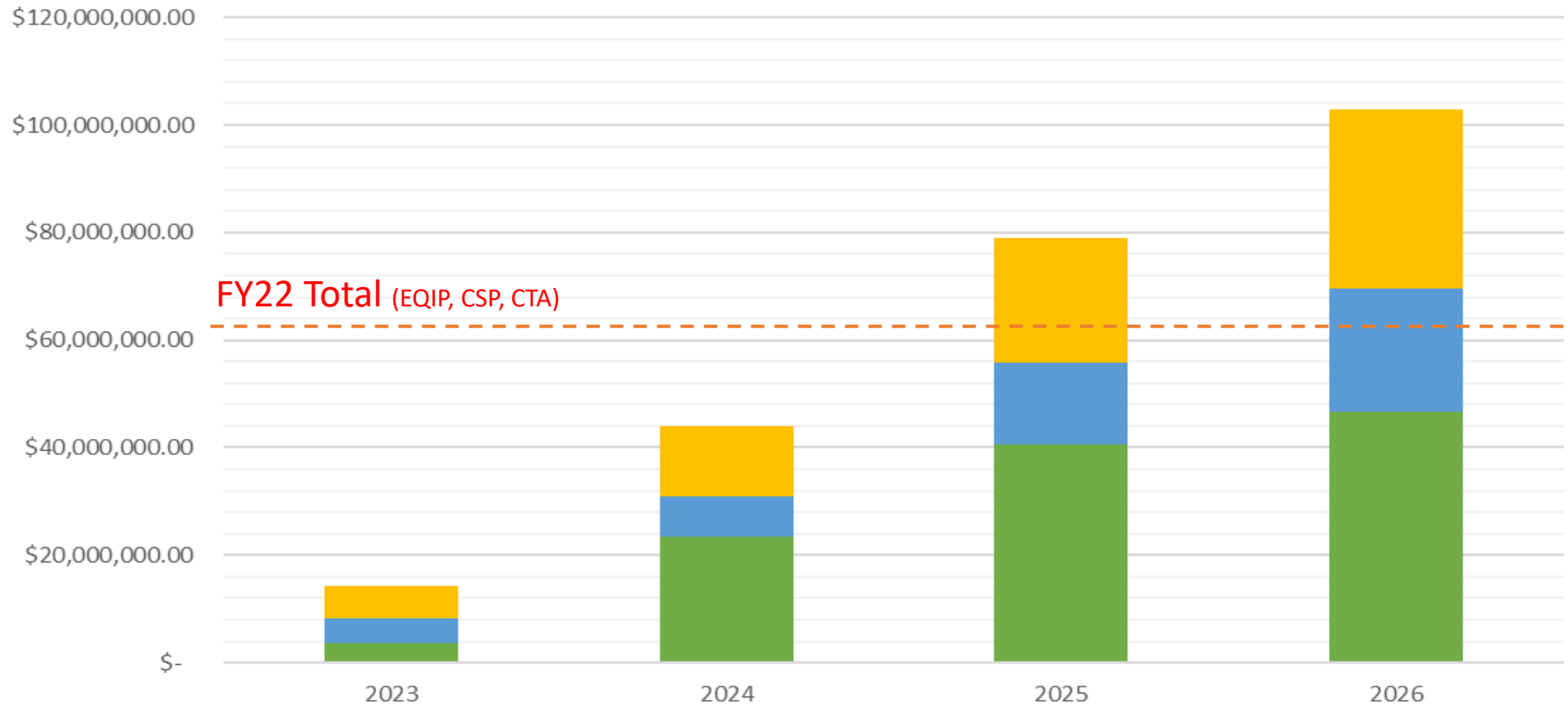
What makes IRA different

- **Climate Smart Ag and Forestry Focus**
 - Practices need to focus on emission reduction
 - Climate mitigation
- **Funds expiration**
 - IRA agreements cannot be for a term beyond September 30, 2031.
 - Additionally, the funds have an expiration date of September 30, 2031, and ***MUST BE EXPENDED*** by that date.
 - No other funds, such as regular program funds, can be used to fulfill obligations initially made with IRA funds.

