



## **2017 SCOTT WMO TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND COST SHARE PROGRAM CONSERVATION PRACTICE ELIGIBILITY AND PAYMENT DOCKET**

The Scott Watershed Management Organization (WMO) Cost Share Program was created to provide funds to landowners for the implementation of conservation practices that protect and improve water quality in rivers, lakes, streams and other valuable water resources in the Scott WMO. Landowners, citizen groups and local units of government can request financial and technical assistance from the Scott WMO and the Scott Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) through the cost share program for implementation of conservation practices. All requests are subject to approval by the WMO Board.

This Conservation Practice Eligibility and Payment Docket list practices that have been authorized for payments under the Scott WMO Cost Share Program. The docket consists of three parts: Program Provisions, General Conservation Practice Provisions, and Specific Conservation Practice Provisions. The Program and General Conservation Practice Provisions list the requirements that are applicable to all or multiple practices. The Specific Provisions list the payment method, rates and limits, practice lifespan, and specific provisions for each conservation practice.

## **PROGRAM PROVISIONS**

The following provisions are requirements for cost share funding under this program:

### **ELIGIBILITY:**

1. Scott WMO Cost Share Program payments are only authorized for practices listed in the docket. Non-docket practices required for the implementation of a docket practice shall be considered components of and subsidiary to the docket practice. Conservation payments for components will be included with the docket practice.
2. Cost share assistance is authorized for conservation practices that:
  - a. Are designed and constructed following the contents of appropriate and most current technical standards, including but not limited to: the NRCS Field Office Technical Guide, MPCA Stormwater Manual, MPCA Protecting Water Quality in Urban Areas, NPDES General Stormwater Permit for Construction Activity, Minnesota Urban Small Sites BMP Manual, and other applicable local, state and federal regulations and standards.
  - b. Meet the general and specific conservation practice provisions for each practice included in the docket.
  - c. Provide documentable environmental benefits, including but not limited to nutrient, sediment, and runoff volume reductions, from the benchmark condition.
  - d. Do not address erosion resulting from the direct impacts of development, unless the development occurred prior to applicable standards, such as NPDES permitting or the 2007 Scott WMO Rules.
3. Cost share assistance may be authorized for repairs to existing practices if:
  - a. The practice was not previously cost shared, or was cost shared but is beyond the contract term and the risk of failure poses significant threat to water quality or infrastructure; or
  - b. The practice was cost shared and is within the contract term, but damage was caused by an act of God and the risk of failure poses significant threat to water quality or infrastructure
4. A cost share agreement may be amended to cover costs associated with re-grading, re-seeding and re-mulching a project that has experienced erosion prior to final certification, as determined reasonable and necessary by the authorized Technical Representative. The cost share rate shall not exceed the rate set in the approved contract.

An amendment may be approved by the SWCD Board unless it causes the project to exceed \$100/ton of sediment or \$50,000 in total WMO funds, in which case the amendment must be approved by the WMO.

5. Cost share may be authorized for costs associated with installation of more durable erosion control measures, including but not limited to substituting crimped mulch with erosion control blanket, as determined reasonable and cost effective by the authorized Technical Representative. This applies to projects that are cost shared through the WMO and/or another funding source.
6. Applicants who start a practice before a contract is officially approved do so at their own risk and are not guaranteed funding. Work that starts before the applicant signs the contract is ineligible for Scott WMO financial assistance for that practice. Work that starts after the application is signed but before it is officially approved is eligible for reimbursement provided: a) an official waiver form is signed by the applicant before any work commences; and b) the contract is officially approved.

7. The WMO may require a cooperator to implement additional practices as a condition of cost share approval if the additional practice or practices are important to ensuring the integrity and/or benefit of the original practice. The WMO may deny cost share for projects on parcels that are not compliant with federal, state or local rules or regulations.

PAYMENT METHODS:

8. Two types of payment methods are used in this program: incentive payments and cost sharing.
  - a. Incentive Payments:
    1. One Time Incentive Payment – Payment is made upon certification of practice implementation.
    2. Annual Incentive Payment – Payment is calculated for a specified number of years. Payment is made in two to four installments, the first of which is made upon certification of installation and the second and any subsequent installments are made upon certification of establishment (typically after one full growing season). A single payment may be authorized for annual incentive payment projects if the site is already established, as certified by the technical representative
  - b. Cost Sharing Payments: Cost sharing is reimbursement to a participant to help offset the construction costs associated with implementing a practice. The maximum cost share rate is listed for each practice and shall be considered the maximum rate of actual construction costs or the estimated cost (whichever is less) of implementing the practice.
    1. The maximum cost share rate for municipalities cannot exceed 50%.
    2. Individuals with the appropriate technical approval authority must be involved in the preparation of cost estimates, either as preparer or reviewer.
9. The cost share and incentive rates listed in this docket are maximums. The approving Board has discretion to reduce the maximum rate depending on the public benefit.
10. WMO funds shall be piggy-backed with other funds whenever possible. The total payment to the landowner shall not exceed the maximum cost share or incentive rate listed in this Docket. Other program rules regarding maximum payment rates and other limitations shall be observed.

Some conservation practices require the applicant to apply for cost share from other sources (e.g. EQIP) before being eligible to receive WMO cost share. An applicant may apply for a waiver from this provision using a form provided by the SWCD. The SWCD Board may approve a waiver request upon determination that compliance with this provision would delay project construction, resulting in a significant increase in risk to public health, safety or the environment that could otherwise be avoided. Approved waiver requests shall be reported to the WPC.
11. The amount to be cost shared will be limited to that required for the practice to be installed. When additional or alternative work or material is performed or used at the landowner's request, any costs greater than the minimum required for the practice will be the responsibility of the owner. Maximum rates for in-kind labor costs shall be consistent with the most current Iowa Custom Rate Survey. Higher rates may be allowed in special circumstances, as determined necessary and reasonable by the SWCD.
12. Practices that cost share on seeding will include all associated costs needed to implement the seeding plan.

#### APPROVAL PROCESS:

13. Applications for funding are considered when completed applications are received. However, the review and approval process may vary according to the type of practice and the benefits and/or cost effectiveness of the proposed project (Attachment 1: Decision Worksheet for Determining Application Approval Requirements). In general those practices and applications which are less cost effective, or for which pollutant removal cannot be readily calculated, may require more review. For those applications requiring a recommendation, approval can be given administratively or by the Scott County Board acting as the Scott WMO. Administrative approval can be given for application requesting \$50,000 or less, and that conform to all the specifications in this Docket. Requests exceeding \$50,000 or that include deviations from this Docket require Board approval.
14. Approvals of applications for cost share are subject to the availability of funding.
15. The SWCD shall send a letter notifying applicants of action taken by the approving authority. The letter shall, at a minimum, include a copy of the signed and dated contract and explain the next steps. Letters shall also be sent when any Board of administrative action is taken to cancel a contract. A letter is not required for contract amendments.
16. Contracts (i.e. approved applications) exceeding \$20,000 in WMO funds shall be recorded on the property title at the county recorder's office. Recording of the contract notifies subsequent buyers of the existence of the practice or practices on the property and their obligation to maintain these practice(s) during the effective life. Procedures for recording shall follow guidance developed by the Board of Soil and Water Resources for the recording conservation practices.

