United States Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service

Dane County Land & Water Resources Department
CCPI – MRBI – EQIP
Sixmile Creek Watershed
Plan of Operations for Fiscal Year 2014

The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) offers financial assistance to agricultural producers to implement on-farm conservation practices. Eligible land is determined by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and is based on an identified resource concern. Eligible producers may apply for financial assistance for conservation practices that will address the identified resource concerns.

Eligible Watershed Areas:

Producers located within the Sixmile Creek (070900020602) watershed are eligible to participate in the CCPI-MRBI-EQIP sign-up. The conservation practice(s) identified in the application must be located within the Sixmile Creek watershed to be eligible for financial assistance consideration through the CCPI-MRBI-EQIP sign-up.

Eligible Practices and Payment Rates:

See the documents posted on the WI NRCS website for the list of eligible practices and payment rates for CCPI-MRBI-EQIP.

Core conservation practices are critical to addressing the targeted resource concerns for MRBI and to achieve the desired environmental outcomes for the Initiative. All conservation plans developed shall include documentation that an alternative containing the core practice(s) was presented to the decision maker. Contracts developed using MRBI financial assistance shall include a core practice, or must be supported by a conservation plan that contains a core practice that is either planned within the contract period or already applied on the land under contract. Supporting conservation practices are eligible for MRBI financial assistance if their associated core practices are planned within the contract period or already applied on the land under contract.

A cap of 1000 acres is in effect for applications that include conservation practice Nutrient Management (590).

Application Period:

EQIP applications are accepted on a continuous basis throughout the year. The FY2014 CCPI-MRBI-EQIP first signup period deadline is December 20, 2013. All eligible applications received by the close of business December 20, 2013 will be evaluated and ranked for CCPI-MRBI-EQIP funding consideration. If sufficient funding is still available after the first signup period, additional application signup period deadlines shall be February 21, 2014 and May 16, 2014.

Interested agricultural producers may apply in person at the Dane County USDA Service Center (either LWRD or NRCS) at 5201 Fen Oak Dr., Room 208, Madison, WI 53718. Applicants may also request EQIP assistance by telephone (608/224-3750), fax (608/224-3745), e-mail (adam.dowling@wi.usda.gov), or letter.

Fund Pools:

The following table identifies the fund pools established for CCPI-MRBI-EQIP applications.

Sixmile Creek Watershed Fund Pools
Farmstead
Cropland
Pasture
Beginning Farmer
Socially Disadvantaged Farmer

Producers applying for financial assistance available through these fund pools will be competing for funds allocated within each individual fund pool.

Applications will be placed in a fund pool based upon the land use where the identified resource concern(s) will be treated, and the application type.

Applicants who are Beginning Farmers and/or Socially Disadvantaged Farmers will have duplicate applications in the Beginning Farmer and/or Socially Disadvantaged Farmer fund pool and the applicable land use fund pool (i.e. Farmstead, Cropland, or Pasture).

If an application contains multiple land uses, the application will be placed in the fund pool that covers the predominant cost of the application. Applicants may choose to apply in more than one fund pool if the practices in the applications can operate independently of each other. Applications in the Beginning Farmer or Socially Disadvantaged Farmer fund pools will contain all the practices being applied for.

Applications for Conservation Activity Plans (i.e. Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan, Nutrient Manage Plan CAP, Grazing Management Plan CAP, Integrated Pest Management Plan CAP, Irrigation Water Management Plan CAP, Drainage Water Management Plan CAP) will be single stand-alone applications and will be placed into the applicable fund pool based on land use, and placed in the Beginning Farmer and/or Socially Disadvantaged fund pool if applicable.

An applicant only needs to sign/submit one NRCS-CPA-1200 for CCPI-MRBI-EQIP funding consideration regardless of the number of fund pools identified above for application placement.

Resource Concerns:

Addressing the following resource concerns in the Sixmile Creek watershed are considered a priority for CCPI-MRBI-EQIP and are reflected in the application ranking tool:

- Water Quality Degradation: Nutrients in Surface Water
- Water Quality Degradation: Excessive Sediment in Surface Water

Ranking:

Scoring of all eligible applications will be finalized after the application submission deadline. Scoring of the applications will be done according to the scoring system posted on the WI NRCS webpage for the appropriate fund pool. All rankings will be conducted in ProTracts. In the event of application ranking score ties, the application that has the higher tracking code (i.e. random number generated in ProTracts) will receive funding priority.

Funding:

NRCS will allocate the available CCPI-MRBI-EQIP funds based on the numerical ranking system set forth on the WI NRCS website. Applications will be selected for plan development and contracted in ranked order according to the score as funds allow. If there are insufficient funds available in a fund pool to obligate the next eligible application (based upon application ranking score), those funds may be redistributed into another fund pool within the watershed as recommended by the Dane County Land and Water Resources Department. If there are insufficient funds available to fund an application, applications not selected for contracting will be deferred to the next application ranking period.

Waste Storage / Alternative Waste Applications:

See the WI NRCS webpage for application requirements associated with the following conservation practices:

- Composting Facility (317)
- Waste Storage Facility (313)
- Solid/Liquid Waste Separation Facility (632)
- Waste Treatment (629)