Impact in Missouri

Missouri IRA Projections

■ EQIP ■ CSP ■ CTA



IRA Directs NRCS to use these funds

Specifically for climate change mitigation, activities that reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve carbon storage, like:

- Cover Crops
- Reduced-Till and No-Till
- Nutrient Management
- Prescribed Grazing
- Tree/Shrub Establishment
- Wetland Restoration

Live feedback session

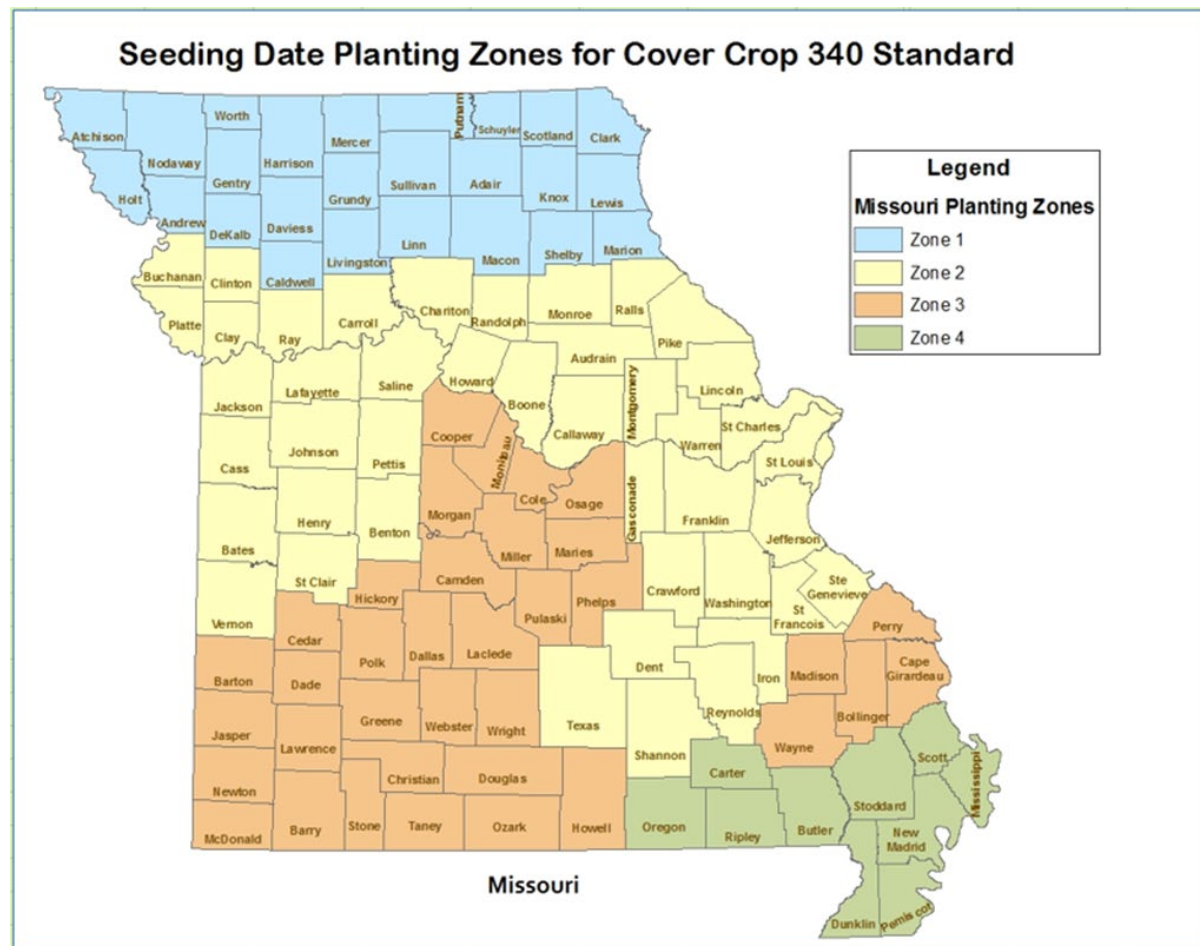


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NRCS Cover Crops 340

- Payment rates of \$62.23 or \$74.68 per acre
- 41 species 12 mix combinations across 4 planting zones
- Multiple year contracts and 5 year with CSP