#### EARNEST ACCOUNT:

17. Landowners requesting cost share funds for lakeshore restoration projects shall provide earnest money of \$250.00 per application. Earnest funds shall be collected prior to preparation of any preliminary design or application, and will be returned upon certification of the completed practice. Projects cancelled by the applicant will forfeit the earnest money.

#### PAYMENT PROCESS:

18. The following documentation shall be required as a condition for payment
  - a. Approved Certification Form for incentive payments
  - b. Approved Voucher Form for cost share payments
  - c. Copies of receipts and/or paid invoices for all expenses. Applicants requesting reimbursement for in-kind services shall submit a signed statement indicating the services provides, rate, quantities
  - d. The WMO and SWCD Board may, with limitation, authorize the District Manager to approve payments. The District Manager shall, at the earliest opportunity, present all approved payments to the Board that approved the contract for their certification.

#### REPAYMENT OF FUNDS:

19. Should the applicant remove or fail to maintain the practice during its effective life, the applicant is liable to the Scott WMO for the full amount of financial assistance received to install and establish the practice. The applicant is not liable for cost-share assistance received if the failure was caused by reasons beyond the applicant's control.

#### GRANT PROVISIONS:

20. For projects cost shared using funds from a federal, state or other non-local grant source, the cost share rates, eligible practices, and other related provisions set forth in the approved grant agreement, if different, shall prevail.

## **GENERAL CONSERVATION PRACTICE PROVISIONS**

The following provisions apply to the design and construction of conservation practices:

1. **Soil Testing:** A soil test may be required for any practice that targets the reduction of soil loss. The purpose of the soil test is to determine nutrient content of the soil so that more accurate estimates of phosphorus loading and reductions can be made. A soil test shall be performed for any practice requiring seeding of cool season, non-native grasses if the cooperators or contractor applies fertilizer in excess of the following rate per acre: Nitrogen (N) 80 lbs, Phosphoric Acid (P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>) 80 lbs and Potash (K<sub>2</sub>O) 80 lbs. All soil tests shall be from a soil testing laboratory shown on the Minnesota Department of Agriculture's list of approved Soil Testing Laboratories. Application rates of lime, commercial fertilizer, and manure shall be based on University of Minnesota recommendations, or from North Dakota's or South Dakota's Land Grant University. Soil testing requirements may be waived if acceptable soil tests from the site were taken within the previous three years.
2. **Wetland Protection:** NRCS Wetland Policy as found in the General Manual 190, Part 410 must be followed. This policy provides direction to the agency for compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). This policy prohibits NRCS from providing technical or financial assistance to participants that will adversely affect wetlands, unless the lost functions are fully mitigated.
3. **Upland Treatment:** As a requirement of eligibility, participants are required to perform upland treatment actions, through a conservation plan, according to Minnesota Conservation Planning Policy, and adequately address potential adverse impacts to conservation practices. Adverse impacts to conservation practices include, but are not limited to, increased siltation by water and/or wind borne soils, excessive runoff, degradation of vegetation practice components by pesticides transported in runoff and sediment, and degradation of wildlife habitat. Upland treatment shall, at a minimum, include controlling sheet and rill erosion to "T" and controlling all ephemeral gully erosion within the drainage area of the practice.
4. **Materials:** New materials must be utilized in the construction of practices, unless approved by a technical representative with appropriate Technical Approval Authority or licensed Engineer prior to installation.
5. **Land Rights:** Participants wanting to construct practices on land they do not own are responsible for obtaining easements, permits, right-of-way, water rights or other permission necessary to perform and maintain the practices. Expenses incurred due to these items are not eligible for cost share. The permission from the authority must be in writing and a copy must be provided to the Scott SWCD office prior to installation being made on the practice.
6. **Permits:** The applicant is responsible for obtaining all permits required in conjunction with the installation and establishment of the practice prior to starting construction of the project.
7. **Operation and Maintenance:** The applicant is responsible for the operation and maintenance of the conservation practice for the minimum lifespan listed in the specific provisions of this document.
8. **Compliance with State and Local Regulations:** Cost share may not be provided to an applicant that is in violation of any of the following
  - a. MN Rule 7020 (governing feedlots);
  - b. MN Rule 8420 (governing wetlands);

- c. MN Statute 103F.48 (governing buffers);
- d. Scott County Ordinance Chapter 70-8-11 (governing Shoreland zone); and
- e. Scott County Ordinance No. 4 Chapter 1(governing septic systems, as evidenced based on visual observation of surface discharge or formal notification by the county).
- f. MN Rule 8400 (governing Excessive soil Loss Control)

Regulatory compliance shall only apply to the following:

- a. The parcel of land on which the practice is being implemented; and
- b. Any parcel owned (or co-owned) by the applicant that is contiguous to the parcel on which the practice is being implemented (parcels separated only by road right-of-way or water feature, or which touch at a property corner, shall be deemed contiguous); and
- c. The applicant's primary residence and/or farmstead, if applicable.

Compliance with the buffer requirements under MN Statute 103F.48 shall be required as a condition of cost-share, regardless of applicability dates provided in the law. Compliance with the Excessive Soil Loss Control rule shall apply only if there is an outstanding formal complaint received by the county or SWCD.

Notwithstanding the above, an applicant may be eligible for cost-share regardless of non-compliance, provided they sign and agree to implement a conservation plan that details specific actions and timelines for coming into compliance, and/or their cost share application is for a project intended to resolve the non-compliance issue.

An applicant may apply for a waiver from this section using a form provided by the SWCD. The SWCD Board may approve a waiver request upon determination that allowing the non-compliant situation to continue serves the greater public good than not installing the conservation practice for which cost share is being requested. Approved waiver requests shall be reported to the WPC.

## **SPECIFIC CONSERVATION PRACTICE PROVISIONS**

### **COST SHARE TIERS**

The following tiers are referenced in the Cost Share column in the table under each practice:

#### **Tier 1**

- Max Rate\*: 50% of actual construction costs, not to exceed 50% of cost estimate
- Minimum Requirements:
  - If upland treatment is required, the landowner or occupier must sign and follow a conservation plan agreement that achieves upland treatment on any cropland that a) drains to the practice and b) they either own or occupy.

