



Capital Improvement Project Technical Assistance & Cost Share Program (TACS)



The TACS program provides technical and financial assistance to property owners and public entities to address water quality issues, and install practices. The program is guided by the approved Vermillion River Watershed Management Plan with targeting guided by additional special studies or subwatershed assessments completed by the Scott Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD). For this effort targeting was guided by the Vermillion River Subwatershed Assessment completed in 2014. Practice eligibility and standards are guided by the Conservation Practice Financial Assistance Program Policy Manual which currently includes 24 practices (including Innovative Practices), and is reviewed and updated annually by the Scott SWCD. Match came from landowners and/or public entities cost share.

Program Provisions:

- 1.) Eligibility
 - a) Only practices listed in the Manual are eligible;
 - b) Practices must be designed by technical standards listed in the Manual;
 - c) Provide documentable environmental benefits;
 - d) do not address erosion resulting from the direct impacts of development, unless development occurred prior to applicable standards;
 - e) Payment may not be authorized for any practice that has commenced prior to official approval of an application;
 - f) the approving authority may require an applicant to implement additional practices as a condition of financial assistance

Types of Financial Assistance

- 1.) Flat Rate—based on a specified dollar amount per unit installed (i.e. \$/acre)
- 2.) Percent based—a partial reimbursement to a cooperator to help offset the construction and/or establishment costs

Multiple efforts were made over the entire grant period to reach landowners for qualifying projects. While many outreach attempts were made, this activity didn't result in any physical projects installed.

Problem: The landscape of the watershed has been significantly altered by agriculture and development. Surface water quality is threatened or impaired and groundwater quality and quantity are at risk.

Actions: Provide technical assistance and cost share to land occupiers to implement conservation practices that protect and preserve soil, water and create habitat. Each practice is designed to prevent or reduce non-point sources water pollution, or achieve or maintain compliance with water quality standards.

Benefits:

- The estimated total reductions are: 440 lbs. of phosphorus, 440 tons of sediment per the average historic efficiency of the TACS program
- In addition to water quality improvements resulting from capture of sediments and nutrients, the restored vegetation would improve wildlife habitat, and enhance open space

Costs & contributions:

- Clean Water Fund: \$17,630 (FY19 WBF Grant)
- Local match: \$1,763
- Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization: grant fiscal agent
- Scott SWCD: program administrative oversight

The TACS Program is designed to provide financial assistance to land occupiers to implement conservation practices that protect and preserve soil, water and related natural resources in Scott County

Practices eligible:

Bioretention basin
Conservation cover
Contour buffer strips
Contour farming
Cover crops
Critical area planting
Diversion
Filter strip
Grade stabilization structure
Grassed waterway/lined waterway
Residue management
Nutrient management
Streambank/shoreline protection
Prescribed burning
Riparian buffer
Terrace
Tree/shrub establishment
Underground outlet
Vegetated treatment area
Waste storage facility
Wastewater treatment
Water & sediment control basin
Well decommissioning
Wetland restoration
Whole farm planning
Innovative

A project completed cooperatively by:



A grant from the Clean Water Fund, one of four funds established by the Clean Water, Land & Legacy Amendment, supported this project. [Clean Water Stories](#) can be found on the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources website.