SWCD State Cost Share Program

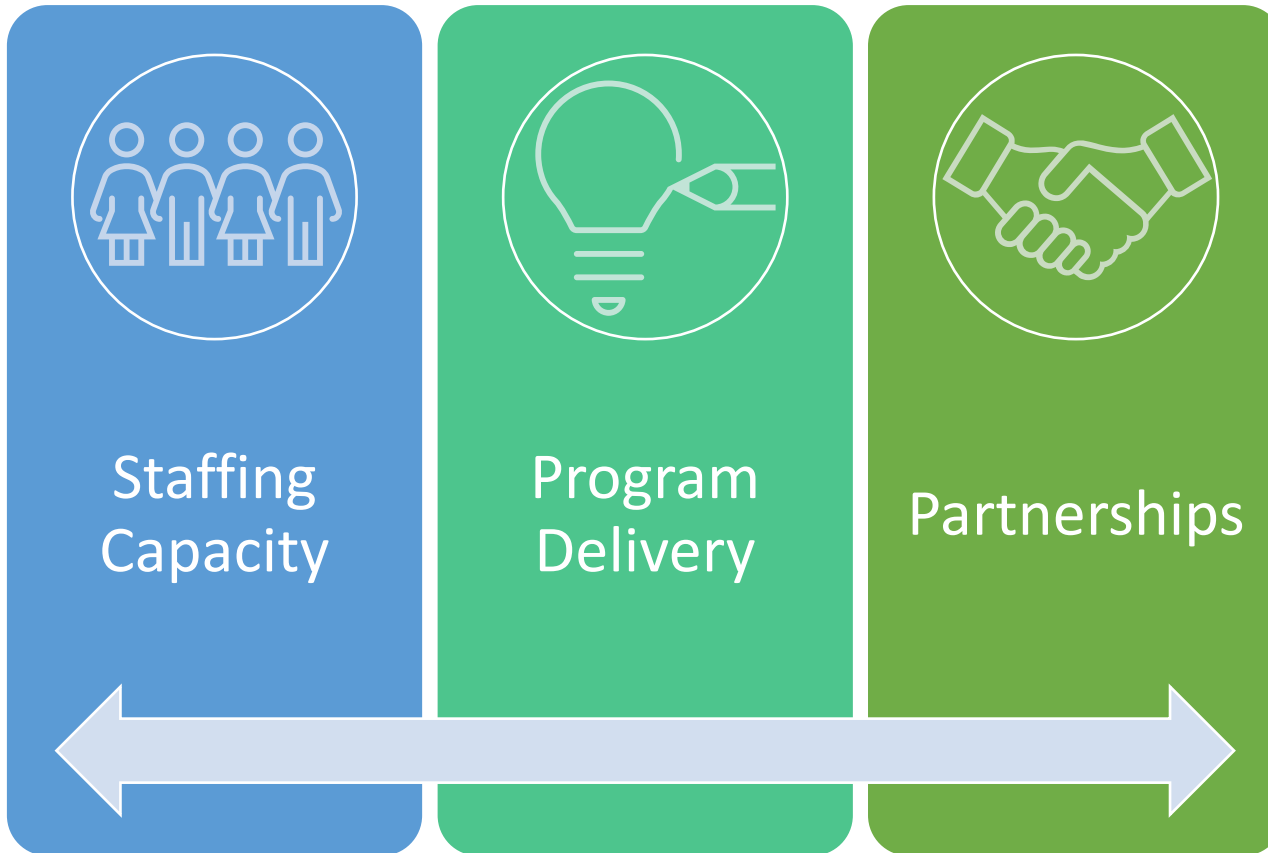
N340 Cover Crop State Cost Share Policies

- Payment can be issued after no-till planting of the production crops into the (terminated) cover crops or after May 25 if the production crop has not yet been planted.
- Production crop following the cover crops must be planted using a no-till system on the contracted acres.
- Cover crops may be grazed once the forages have reached a minimum height of 6–8 inches and grazing will need to stop once the forages have been grazed down to 4 inches.
- Cover crops will not be harvested for grain, seed or hayed.
- 1 or 2 species cover crop incentive is \$30.00 per acre.
- 3 or more species cover crop incentive is \$40.00 per acre.