#### **Tier 2**

- Max Rate\*: 75% of actual construction costs, not to exceed 75% of cost estimate
- Minimum Requirements:
  - If upland treatment is required, the landowner or occupier must sign and follow a conservation plan agreement that achieves upland treatment on any cropland that a) drains to the practice and b) they either own or occupy.
  - Complete a Conservation Assessment on all cropland within the FSA Farm on which the practice is being applied, plus any contiguous FSA Farm. If no FSA Farm ID exists, then the assessment must include all cropland within the parcel on which the project will be installed, plus any contiguous parcels.

#### **Tier 3**

- Max Rate\*: 90% of actual construction costs, not to exceed 90% of cost estimate
- Minimum Requirements:
  - If upland treatment is required, the landowner or occupier must sign and follow a conservation plan agreement that achieves upland treatment on any cropland that a) drains to the practice and b) they either own or occupy.
  - Achieve a minimum of 30% residue cover, after planting, on any field that intersects the contributing drainage area for the proposed project. The minimum residue cover shall be achieved over the entire crop rotation. Residue cover may be from last-year's crop, cover crops, and/or permanent vegetation; and
  - Complete a Conservation Assessment on all cropland within the FSA Farm on which the practice is being applied, plus any contiguous FSA Farm. If no FSA Farm ID exists, then the assessment must include all cropland within the parcel on which the project will be installed, plus any contiguous parcels.

(\* The maximum cost share rates shown shall be inclusive of all sources.)

Notwithstanding the above, the maximum cost share rate shall be seventy five (75%) for the following:

- Non-agricultural practices, including but not limited to streambank stabilization; and
- Practices that are otherwise treating erosion for which the primary cause is not agricultural land use immediately above the site; and
- As pertaining to Tier 3, above, the field in which the project is located, or is immediately downstream of, is not in a cash crop or grain/forage rotation, or the cause of the resource concern is not directly attributable to agricultural land use.

Farms and parcels separated only by a road, driveway, easement, or water feature, or which share a common corner, shall be deemed contiguous.

Conservation Assessments shall, at a minimum, address the following: sheet, rill, inter-rill and gully erosion; buffers; manure management practices; open tile intakes, feedlot runoff, and sedimentation on neighboring property due to excessive soil loss.

Upland treatment shall include preventing ephemeral or classic gully erosion and controlling soil sheet and rill erosion to tolerable soil loss rate.

The following specific provisions exist for each conservation practice as listed below:



**PRACTICE STANDARD 712 – BIORETENTION BASINS**

|  | NRCS Code | Incentive Payment |               | Cost Sharing   | Lifespan |
|--|-----------|-------------------|---------------|--|----------|
|  |           | Type              | Amount \$     | Maximum Eligible Cost Share Rate                                     |          |
| Bioretention Basin (Redevelopment/Community)                   | 712       |                   |               | 50% of actual construction costs, not to exceed 50% of cost estimate | 10 years |
| Residential Rain Gardens (if identified in a Local Water Plan) |           |                   |               | 50% of actual construction costs, not to exceed 50% of cost estimate | 10 years |
| Residential Rain Gardens                                       |           | 1 time            | \$250 - \$750 |  | 10 years |

1. Upland treatment is required for cost shared projects. See General Conservation Practice Provision #3.
2. Materials eligible for cost share include plants, biologs, erosion control blankets, site preparation materials, edging, mulch, stakes and other items critical to the proper function of the rain garden. Materials not eligible for cost share include those items that do not benefit practice function, such as ornamental rock or other decorative items.
3. To qualify for the residential rain garden incentive payment, the applicant must participate in an approved rain garden class and construct the raingarden in accordance with applicable Blue Thumb guidelines. To qualify for cost sharing, a residential rain garden must be identified as a priority project in an approved Local Water Plan.
4. Incentives shall be limited to the following maximum amounts: \$250 for raingardens between 150 and 299 sq. ft.; \$500 for raingardens between 300 and 449 sq. ft.; and \$750 for raingardens greater than 450 sq. ft.

**PRACTICE STANDARD 340 – CONTOUR BUFFER STRIPS**

|   | NRCS Code | Incentive Payment |                         | Cost Sharing   | Lifespan |
|---|-----------|-------------------|-------------------------|--|----------|
|   |           | Type              | Amount \$               | Maximum Eligible Cost Share Rate                                     |          |
| Contour Buffer Strips – Non-harvestable | 332       | Annual            | Current CRP Rate        | 50% of actual construction costs, not to exceed 50% of cost estimate | 10 years |
| Contour Buffer Strips – Harvestable     | 332       | Annual            | 75% of Current CRP Rate |  | 10 years |

1. WMO incentives may only be provided if the applicant had applied for CRP funding and was not accepted

**PRACTICE STANDARD 340 – CONTOUR FARMING**

|                 | NRCS Code | Incentive Payment |           | Cost Sharing                     | Lifespan |
|-----------------|-----------|-------------------|-----------|----------------------------------|----------|
|                 |           | Type              | Amount \$ | Maximum Eligible Cost Share Rate |          |
| Contour Farming | 332       | Annual            | \$20/acre |                                  | 10 years |

1. Eligibility for funding is limited to projects where contouring is implemented in conjunction with buffer strips or terraces, and dominant slopes in the field are 6% or greater.
2. This incentive is only available where current cropping practices would not meet the 340 practice standard.

**PRACTICE STANDARD 340 – COVER CROP**

|                          | NRCS Code | Incentive Payment |           | Cost Sharing                     | Lifespan |
|--------------------------|-----------|-------------------|-----------|----------------------------------|----------|
|                          |           | Type              | Amount \$ | Maximum Eligible Cost Share Rate |          |
| Cover Crops – Multi-year | 340       | Annual            | \$40/acre |                                  | 3 Year   |
| Cover Crops – Annual     | 340       | On-time           | \$20/acre |                                  | 1 Year   |

1. Maximum payment for the multi-year incentive is \$12,000 per applicant (100 acres x \$40/acre x 3yrs).
2. Maximum payment under the annual incentive is \$2000.

- To qualify for the multi-year incentive, cover crops must be planted on the same number of acres and on the same fields for a minimum of 3 consecutive years.
- Payment shall be issued each year after the technical representative has certified seeding.
- An applicant may, after an initial contract for multi-year incentives has been completed in accordance with applicable terms and conditions, be eligible to apply for additional multi-year incentives, up to a maximum of \$12,000, provided the applicant continues to plant cover crops all acreage covered under previous contract(s), and all land covered under the new contract is additional to any previous contract.

