



Natural Resources Conservation Service
760 South Broadway
Salina, Kansas 67401-4604

Phone: 785-823-4500
FAX: 785-823-4540
www.ks.nrcs.usda.gov

March 5, 2013

KANSAS BULLETIN NO. KS300-13-48

SUBJECT: LTP—Environmental Quality Incentives Program—Fiscal Year 2013 National Water Quality Initiative

Action required by: April 19 and May 17 (Field Offices [FOs])
May 17, June 21, and June 28 (Area Offices [AOs])

Purpose. To provide guidance for administering the fiscal year (FY) 2013 National Water Quality Initiative (NWQI) funded through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

Expiration Date. September 30, 2014

Explanation. NWQI funding will be used to assist producers with addressing high-priority water resource concerns in small watersheds. The NWQI will accelerate efforts to improve water quality in hydrologic unit code (HUC) 12-digit watersheds with targeted waters emphasizing treatment of nutrient, sediment, and pathogen concerns.

Approved Watersheds

To advance implementation progress in an accelerated manner, states were encouraged through national bulletin 300-13-16 to continue work in the FY 2012 selected watersheds. After consultation with state partners, Kansas has chosen to continue focus of NWQI funds in these same high priority watersheds. Funding will be used to treat resource concerns in the following approved HUC 12-digit watersheds in Kansas (see Attachment 3).

- Big Creek Watershed (Ellis County)
- Emma Creek Watershed (Harvey and McPherson Counties)
- Grasshopper Creek Watershed (Atchison, Brown, and Jackson Counties)

The allocation for the NWQI in Kansas will be distributed evenly between the three watersheds. The allocation amount will be provided in a future Kansas bulletin.

(more)

DIST: A, F, S, Volkman, Gaggero and Satterthwaite (KDHE)

These watersheds were approved by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) national headquarters (NHQ) in FY 2012 and were recommended by the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE), the Kansas Water Office (KWO), and the Kansas Department of Agriculture, Division of Conservation (KDA-DOC); and concurred by the Kansas Technical Committee (KTC) and the state conservationist (STC).

Application, Evaluation, and Ranking Tool

- A. **Program Contracts System (ProTracts) Subaccounts:** A separate fund code has been developed in ProTracts for each watershed with an account type of “National Water Quality.”
- B. **Approved Land Uses and Resource Concerns** (see Attachment 1A): Discussions with potential program applicants should emphasize conservation planning that reflects practices to address the primary resource concerns. Applications must have a primary resource concern before a secondary resource concern can be treated.
- C. **Approved Core and Supporting Practices:** FOs are responsible for the planning of core and supporting practices with the approved resource concerns in ProTracts Application Evaluation Ranking Tool (AERT), as indicated in Attachment 1B. The application must include a core practice.

FOs are also responsible for using a “system approach” in conservation planning that incorporates selection of practices which address the concept of “avoiding, controlling, or trapping” (ACT) pollutants. This ACT pollutants system approach is explained in Attachment 1, along with designations showing which practices address which aspects of ACT.
- D. **Screening Criteria:** FOs must utilize the national screening criteria as provided in Attachment 4 to support NWQI to manage workload associated with application evaluation and ranking. Use of this screening worksheet is required and all eligible applications must have an assigned priority of “High,” “Medium,” or “Low” recorded in ProTracts.
- E. **State and Local Ranking Criteria:** State and local criteria have been established as shown in Attachment 2. Guidance issued in Bulletin KS300-13-19 will be used to answer national priority questions.
- F. **Conservation Programs Geospatial Information System Interface (CPGI) Tool:** Some of the ProTracts ranking tool questions require the use of geospatial data. All eligible applications will be evaluated using CPGI. The application number in CPGI will match the application number from ProTracts.

Application Periods

A. Application Period 1: All eligible “High” priority applications received by the deadline of April 19, 2013, will be ranked and funding decisions completed by May 17, 2013.

B. Application Period 2: From Monday, April 22, 2013, to Friday, May 17, 2013, all eligible “High” or “Medium” priority applications received by the deadline of May 17, 2013, including any unfunded “High” or “Medium” priority applications from the first application period, will be ranked and funding decisions made by June 21, 2013.

NOTE: Low priority applications will not be ranked.

Funding decisions will be made by the AOs.

Obligation Deadline

All NWQI approved applications must be obligated by June 28, 2013.

Contact: Please forward feedback and questions, through established channels, to Chad G. Volkman, Resource Conservationist, at 785-823-4568 or chad.volkman@ks.usda.gov.

(Signed)

ERIC B. BANKS
State Conservationist

Attachments