Opportunities for Cover Crop

- NRCS EQIP – 15 to 20% of allocation
 - FY22 \$4,976,777 on 92,054 acres
 - FY21 \$5,710,852 on 112,485 acres
- SWCD State Cost Share Program – 10%
 - FY22 - \$4.0 million on 1,982 contracts on 123,692 acres
 - FY21 – \$4.6 million on 2,238 contracts on 142,909 acres
- Partnerships for Climate Smart Commodities Projects – 8 of the 32 projects specifically mention Cover Crop

Conservation Opportunities





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Water Quality & Source Water Subcommittee

Marilyn Gann,
Assistant State Conservationist – Programs

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Subcommittee Members

**Robert
Parks**

**Ken
Tomlin**

**Robert
Stout**

**Tim
Gibbons**

**Dan
Engemann**

**Brent
Herring**

Mississippi River Basin Healthy Watersheds Initiative (MRBI)

- **Missouri is one of 12 states identified as part of MRBI**
 - Arkansas
 - Illinois
 - Indiana
 - Iowa
 - Kentucky
 - Louisiana
 - Minnesota
 - Mississippi
 - Missouri
 - Ohio
 - Tennessee
 - Wisconsin

Mississippi River Basin Healthy Watersheds Initiative (MRBI)

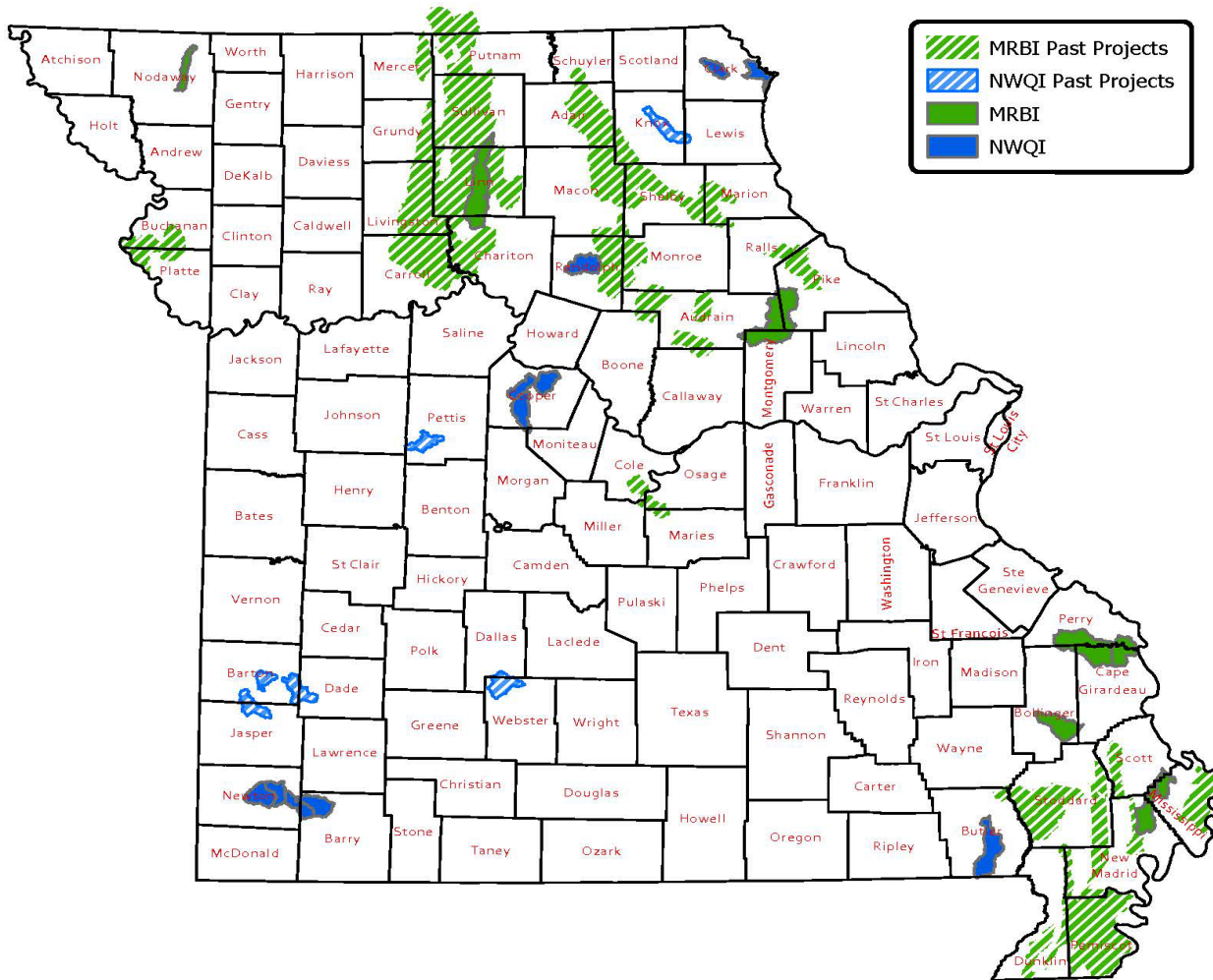
- **MRBI focuses on improving water quality in small watersheds**
 - Nutrient loss reduction strategies
 - Multi-year implementation
 - Conservation activity
 - Financial assistance
 - Approved new priority watersheds will have a watershed assessment completed

Mississippi River Basin Healthy Watersheds Initiative (MRBI)

The following map also identifies National Water Quality Initiative (NWQI) watersheds in Missouri.