### PRACTICE STANDARD 342 – CRITICAL AREA PLANTING

|                        | NRCS Code | Incentive Payment |           | Cost Sharing                     | Lifespan |
|------------------------|-----------|-------------------|-----------|----------------------------------|----------|
|                        |           | Type              | Amount \$ | Maximum Eligible Cost Share Rate |          |
| Critical Area Planting | 342       |                   |           | Tier 1, 2 or 3                   | 10 years |

- Upland treatment is required. See General Conservation Practice Provision #3.
- Critical Area Planting (342) must be completed following an approved establishment and management plan.
- Application through the USDA-NRCS EQIP program during a scoring and ranking period is prerequisite.

### PRACTICE STANDARD 362 – DIVERSION

|           | NRCS Code | Incentive Payment |           | Cost Sharing                     | Lifespan |
|-----------|-----------|-------------------|-----------|----------------------------------|----------|
|           |           | Type              | Amount \$ | Maximum Eligible Cost Share Rate |          |
| Diversion | 362       |                   |           | Tier 1, 2 or 3                   | 10 years |

- Upland treatment is required. See General Conservation Practice Provision #3.
- The use of tile or other underground pipe to drain hillside seeps, low or wet spots in fields is not an eligible single component of this practice.
- Diversion (362) is allowed as a stand-alone practice for feedlots when used as a clean water diversion.
- If a Diversion (362) is a component of Wastewater and Feedlot Runoff Control (784), cost sharing is **NOT** authorized for the Diversion (362) as a stand-alone practice. The cost will be included in the cost of Wastewater and Feedlot Runoff Control (784).
- Application through the USDA-NRCS EQIP program during a scoring and ranking period is prerequisite.

### PRACTICE STANDARD 393 – FILTER STRIP

|  | NRCS Code | Incentive Payment |   | Cost Sharing   | Lifespan    |
|--|-----------|-------------------|---|--|-------------|
|  |           | Type              | Amount \$   | Maximum Eligible Cost Share Rate   |             |
| Filter Strip – New non-harvestable                                 | 393       | Annual            | \$300/ac for the NRCS minimum; \$150/ac for the area beyond the minimum, up to maximum of 75'   |  | 10-15 years |
| Filter Strip - New harvestable                                     | 393       | Annual            | \$300/ac for the NRCS minimum; \$150/ac for the area beyond the minimum, up to a maximum of 75' | 75% of actual construction costs, not to exceed 75% of cost estimate (1) | 10-15 years |
| Filter Strip - Re-enroll of expired harvestable                    | 393       | Annual            | Current CCRP rate   |  | 10-15 years |
| Filter Strip - Re-enroll of expired non-harvestable to harvestable | 393       | Annual            | Current CCRP rate   |  | 10-15 years |
| Sensitive Field Border (Harvestable)                               | 393       | Annual            | \$200.00/ac   |  | 10 years    |

- Cost share shall be limited to filter strips seeded to native grasses only.
- Soil testing may be required for filter strips. See General Conservation Practice Provision #1.

3. The combined annual incentive payment authorized by the Scott WMO on eligible acres and the annual Continuous Conservation Reserve Program (CCRP) rental payment for new filter strips shall not exceed \$300/acre/year.
4. Sensitive field borders include the edges of fields that are not included in Standard 393, such as road ditches, drainage ditches without seasonal perennial stream characteristics, or other areas deemed sensitive. Minimum width is 33'.
5. Filter Strips located in areas where the maintenance of permanent natural vegetation is used to meet the requirements under Chapter 70-8-11, Scott County Zoning Ordinance and/or the Buffer Law under MN Statute 103F.48, are eligible for a one-time payment of \$200/acre for establishment of cool season grasses and \$500/per acre for establishment of native grasses or prairie. Land enrolled in CRP or other program that pays for establishment costs is not eligible for this payment.
6. Non-harvestable filter strips are not eligible for renewal.
7. Harvestable filter strips must be harvested at least every other year.
8. Re-enrolled filter strips are eligible for funding up to the minimum width as set forth in the 393 standard, or 50', whichever is greater.
9. New harvestable filter strips must have crop history 4 of the past 6 years unless there are extenuating circumstances approved by the Watershed Planning Commission or County Board.
10. Incentives for renewal filter strips where vegetation is already established and consistent with applicable standards and specifications are eligible for a one-time payment.
11. Sites where upland runoff does not flow through the filter strip due to the presence of a levee (e.g. spoil piles) or negative slope shall not be eligible under this practice. They may, however, be eligible under the riparian Buffer Practice.
12. The NRCS minimum shall be based on removal of sediment and sediment associated material removal, as set forth in Table 1 of Filter Strip Standard 393, except in cases where the local water plan identified soluble material and pathogen removal as a priority, in which case the minimum may be as specified under the soluble materials and pathogens section of Table 1 of the Standard.
13. Livestock grazing may be used for maintenance, provided it is performed in accordance with an approved grazing plan.

#### **PRACTICE STANDARD 410 – GRADE STABILIZATION STRUCTURE**

|                     | NRCS Code | Incentive Payment |           | Cost Sharing                     | Lifespan |
|---------------------|-----------|-------------------|-----------|----------------------------------|----------|
|                     |           | Type              | Amount \$ | Maximum Eligible Cost Share Rate |          |
| Grade Stabilization | 410       |                   |           | Tier 1, 2 or 3                   | 10 years |

1. Upland treatment is required. See General Conservation Practice Provision #3.
2. Cost is for earthwork and any seed and seeding expenses.
3. Application through the USDA-NRCS EQIP program during a scoring and ranking period is prerequisite.

#### **PRACTICE STANDARD 412 – GRASSED WATERWAY**

|                  | NRCS Code | Incentive Payment |           | Cost Sharing                     | Lifespan |
|------------------|-----------|-------------------|-----------|----------------------------------|----------|
|                  |           | Type              | Amount \$ | Maximum Eligible Cost Share Rate |          |
| Grassed Waterway | 412       |                   |           | Tier 1, 2 or 3                   | 10 years |

1. Upland treatment is required. See General Conservation Practice Provision #3.
2. Cost is for earthwork and any seed and seeding expenses.
3. Application through the USDA-NRCS EQIP program during a scoring and ranking period is prerequisite.

#### **PRACTICE STANDARD – INNOVATIVE PRACTICES**

|  | Incentive Payment |           | Cost Sharing   | Lifespan |
|--|-------------------|-----------|--|----------|
|  | Type              | Amount \$ | Maximum Eligible Cost Share Rate                                     |          |
| Innovative Practices (Redevelopment/Community) |                   |           | 50% of actual construction costs, not to exceed 50% of cost estimate | 10 years |
| Innovative Practices                           |                   |           | 50% of actual construction costs,                                    | 10 years |

|                   |  |  |                                    |  |
|-------------------|--|--|------------------------------------|--|
| (New Development) |  |  | not to exceed 50% of cost estimate |  |
|-------------------|--|--|------------------------------------|--|

1. Initial interest for innovative practices is discussed with Scott WMO staff.
2. Applications are taken by Scott SWCD staff.
3. Applications move directly to the WPC and are not reviewed by the Screening Committee. The WPC makes a recommendation to the WMO Board, who makes the final approval/disapproval decision.
4. Approved applications are assigned to Scott SWCD for technical assistance.
5. Eligible practices include regenerative dustless street sweepers, porous pavers, porous pavement, green roofs, and other practices determined on a case by case basis.

