Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on State Wetland Programs and Early Adaptations: Site Inspections and Other Modifications

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ASWM Hot Topics Webinar

June 10, 2020
Overview

• Status in Missouri
• Site Inspections
  • Missouri’s Policy
  • Alternatives
  • Mitigation Milestones
• Travel & Budget
• Training
• Advice
• Questions
Status in Missouri

- Working from home & transition
  - Central & regional offices (7)
  - §401 Staff (3, ~2 FTE)

- Personalities

- Offices re-opened May 1
  - Public - by appointment only

- §401 Workload
  - High – Medium – High

- New processes
  - SharePoint
  - Trello
  - WebEx Teams

- Mapping
  - DHSS
  - Show Me Strong Recovery Plan
Site Inspections: Missouri’s Policy

• On hold from March 18 to May 1
• New policy & Field Work Guidance
• Disinfection kits
• One person per vehicle
  • Clean vehicle before and after
  • Not used for 3 days after inspection
  • Designate certain staff per vehicle
• No overnights
  • or if absolutely necessary, upper mgmt. approval
• Encouraged to bring own lunch
Site Inspections: Alternatives

- Virtual meetings
  - One agency person leads
  - Project sponsor leads
- Visuals
  - Photos
  - Video
  - Drone
Site Inspections: Mitigation Milestones

• Pre-approval visits
  • Development of new sites
  • Verify as-builts

• Compliance visits
  • Annual report verifications or concerns
  • Mitigation bank or ILF site credit releases
Travel & Budget

- Governor withholding spending
- No out-of-state travel
- Limited in-state travel
- No new equipment
- Alternative suppliers
  - Missouri Vocational Enterprises
- Reduce admin purchases
  - Limit printing
  - More electronic processes
- Other states
  - Furloughs
  - Salary cuts
  - Layoffs?

Budget-Related Documents

- Governor’s Amendments to the FY 2020 Supplemental Budget
- Expenditure Restrictions - June 1, 2020
- Expenditure Restrictions - April 20, 2020
- Expenditure Restrictions - April 1, 2020
Training

• All virtual so far
  • Internal
    • Technical
    • Administrative
  • WebEx, recorded
  • External
    • LinkedIn Learning
    • ASWM, ACWA, and similar associations
• Tuition reimbursement suspended after summer semester
Advice

- Communicate – with management, other agencies, citizens, applicants, permittees
- If you feel uncomfortable – ask questions, suggest alternatives, discuss with supervisor
- Ask for help – from applicants or agencies
- Prioritize and postpone (if allowed)
- Use technology
- Be aware of limitations
Questions?
Contact

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