- NWQI is available in all states
- NWQI focuses on addressing ag sources of water pollution
- Currently at maximum NWQI activity in Missouri.

FY23 MRBI/NWQI Current and Past Projects



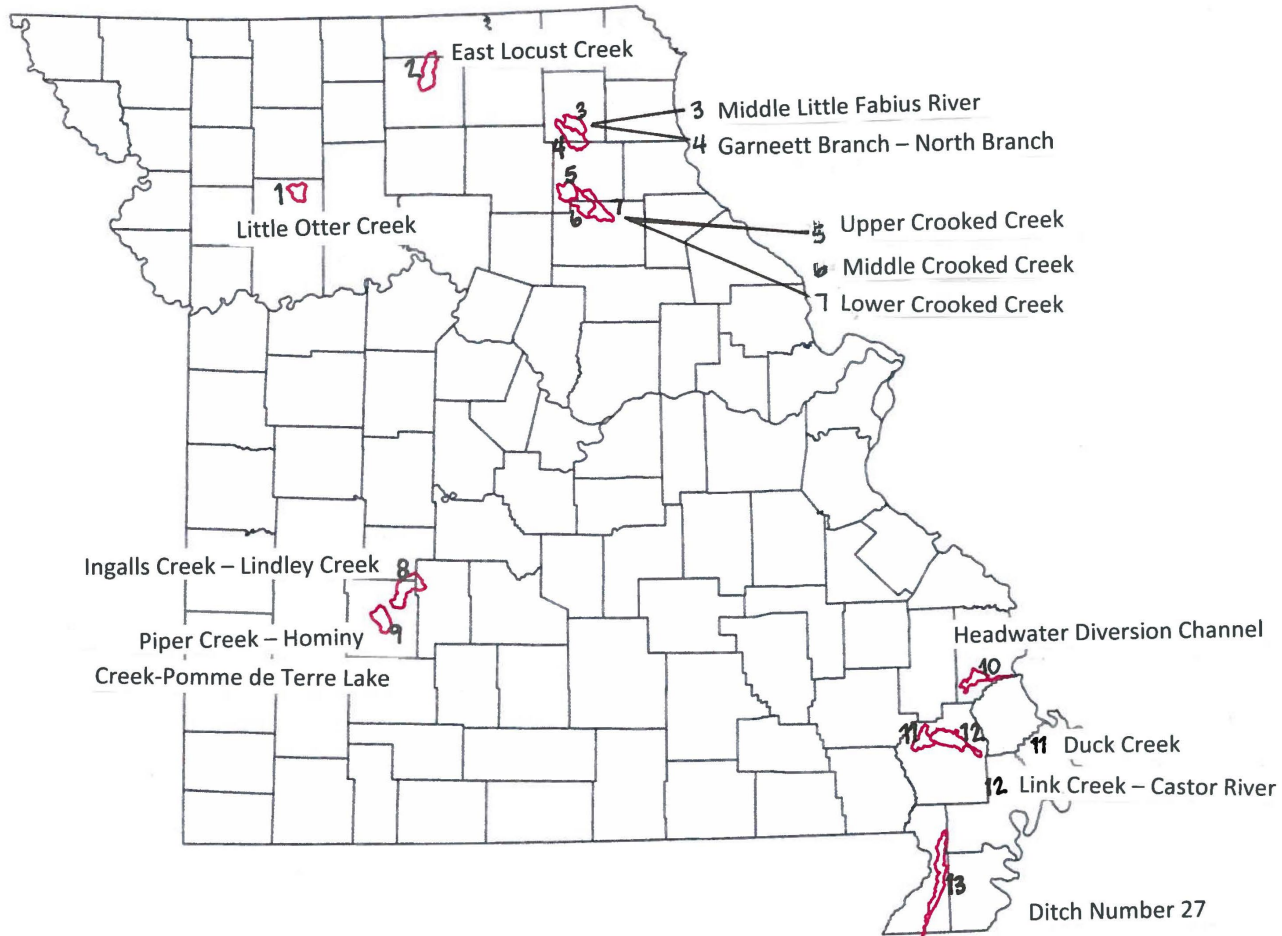
Mississippi River Basin Healthy Watersheds Initiative (MRBI)