**PRACTICE STANDARD 643 and 645 – NATIVE GRASS**

|  | NRCS Code | Incentive Payment |                   | Cost Sharing   | Lifespan |
|--|-----------|-------------------|-------------------|--|----------|
|  |           | Type              | Amount \$         | Maximum Eligible Cost Share Rate                                     |          |
| Cropland and Pastureland                 |           | Annual            | \$175 to \$275/ac | 50% of actual construction costs, not to exceed 50% of cost estimate | 10 years |
| Other lands                              |           | 1 Time            | \$500/acre        |  | 10 years |
| Maintenance (other than prescribed burn) |           | 1 Time            |                   | 50% of actual costs, not to exceed 50% of cost estimate              |          |

1. Cropland includes any land where grain, vegetable, and/or forage crops have been grown and harvested in each of the last 3 years, and in at least 8 of the last 10 years. Pastureland includes any land that has been actively pastured by livestock for the last 3 years, and for at least 8 of the last 10 years. Hay land must consist of at least 25% alfalfa and have been harvested at least once in each of the last 3 years, and in a minimum of 8 of the last 10 years.
2. Maximum annual incentive rates shall be determined as follows: \$275/acre for soils with D or greater slopes and for areas within 300' of a protected water course, drainage ditch, Type III or greater wetland, intermittent stream as depicted on USGS quadrangle maps, or top of a bluff or ravine; \$225/acre for soils with C slopes; \$200/acre for soils with B slopes, and \$175/acre for soils with A slopes.
3. Notwithstanding 2. above, payment shall be limited to a maximum amount such that the overall total cost benefit for volume reduction does not exceed \$2000 per acre foot of runoff.
4. Cost share for establishment may include site prep, seeding and first-year mowing.
5. Incentives may not be provided for projects for which the cost benefit ratio exceeds XX (e.g. 2x the average C/B ratio of similar projects)
6. Upland treatment is required
7. The minimum project size for the one-time incentive is 1/2. Payment for the one-time incentive is pro-rated based on actual size.
8. Land where the maintenance of permanent natural vegetation is required under Chapter 70-8-11, Scott County Zoning Ordinance and/or MN Statute 103F.48, may only be eligible for the 1 time payment of \$500/acre.
9. Application through CRP or related program is prerequisite for projects over 10 acres, if the site meets program eligibility requirements.
10. Maintenance under this practice may include mowing, disking or other method approved by the WMO or its agent. Applications for maintenance must be made separate from applications for establishment and annual or one-time incentive payment. The intent is to provide funding assistance for maintenance in years 4 or 5 after establishment. Cost share for maintenance may not be provided more than one time per applicant, per ten years. Cost share for prescribed burn shall follow requirements under that practice standard (below).
11. Grazing is a permitted maintenance option. It must, however, be performed in accordance with an approved grazing plan and is not eligible for cost share.
12. A landowner may apply for funding for up to 10 additional years upon expiration of their original contract. The WMO may, at its discretion, approve, approve with modification, or deny any such application, based on its determination of public benefit. Consideration of benefit shall be based cost compared to any or all of the following: potential threat to water quality should the land return to agricultural use, in whole or part; minimum acreage necessary to maintain

comparable the water quality benefits as achieved with the original project; level of impairment of the receiving water body; and available funds.

**PRACTICE STANDARD – NATURAL SHORELINE RESTORATION and/or STABILIZATION**

|                               | NRCS Code | Incentive Payment |           | Cost Sharing   | Lifespan |
|-------------------------------|-----------|-------------------|-----------|--|----------|
|                               |           | Type              | Amount \$ | Maximum Eligible Cost Share Rate                                     |          |
| Natural Shoreline Restoration |           | 1 time            |           | 50% of actual construction costs, not to exceed 50% of cost estimate | 10 years |
| Shoreline Stabilization       | 580       |                   |           | 75% of actual construction costs, not to exceed 75% of cost estimate | 10 years |
| Streambank Stabilization      | 580       |                   |           | 50% to 75% of actual construction costs, not to exceed cost estimate | 10 years |

1. To qualify for natural lakeshore restoration funds, the applicant must participate in an approved natural lakeshore restoration class.
2. Applications for cost share funding will be reviewed by the Screening Committee prior to consideration by the WPC.
3. Project designs shall meet the intent of restoring the shoreline to predominantly natural conditions, including but not limited to the use of natural and native vegetative buffers, limiting turf grass, and using bioengineering methods. Minimum specifications include a 10 feet wide seeded native vegetation buffer along no less than 50% of the total width of the lot, less the footage or shoreline having existing natural and desirable vegetation. Where agriculture is adjoining land use an area of unmaintained vegetation or conservation plan must be in place in accordance with County Shoreland Rules.
4. Funding for hard armor practices (e.g. rock riprap) are not eligible for funding unless bio-engineering methods are determined to be an insufficient means of needed stabilization.
5. Upland treatment is required. See General Conservation Practice Provision #3.
6. Streambank Stabilizations must be reviewed by the Screening Committee with the cost share amount being discretionary depending on project benefits.

**PRACTICE STANDARD – NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT**

|                           | NRCS Code | Incentive Payment |           | Cost Sharing                     | Lifespan |
|---------------------------|-----------|-------------------|-----------|----------------------------------|----------|
|                           |           | Type              | Amount \$ | Maximum Eligible Cost Share Rate |          |
| Manure Testing            | NA        |                   |           | 100% of Actual Cost              | 1 year   |
| Variable Rate Application | NA        | 1-time            | \$10/ac   |                                  | 1 year   |

1. Manure testing kits are available through Scott SWCD.
2. Eligibility is limited to a maximum of \$2,000 per applicant, in either a single contract or contracts over multiple years. Payment may not be made more than one time on any given acre or field.
3. Funds for VRA shall be prioritized for producers that do not already use VRA as the primary means of fertilizer application for their operation.
4. Sheet and rill erosion shall be controlled to tolerable soil loss rates, and ephemeral gully erosion shall be controlled on all cropland covered under the VRA application, as determined by a conservation assessment. If current practices do not meet T or control ephemeral erosion, then the applicant may become eligible for VRA incentives by agreeing to follow a Conservation Plan.
5. Manure shall be credited and all fertilizer application rates shall be consistent with U of M recommendations.
6. Copies of paid invoices from the applicator (if not the applicant) and maps showing grid sampling results, organic matter, and prescription rates shall be submitted as a condition of payment. The applicator shall attest that application was completed in accordance with the prescription map, by signing a form prepared by the SWCD.
7. The Technical Representative has discretion to withhold payment for acreage where sampling results and or application rates do not appear reasonable or accurate.

