NONSTRUCTURAL LAND MANAGEMENT PRACTICES (NLMP)
IMPLEMENTATION PLAN REQUEST FORM
FY 2019 CONSERVATION COST SHARE BASE GRANT
(Period of July 1, 2018 through December 31, 2022)
For The Erosion Control and Water Management Program

SWCD: Red Lake County SWCD

Contact: Tanya Hanson

Briefly describe the District’s proposed local policy and implementation plan for incorporating nonstructural land management practices into your conservation cost share program by answering the following questions. A maximum of three pages, not including the signature page is allowed for your answers.

1. What prioritized, targeted and measurable actions have been taken to insure that there is a direct erosion control and water quality connection to an identified large scale plan?

   PTMAApp has been run for the Red Lake River Watershed and the District will use that information to target cover crop outreach to the highest priority fields in the subwatershed. There is a general goal for the Middle Planning Region under the Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Issue to “Reduce total sediment export as modeled at management area pour point in PTMAApp by 25%.” Cover Crops is listed in the Structural Implementation Plan for each management area in Red Lake County.

   Though watershed-based TMDL and WRAPS documents have not been completed for the Clearwater River Watershed, TMDL calculations have been completed. The Clearwater River is impaired by high total suspended solids concentrations in multiple reaches (AUIDs 09020305-501, 511, and 648). In-stream and overland erosion prevention measures are needed to reduce annual sediment loads in the Clearwater River at Red Lake Falls (Sites S002-118 on AUID 09020305-501) by an estimated 22,358.95 tons (78.9%). Most of the high total suspended solids concentrations have been recorded during the highest 15% of flows. The Clearwater River HSPF model shows that in-stream erosion and agricultural erosion, all significantly contribute to sediment loads in the Clearwater River. This is the furthest downstream reach of the Clearwater River and requires a very large sediment reduction that is going to take many years of comprehensive watershed management to complete. Sites contributing sediment directly into the Clearwater River, and its tributaries, will be given higher priority.

2. How and what technical assistance will be provided to land occupier to insure a whole farm or field scale conservation plan is developed and implemented?

   The District Board and staff have the responsibility to ensure that the designated technical staff have the appropriate technical expertise, skills and training for their assigned role(s). Cover Crop practice must be consistent with the NRCS Field Office Technical Guide (FOTG). Design standards for the practice must include specifications for operation and maintenance for the duration of the given practice, including an inspection schedule and procedure. The District Technician(s) will work with the land occupier to develop a conservation plan for the field(s) of interest using the NRCS 340 Cover Crop Implementation Requirements sheet. The plan will be approved by the Red Lake County Field Office’s District Conservation, Luther Newton, who has Level 5 JAA for the Cover Crop practice, until the SWCD staff have achieved appropriate JAA levels. The District Technician will use RUSLE2 and/or WEPS to ensure that the plan meets soil loss limits and to document pollutant reduction estimates.

   Another alternative for insuring a whole farm or field scale plan is developed and implemented is the MN Ag Water Quality Certification Program (MAWQCP). The District will encourage land occupiers, who

Updated August 2, 2018
are interested, to apply to be certified and the plan will be developed by the Area Certification Specialist. Priority will be given to land occupiers who are certified.

3. List the types of nonstructural land management practices that will be eligible for financial assistance. What specific FOTG standards will be used for these practices? What will be the effective life of these practices?

   Cover Crops (340) – 1 year
   Reduced Tillage (345) – 1 year

4. What will be proposed flat rates OR the maximum percentage based on invoices and receipts for the listed practices and, if flat rates are being proposed, how did you determine the feasibility of these rates? Will there be any other program funding being paid on these practices?

The Red Lake County SWCD Board established these rates based on the NRCS EQIP Red River Basin Initiative Cost List (2016) and other local variables (seed cost, availability of seed, contractor costs).

The Red Lake County SWCD Board has established the maximum rate to a land occupier for installation of the cover crop practice is: $15 for a single species Cover Crop (ex. Cereal rye or oats), $40 for a multiple species Cover Crop which means it must include one grass and one broad leaf species, or $50 for a multiple species Cover Crop with reduced tillage; which is defined as including at least one grass and one broad leaf species, following an annual crop with a minimum of 50% residue left after seeding of the cover crop. These rates are a per acre payment. No other program funding will be paid on these practices.

5. How will the District implement contracts with Land Occupiers for technical assessments, conservation planning, practice implementation and technical certification, payment schedule within the timelines of the grant agreement and practice noncompliance issues?

A contract between the District and land occupier receiving state funds will be used to provide a legal standing to insure practices are installed and maintained according to approved standards and specifications. The contract the District will use is attached to this policy. Land occupier means a person, corporation, or legal entity that holds title to or is in possession of land as an owner, lessee, tenant, or otherwise. If the land occupier is not the landowner, the application must also bear the landowner’s signature.

   a) Contract Length. The contract length is one year.
   b) Contract Amendments. Changes to an executed contract are considered an amendment to the contract and subject to review and approval by the District Board. Prior to approving an amendment, technical staff must attest that the amendment has merit. Amendments shall not be considered or approved after the end of the contract or after approval to issue final payment on the original contract has been made. Amendments are limited to changes in practice specifications, installation dates, land occupier information, practice components, or cost share rates and amounts.

The District Board will approve or deny the contract. The action taken will be documented in the District Board’s meeting minutes. Approval of a contract is considered approval for expenditure of funds.

Should the land occupier fail to maintain the practices during the practice duration according to the operation and maintenance plan, the land occupier is liable to the district for one hundred percent (100%) of the financial assistance received to install the practice as determined by the district board.
6. What are your proposed O&M procedures and policy to ensure these practices are incorporated into the farming operation? Will this result in a modified operation, maintenance and site inspection program for nonstructural land management practices as per BWSR GAM policy? And, if yes, what are those modifications.

Cover Crop practice must be consistent with the NRCS Field Office Technical Guide (FOTG). Design standards for the practice must include specifications for operation and maintenance for the duration of the given practice, including an inspection schedule and procedure.

Qualified technical staff will prepare an operation and maintenance plan specific to the practice and the site(s) where it is located.

Qualified technical staff will ensure that the operation and maintenance plan is being followed and the practices have not been altered or removed by conducting annual site inspections for the duration of the practice. Inspections are to:

a) Verify that all components of the practice are in place and are in good repair, and/or
b) Identify repairs necessary in accordance with the operation and maintenance plan; and/or
c) Identify further assessment or action if necessary repairs are beyond the scope of the operation and maintenance plan.

The District will use the site inspection form from the BWSR GAM.

7. Is there any other information you would like to provide at this time?

The Red Lake County SWCD Board has established the maximum number of acres for a project applicant is 50 acres. The 50 acres may be subdivided into different tracts, but these tracts may not be smaller than 5 acres in size. The Red Lake County SWCD Board has established the minimum number of acres for a land occupier is 5 acres. The maximum number of contracts per land occupier is 5.

SIGNATURE PAGE

Requested By: 

[Signature]

Date: 3-11-2019

Approved By: 

[Signature]

Date: 3-11-19

Please submit this request to your Board Conservationist on or before June 30, 2019.

BCs must attach a copy of the approved request form under the Attachments Tab of the grant record in eLINK.