Anticipate opportunity to propose new priority watersheds soon for 2024

Timeline

- December – Survey of NRCS area and field technical staff for watershed recommendations

Proposed Watersheds



Mississippi River Basin Healthy Watersheds Initiative (MRBI)

Timeline (continued)

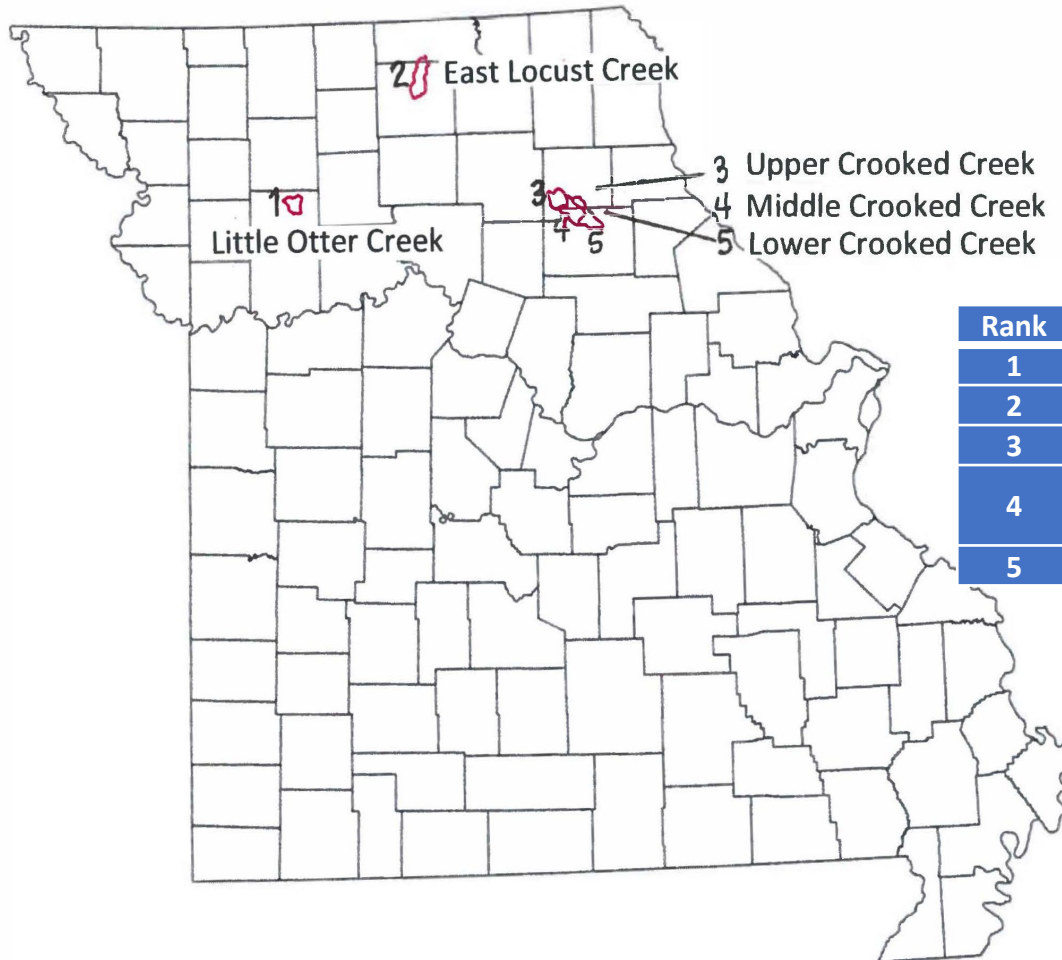
- February – Subcommittee meeting to discuss the NRCS recommendations and include subcommittee recommendations
 - Decision tabled to allow for more discussion
 - February/March - Subcommittee members reviewed recommended watershed information in preparation for follow-up meeting in March

Mississippi River Basin Healthy Watersheds Initiative (MRBI)

Timeline (continued)