**PRACTICE STANDARD 338 – PRESCRIBED BURNING**

|                    | NRCS Code | Incentive Payment |           | Cost Sharing   | Lifespan |
|--------------------|-----------|-------------------|-----------|--|----------|
|                    |           | Type              | Amount \$ | Maximum Eligible Cost Share Rate                                     |          |
| Prescribed Burning | 338       | 1 Time            |           | 50% of actual construction costs, not to exceed 50% of cost estimate | 5 years  |

1. A detailed burn plan describing the practice objective, species to control and species to be benefited, timing, weather conditions and management guidelines will be developed.
2. Technical assistance will be provided by a technically qualified and adequately insured individual.
3. All laws and regulations pertaining to burning will be followed.
4. **The conservation plan must document that the landowner has been notified in writing that they are subject to all liability due to damages caused by fire.**
5. It is the landowner's responsibility to obtain all permits and to notify surrounding landowners that may be affected.
6. Cost share is eligible once every 5 years for projects that were established without cost share assistance, or are not within the term of a cost share contract.
7. Associated costs with obtaining and notification of neighbors, units of government, and agencies are entirely the landowner's expense.
8. Cost share may not be provided more than one time for projects that are within the term of a cost share contract.

### PRACTICE STANDARD 390 and 391 – RIPARIAN BUFFER

|   | NRCS Code  | Incentive Payment |                              | Cost Sharing   | Lifespan    |
|---|------------|-------------------|------------------------------|--|-------------|
|   |            | Type              | Amount \$                    | Maximum Eligible Cost Share Rate                                     |             |
| Forested Stream Buffer Improvement >1 ac parcel                 | 391        |                   |                              | Up to \$1,000/acre for plants, seeds, labor and materials            | 15 years    |
| Herbaceous or Forested Buffer Establishment (Native Vegetation) | 390 or 391 | Annual            | \$150/ac up to 50 foot width | 75% of actual construction costs, not to exceed 75% of cost estimate | 10-15 years |
| Herbaceous or Forested Buffer Establishment                     | 390 or 391 | Annual            | \$150/ac up to 50 foot width |  | 10-15 years |

1. A potential tax credit exists for parcels greater than 20 acres.
2. Projects can be either new establishment or renovation.
3. Plan required from the SWCD.
4. Minnesota Conservation Corps may be used for labor counting as part of the cost share

### PRACTICE STANDARD 600 – TERRACE

|         | NRCS Code | Incentive Payment |           | Cost Sharing                     | Lifespan |
|---------|-----------|-------------------|-----------|----------------------------------|----------|
|         |           | Type              | Amount \$ | Maximum Eligible Cost Share Rate |          |
| Terrace | 600       |                   |           | Tier 1, 2 or 3                   | 10 years |

1. Upland treatment is required. See General Conservation Practice Provision #3.
2. The use of Subsurface Drain (606) or Underground Outlet (620) to drain hillside seeps, low or wet spots in fields is not an eligible single component of this practice. The land occupier shall identify, in writing the purpose of the larger tile and indicate the area that it will serve. The difference in cost of installing tile larger than that specified by the technician will be borne by the producer.
3. Cost sharing for Underground Outlet (620) is limited to the diameter and length needed to convey water from surface intakes to a safe outlet as determined by the designer.
4. Cost sharing for Subsurface Drain (606) is limited to drains needed in the impounded area of the terrace as determined by the designer.

5. Application through the USDA-NRCS EQIP program during a scoring and ranking period is prerequisite.

**PRACTICE STANDARD 620 – UNDERGROUND OUTLET**

|                    | NRCS Code | Incentive Payment |           | Cost Sharing                     | Lifespan |
|--------------------|-----------|-------------------|-----------|----------------------------------|----------|
|                    |           | Type              | Amount \$ | Maximum Eligible Cost Share Rate |          |
| Underground Outlet | 620       |                   |           | Tier 1, 2 or 3                   | 10 years |

1. Cost sharing is limited to replacing existing surface tile inlets.

**PRACTICE STANDARD 635 – VEGETATED TREATMENT AREA (formerly Wastewater Treatment Strip)**

|   | NRCS Code | Incentive Payment |           | Cost Sharing                     | Lifespan |
|---|-----------|-------------------|-----------|----------------------------------|----------|
|   |           | Type              | Amount \$ | Maximum Eligible Cost Share Rate |          |
| Level 2 to 4 Vegetated Treatment Area – lot size of 1 acre or less      | 313       |                   |           | Tier 1, 2 or 3                   | 10 years |
| Level 2 to 4 Vegetated Treatment Area – lot size of 1.1 acre to 2 acres | 313       |                   |           | Tier 1, 2 or 3                   | 10 years |
| Level 2 to 4 Vegetated Treatment Area – lot size 2.1 to 5 acres         | 313       |                   |           | Tier 1, 2 or 3                   | 10 years |
| Level 2 to 4 Vegetated Treatment Area – lot size greater than 5 acres   | 313       |                   |           | Tier 1, 2 or 3                   | 10 years |
| Level 5 Control – vegetated buffer                                      | 313       |                   |           | Tier 1, 2 or 3                   | 10 years |

1. Payment is limited to where the implementation of this practice will correct an existing pollution problem. As outlined by the EQIP manual, any EQIP contract that includes an animal waste storage or treatment facility will provide for the development of a CNMP prior to implementation of the storage or treatment. MPCA’s definition is used to define a pollution problem.
2. Consult EQIP General Provision 12 for Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP) requirements.
3. Consult EQIP General Provision 13 for requirements related to manure application land base and/or manure applications on land not owned or controlled by the EQIP contract holder.
4. Payment for Vegetated Treatment Area on operations with pollution problems less than 5 years old is not authorized.
  - a. Examples:
    - i. Producer A has had a dairy farm operation for 20 years. Producer B purchases the dairy and continues milking cows. This pollution problem is greater than 5 years old and producer B meets this eligibility requirement for Payment assistance.
    - ii. A producer has a dairy operation on farm A. He purchases farm B and moves the dairy operation to farm B where there was no previous pollution problem. Farm B would be considered a new facility and would not be eligible for Payment assistance.
5. Payment is not authorized for Vegetated Treatment Area on operations where the system establishment is required as a result of judicial or court action. MPCA Stipulation Agreement and Schedule of Compliance (SOC) are not considered a judicial or court action, and practice implementation is still considered voluntary for EQIP eligibility purposes, even if fines have been levied by the MPCA.
6. Application through the USDA-NRCS EQIP program during a scoring and ranking period is prerequisite.

