



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

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

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May 4, 2012

**KANSAS BULLETIN NO. KS300-12-47**

**SUBJECT: LTP—Environmental Quality Incentives Program—National Water Quality Initiative—Fiscal Year 2012**

**Action required by:** May 18 and June 15 (Field Offices [FOs])  
May 25, June 22, and June 29 (Area Offices [AOs])

**Purpose.** To provide guidance for administering the fiscal year (FY) 2012 National Water Quality Initiative (NWQI) funded through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

**Expiration Date.** September 30, 2013

**Explanation.** In accordance with the FY 2012 allocation letter issued on December 16, 2011, Kansas reserved five percent (\$896,443) of EQIP financial assistance (FA) funding to address this new national program initiative. The funding will be used to accelerate efforts to improve water quality in hydrologic unit code (HUC) 12-digit watersheds with targeted waters emphasizing treatment of nutrient and sediment concerns.

**Approved Watersheds**

Funding will be used to treat resource concerns in the following approved HUC 12-digit watersheds in Kansas (see Attachment A).

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

Each watershed has been allocated \$298,814.

(more)

DIST: A, F, S, C. Nelson, Satterthwaite (KDHE), Foley (KDA-DOC), Streeter (KWO)

These watersheds (approved by National Headquarters (NHQ), 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. Fund codes have also been developed for the approved conservation activity plan (CAP) applications using the “NWQI” account type (see Attachment C).
  
- B. **Approved Land Uses and Resource Concerns** (see Attachment B): Discussions with potential program applicants should emphasize conservation planning which reflect 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 C. The application must include a core practice.  
  
FOs are also responsible for using a “system approach” in conservation planning which incorporates selection of practices which address the concept of “avoiding, controlling, or trapping” (ACT) pollutants. This ACT pollutants system approach is explained in Attachment C, 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 D 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 has been established as shown in Attachment E. Guidance issued in Bulletin KS300-12-30 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. The CPGI will be used to obtain this data. The application number in CPGI will match the application number from ProTracts.

### **Application Periods**

- A. Application Period 1:** From program announcement to Friday, May 18, 2012. All eligible “High” priority applications received by the deadline of May 18, 2012, will be ranked and funding decisions completed by May 25, 2012.
- B. Application Period 2:** From Monday, May 21, 2012, to Friday, June 15, 2012. All eligible “High” or “Medium” priority applications received by the deadline of June 15, 2012, including any unfunded “High” priority applications from the first application period, will be ranked and funding decisions made by June 22, 2012.

**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 29, 2012.

**Contact:** Please forward feedback and questions, through established channels, to Corey L. Nelson, Resource Conservationist, at 785-823-4580 or [corey.nelson@ks.usda.gov](mailto:corey.nelson@ks.usda.gov).

*(Signed)*

ERIC B. BANKS  
State Conservationist

Attachments