- March – Subcommittee meeting resulted in prioritized list of the top 5 watersheds to present to the State Technical Committee
- April – Present to State Technical Committee

FY24 Missouri River Basin Initiative (MRBI) Top 5 Recommendations



Rank	Name	Location County(s)
1	Little Otter Creek	Caldwell
2	East Locust Creek	Sullivan, Putnam
3	Upper Crooked Creek	Shelby
4	Middle Crooked Creek	Monroe, Shelby
5	Lower Crooked Creek	Monroe, Shelby

Live feedback session



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ACEP-WETLAND RESERVE EASEMENTS

Chris Hamilton,
Assistant State Conservationist – Water Resources and Easements

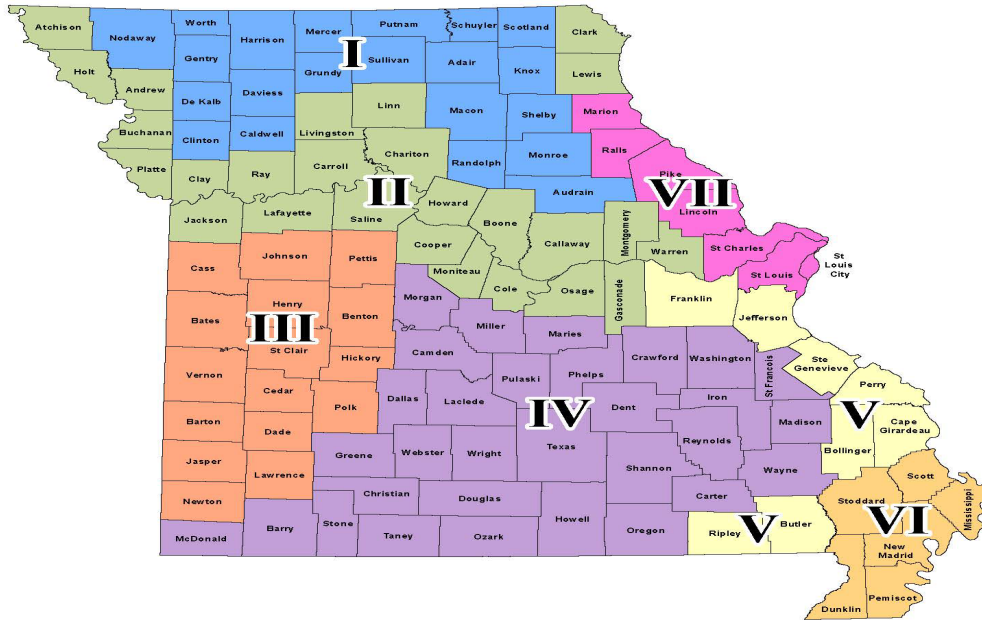
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ACEP-WETLAND RESERVE EASEMENTS

- ▶ **Geographic Rate Caps (GARCs)**
 - Area Wide Market Analysis
 - Reliable estimate of the easement compensation at the beginning of the enrollment

ACEP-WRE Compensation



2023 ACEP-WRE Missouri Geographic Area Rate Cap

		2023 Maximum Payment Rate for each Region ***			
	Protected Cropland*	Unprotected Cropland*	CRP*	Other**	
I	\$3955	\$3955	\$2795	\$2710	
I	30-985 ac	30-985 ac	35-235 ac	30-2200 ac	
II	\$5000	\$3925	Appraisal*	\$2730	
II	35-665 ac	20-565 ac	any ac	20-710 ac	
III	\$3225	\$3225	Appraisal*	\$2535	
III	25-340 ac	25-340 ac	any ac	20-250 ac	
IV	Appraisal*	Appraisal*	Appraisal*	\$1515	
IV	any ac	any ac	any ac	40-430 ac	
V	\$5000	\$2215	Appraisal*	\$2245	
V	20-130 ac	35-275 ac	any ac	20-315 ac	
VI	\$5000	\$4035	Appraisal*	Appraisal*	
VI	20-590 ac	25-295 ac	any ac	any ac	
VII	\$5000	\$4120	Appraisal*	\$3270	
VII	25-170 ac	25-240 ac	any ac	40-595 ac	

*Appraisals are required for proposed easements larger or smaller than the stated acres. Compensation will be 95% of the appraised Fair Market Value, not to exceed \$5,000.

**Other - includes woodland, pasture, and open water.

***The conservation easement value will be the lower of:

- fair market value
- geographic rate cap
- landowner offer