**PRACTICE STANDARD 313 – WASTE STORAGE FACILITY**

|                        | NRCS Code | Incentive Payment |           | Cost Sharing                     | Lifespan |
|------------------------|-----------|-------------------|-----------|----------------------------------|----------|
|                        |           | Type              | Amount \$ | Maximum Eligible Cost Share Rate |          |
| Concrete or Metal Tank | 313       |                   |           | Tier 1, 2 or 3                   | 10 years |

|  |     |  |  |  |          |
|--|-----|--|--|--|----------|
| Stacking Slab                              | 313 |  |  | Tier 1, 2 or 3   | 10 years |
| Pond – composite liner                     | 313 |  |  | Tier 1, 2 or 3   | 10 years |
| Pond – membrane liner                      | 313 |  |  | Tier 1, 2 or 3   | 10 years |
| Pond – no liner                            | 313 |  |  | Tier 1, 2 or 3   | 10 years |
| Pond – soil liner                          | 313 |  |  | Tier 1, 2 or 3   | 10 years |
| Concrete slab                              | 313 |  |  | Tier 1, 2 or 3   | 10 years |
| Non liquid tight deep pack – concrete wall | 313 |  |  | Tier 1, 2 or 3   | 10 years |
| Certification                              |     |  |  | 75% of actual costs, not to exceed 75% of cost estimate, up to a maximum of \$1000 |          |

1. The eligible volume of storage is the total storage volume, including the design storage volume plus freeboard as required in the standard. As outlined in Waste Storage Facility (313), the maximum design storage period is 14 months.
2. The maximum allowable storage volume is based on the current capacity of the existing facility plus up to 25% expansion.
3. Payment is limited to where the implementation of this practice will correct an existing pollution problem. As outlined by the EQIP manual, any EQIP contract that includes an animal waste storage or treatment facility will provide for the development of a CNMP prior to the implementation of the 313. MPCA’s definition is used to define a pollution problem.
4. Consult EQIP General Provision 13 for Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP) requirements.
5. Consult EQIP General Provision 14 for requirements related to manure application land base and/or manure applications on land not owned or controlled by the EQIP contract holder.
6. For purposes of this practice, “waste” refers to raw manure and urine; runoff water contaminated through contact with manure and urine; milking center wastewater; and silage leachate as appropriate.
7. Silage storage facilities are not eligible components. Payment for components addressing silage leachate concerns under Waste Storage Facility start at the edge of the silage storage facility.
8. For livestock operations that are not or will not be permitted under the NPDES system, silage leachate systems can be funded as stand-alone practices if these systems are the only livestock related practices being requested. The development of a CNMP IS required with a silage leachate system but the CNMP does NOT have to be implemented.
9. Payment is authorized for tanks that serve as foundations for buildings, however eligible costs are those associated with the storage function only. Payment is not authorized for production oriented building components.
10. Payment for Concrete Slab is authorized for concrete agitation and pump out pads, pond lining, ramps and chutes within the pond.
11. Payment is authorized for feedlot relocation, with the following provisions:
  - a. The payment for relocation shall be based on the most practical and feasible waste management facility at the existing site.
  - b. Payment at the new site is only authorized for components applicable to the transfer, storage, or treatment of wastes.
  - c. Existing location is to be abandoned in an environmentally safe manner as outlined in MPCA guidelines.
  - d. Operator must agree to permanently remove all livestock from the existing location along with any other designated pollution sources. The following statement shall be included in the EQIP contract: “As a condition of EQIP Payment on feedlot relocation, the producer agrees to permanently eliminate all animals and designated pollution sources at this facility. Failure to comply with this provision may result in a recovery of federal Payment funds.”
  - e. In the event of a change in ownership, the abandoned lots will permanently not be eligible for future USDA Payment on waste management practices.
12. Payment for Waste Storage Facility (313) on operations with pollution problems less than 5 years old is not authorized.
  - a. Examples:
    - i. Producer A has had a dairy farm operation for 20 years. Producer B purchases the dairy and continues milking cows. This pollution problem is greater than 5 years old and producer B meets this eligibility requirement for Payment assistance.



- ii. A producer has a dairy operation on farm A. He purchases farm B and moves the dairy operation to farm B where there was no previous pollution problem. Farm B would be considered a new facility and would not be eligible for Payment assistance.
- 13. Payment is not authorized for Waste Storage Facility (313) on operations where the system establishment is required as a result of judicial or court action. MPCA Stipulation Agreement and Schedule of Compliance (SOC) are not considered a judicial or court action, and practice implementation is still considered voluntary for EQIP eligibility purposes, even if fines have been levied by the MPCA.
- 14. State NRCS Conservationist approval is required for systems involving agricultural waste generated off-site.
- 15. Payment for Waste Storage Facility is capped at \$250,000. This cap applies to the total facility being installed under 313. Other components such as manure transfer, safety fence, etc. are allowed in the contract in addition to the capped \$250K for the 313 practice.
- 16. Non Liquid Tight Deep Pack – Concrete Wall is authorized only for stacking slabs where enough bedding or organic matter is added to the manure to eliminate liquid runoff or leaching and therefore a concrete floor is not required. The manure and organic pack resulting from the operation of a “Compost Barn” as defined by the University of Minnesota meets this definition.
- 17. Certification must be by an appropriately licensed professional engineer.
- 18. Application through the USDA-NRCS EQIP program during a scoring and ranking period is prerequisite.

**PRACTICE STANDARD 629 – WASTEWATER TREATMENT**

|                        | NRCS Code | Incentive Payment |           | Cost Sharing                     | Lifespan |
|------------------------|-----------|-------------------|-----------|----------------------------------|----------|
|                        |           | Type              | Amount \$ | Maximum Eligible Cost Share Rate |          |
| Flocculation Treatment | 629       |                   |           | Tier 1, 2 or 3                   | 10 years |
| Vegetated Dosing Area  | 629       |                   |           | Tier 1, 2 or 3                   | 10 years |
| Bark Bed               | 629       |                   |           | Tier 1, 2 or 3                   | 10 years |
| Aerobic Treatment      | 629       |                   |           | Tier 1, 2 or 3                   | 10 years |

