Local Work Group Environmental Quality Incentives Program
Ranking Criteria Worksheet FY2011

Billings County

Funding Pool *(Check one)*: ☒ **Cropland** ☐ **Grassland**

The Local Work Group (LWG) requests the inclusion of the following **five** local resource criteria to be utilized for applicants requesting participation in the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). These criteria will used to evaluate and prioritize EQIP applications for funding and optimize the environmental benefits at the local level.

- ☒ 1. Does the EQIP application include the renovation of windbreaks and/or the establishment of new windbreaks?
- ☐ 2. Does the EQIP application provide for implementation of wind barriers?
- ☒ 3. Does the EQIP application include implementation of practices that will increase plant diversity, health, & vigor or address energy conservation?
- ☐ 4. Does the EQIP application include implementation of practices that assist in the control of invasive weeds?
- ☒ 5. Does the EQIP application include practices that will either result in a crop rotation with a Diversity rating of 1.25 or better and/or promote the implemetation of a three crop type rotation?
- ☐ 6. Does the EQIP application include Cropping System practices that will result in a STIR of less than 9?
- ☐ 7. Does the EQIP application include Cropping System practices that will result in a STIR of 9 - 30?
- ☐ 8. Does the EQIP application include practices that will either result in a reduction of salinity, help control harmful salt concentrations in the root zone, improve soil salinity management, or address a saline seep/recharge area?
- ☐ 9. Does the EQIP application include a new livestock water development that would increase livestock water quantity and quality?
- ☐ 10. Does the EQIP application offer to keep established perennial vegetation in grass and/or establish new perennial vegetation?
- ☐ 11. Does the EQIP application consist of a practice(s) that will reduce animal waste and sedimentation in wetlands and/or reduce the potential to contaminate ground water and/or have a positive effect on water quality?
- ☒ 12. Does the EQIP application provide for cover crops that will be used to improve soil health or soil erosion?
- ☐ 13. Does the EQIP application include practices that will reduce flooding, point and non-point pollution?

- ☐ 14. Does the EQIP application include a grazing system designed to provide at least a 75% recovery period or contains practices that facilitates a grazing system?
- ☐ 15. Does the EQIP application include practices that will reduce flooding, point and non-point pollution?
- ☒ 16. Does the EQIP application provide for a cropland management system with a stir of 6 or less AND a rotation of at least 2 crop types to improve soil health and organic matter?
- ☐ 17. Does the EQIP application provide for the development or protection of food, water, or habitat for domestic and/or wildlife species?
- ☐ 18. Does the EQIP application provide for the protection, restoration, development, or enhancement of wildlife habitat?

If one of the above criteria does not meet your local resource concerns, please provide a recommended criteria and its inclusion will be considered.

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Submitted by: Steve Kurtz LWG Chairperson

Approved by: _____ State Conservationist