- 1. Payment is limited to where the implementation of this practice will correct an existing pollution problem. As outlined by the EQIP manual, any EQIP contract that includes an animal waste storage or treatment facility will provide for the development of a CNMP prior to implementation of the storage or treatment. MPCA’s definition is used to define a pollution problem.
- 2. Consult EQIP General Provision 13 for Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP) requirements.
- 3. Consult EQIP General Provision 14 for requirements related to manure application land base and/or manure applications on land not owned or controlled by the EQIP contract holder.
- 4. Payment for Wastewater Treatment on operations with pollution problems less than 5 years old is not authorized.
  - a. Examples:
    - i. Producer A has had a dairy farm operation for 20 years. Producer B purchases the dairy and continues milking cows. This pollution problem is greater than 5 years old and producer B meets this eligibility requirement for Payment assistance.
    - ii. A producer has a dairy operation on farm A. He purchases farm B and moves the dairy operation to farm B where there was no previous pollution problem. Farm B would be considered a new facility and would not be eligible for Payment assistance.
- 5. Payment is not authorized for Wastewater Treatment on operations where the system establishment is required as a result of judicial or court action. MPCA Stipulation Agreement and Schedule of Compliance (SOC) are not considered a judicial or court action, and practice implementation is still considered voluntary for EQIP eligibility purposes, even if fines have been levied by the MPCA.
- 6. Payment rate includes components needed for the actual waste treatment. Components needed for temporary storage and transfer of wastes are covered under separate practices.
- 7. Application through the USDA-NRCS EQIP program during a scoring and ranking period is prerequisite.

**PRACTICE STANDARD 638 – WATER AND SEDIMENT CONTROL BASIN**

|  | NRCS Code | Incentive Payment |           | Cost Sharing                     | Lifespan |
|--|-----------|-------------------|-----------|----------------------------------|----------|
|  |           | Type              | Amount \$ | Maximum Eligible Cost Share Rate |          |

|                                |     |  |  |                |          |
|--------------------------------|-----|--|--|----------------|----------|
| Water & Sediment Control Basin | 638 |  |  | Tier 1, 2 or 3 | 10 years |
|--------------------------------|-----|--|--|----------------|----------|

1. The use of Subsurface Drain (606) or Underground Outlet (620) to drain hillside seeps, low or wet spots in fields is not an eligible single component of this practice. The landuser shall identify, in writing the purpose of the larger tile and indicate the area that it will serve. The difference in cost of installing tile larger than that specified by the technician will be borne by the producer.
2. Upland treatment is required. See General Conservation Practice Provision #3.
3. Cost sharing for Subsurface Drain (606) is limited to drains needed in the impounded area of the basin as determined by the designer.
4. Farmable WASCOD is eligible only if it is the most practical alternative, as determined by the SWCD.
5. Application through the USDA-NRCS EQIP program during a scoring and ranking period is prerequisite.

**PRACTICE STANDARD 351 – WELL DECOMMISSIONING (Unused Well Sealing)**

|                      | NRCS Code | Incentive Payment |           | Cost Sharing  | Lifespan |
|----------------------|-----------|-------------------|-----------|---|----------|
|                      |           | Type              | Amount \$ | Maximum Eligible Cost Share Rate                                      |          |
| Well Decommissioning | 351       |                   |           | 75% of actual construction costs, not to exceed 75% of cost estimate, | 10 years |

1. Maximum cost share amount from all sources shall be \$1000, except for wells that are being abandoned as part of a public water supply expansion project, in which case the maximum cost share amount shall be \$400.

**PRACTICE STANDARD 657 – WETLAND RESTORATION**

|                     | NRCS Code | Incentive Payment |              | Cost Share   | Lifespan  |
|---------------------|-----------|-------------------|--------------|--|-----------|
|                     |           | Type              | Amount \$    | Maximum Eligible Cost Share Rate   |           |
| Wetland Restoration | 657       | 1 Time            | \$2,000/Ac.  | Up to 90% of actual construction costs, not to exceed 90% of cost estimate | 15 years  |
|                     |           | 1 Time            | Approved Bid | Up to 90% of actual construction costs, not to exceed 90% of cost estimate | Perpetual |

1. Wetland Restoration Incentives are eligible for restorations that results in type III, IV, or V wetlands.
2. The applicant is responsible for obtaining easements, right of ways, local, state and federal permits and other permission necessary to perform and maintain the practice. Expenses incurred due these items are not cost shared. Incentive payments will not be made until proof of necessary permits has been provided.
3. The restored area shall not be used for irrigation or livestock watering purposes, to produce agricultural commodities, or for grazing livestock.
4. Upland Treatment is required. See General Provision.
5. Wetlands restored as part of a required mitigation plan or for wetland banking are not eligible for funding under this section.
6. A 30 foot minimum native buffer is required. Upland buffer can be completed as a filter strip or native grass planting practice using respective cost and incentive rates.
7. An approved application through the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) or Reinvest In Minnesota (RIM) for the proposed perpetual restoration is required in order to be eligible for funding under this section.
8. Bids shall be submitted to the SWCD office on a form provided by WMO.
9. The WMO shall set a time period during which bids must be submitted.
10. The WMO reserves the right to refuse any and all bids.

**PRACTICE STANDARD – WHOLE FARM PLANNING**

|  | NRCS | Incentive Payment | Cost Sharing | Lifespan |
|--|------|-------------------|--------------|----------|
|--|------|-------------------|--------------|----------|

|                     | <b>Code</b> | <b>Type</b> | <b>Amount \$</b> | <b>Maximum Eligible Cost Share Rate</b> |          |
|---------------------|-------------|-------------|------------------|---|----------|
| Whole Farm Planning |             | One time    | \$5/acre         |   | 10 years |

1. Maximum incentive amount shall be \$1000
2. This incentive is intended specifically to promote participation in the MN Agricultural Water Quality Certification Program (MAWQCP). To be eligible, the applicant must submit a completed MAWQCP application and complete an assessment following MAWQCP protocol.

# APPLICATION APPROVAL DECISION PROCESS

## Practice Type

|   |
|---|
| <b>Type 1:</b> Cost share and/or incentive with sediment cost benefit.<br>Critical area plantings, diversions, filter strips, grade control, rock inlets, grassed waterways, terraces and WASCObS.                    |
| <b>Type 2:</b> Cost share and/or incentive without sediment cost benefit.<br>Bio-retention basins, cover crops, natural shoreland restoration, veg. treatment area, waste storage facility and waste water treatment. |
| <b>Type 3:</b> Special incentives without sediment cost benefit.<br>Residential rain garden, manure testing, nutrient management, residential native grasses and prescribed burning.                                  |
| <b>Type 4:</b> Special cost share without sediment cost benefit.<br>Riparian buffers and well sealing.  |
| <b>Type 5:</b> Cost share and/or incentive with runoff cost benefit.<br>Non-residential native grasses.   |
| <b>Type 6:</b> Discretionary practices.<br>Stream and shoreline stabilization, wetland restoration and innovative   |

\*If <\$50K then can be executed administratively in lieu of County

