Ranking Tool Summary
for FY2013 - NWQI - Lost Branch Chariton River

National Priorities:

Questions:

Number	Question	Points
1	a. Is the program application to support the development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP)? If answer is “Yes”, do not answer any other national level questions. If answer is “No”, proceed with evaluation to address the remaining questions in this section.	250
2	a. Meet regulatory requirements relating to animal feeding operations, or proactively avoid the need for regulatory measures?	15
2	b. Reduce sediment, nutrients or pesticides from agricultural operations located within a field that adjoins a designated "impaired water body" (TMDL, 303d, etc.)?	15
2	c. Reduce sediment, nutrients or pesticides from agricultural operations located within a field that adjoins a "non-impaired water body"?	5
3	a. Decrease aquifer overdraft?	15
3	b. Conserve water from irrigation system improvements and saved water will be available for other beneficial uses?	10
3	c. Conserve water in an area where the applicant participates in a geographically established or watershed-wide project?	5
4	a. Meet on-farm regulatory requirements relating to air quality or proactively avoid the need for regulatory measures?	15
4	b. Reduce on-farm generated green house gases such as CO2 (Carbon Dioxide), CH4 (Methane), and N2O (Nitrous Oxide)?	15
4	c. Increase on-farm carbon sequestration?	5
5	a. Reduce erosion to tolerable limits (Soil "T")?	15
5	b. Improve soil tilth, organic matter, structure, health, etc.?	5
6	a. Benefit on-farm habitat associated with threatened and endangered, at-risk, candidate, or species of concern as identified in a State wildlife plan?	15
6	b. Help retain wildlife and plant habitat on land exiting the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)?	10
7	a. Help manage or control noxious or invasive plant species on non-cropland?	10
7	b. Increase, or improve habitat to benefit pollinator or other targeted wildlife species?	10
7	c. Properly dispose of livestock carcasses?	5
7	d. Are identified in an Integrated Pest Management plan?	10
7	e. Are identified in a Nutrient Management plan?	10
7	f. Apply principles of adaptive nutrient management?	5
8	a. Reduce energy consumption on the agricultural operation?	15
8	b. Increase on-farm energy efficiency with practices and improvements identified in an approved energy audit equivalent to criteria required in Ag EMP (122,124)?	10
8	c. Assist in implementing energy conservation measures that also reduce greenhouse gas emissions and other air pollutants?	10
9	a. Implementation of all conservation practices scheduled in the contract on the CPA-1155 within three years of date of obligation?	10
9	b. Improvement of existing conservation practices or conservation systems already in place at the time the application is accepted?	5
9	c. Implementation of practice(s) which will complete an existing conservation system or suite of practices?	5
	Total Points	500

State Issues:

Questions:

Sub-heading Number	Question Number	Question	Points
1		If the application is for development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP), the agency will assign significant ranking priority and conservation benefit by answering "Yes" to the following question. Answering "Yes" to question 1.1 will result in the application being awarded the maximum amount of points that can be earned for the State priority category.	
	1	Is the program application for the development of a TSP prepared Conservation Activity Plan (CAP)? If answer is "Yes" do not answer any other State level questions. If answer is "No" proceed with evaluation to address the remaining questions in this section.	400
2		Water Quality – EPA Watersheds:	
	1	Does the application include core conservation practices that will be implemented within ¼ mile of a stream or water body that is threatened (i.e., receives significant runoff of excess nitrogen and/or phosphorous), on the EPA 303(d) list, or is impaired with a TMDL in place and therefore not on the 303(d) list (or other critical stream or water body authorized by the Regional Conservationist)?	100
3		Geographic Impacts:	
	1	Are core conservation practices planned on the offered acres? i. Greater than 75 percent of the offered acres are within the targeted watershed, AND ii. Greater than 75 percent of the offered acres have a core conservation practice planned for application	125
4		Collaborative Efforts:	
	1	Are core conservation practices planned within an existing State agency or other non-USDA water quality project area addressing the same or similar pollutants?	75
5		Effort to address watershed impairments:	
	1	Does this program application include the implementation of a system of conservation practices which address the primary watershed impairments?	50
6		High Risk Soils:	
	1	Are core conservation practices to be implemented on offered acres with a majority of soil types that are classified hydrologic group D (high runoff) or group A (high infiltration)?	50
		Maximum Points: 400 Total Points	800

Local Issues:

Questions:

Sub-heading Number	Question Number	Question	Points
1		If the application is for development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP), the agency will assign significant ranking priority and conservation benefit by answering "Yes" to the following question. Answering "Yes" to question 1.1 will result in the application being awarded the maximum amount of points that can be earned for the local priority category.	
	1	Is the program application for development of a TSP prepared Conservation Activity Plan (CAP)? If answer is "Yes", do not answer any other local level questions. If answer is "No", proceed with evaluation to address the remaining questions in this section.	250
2		Addressing specific impairments.	
	1	Will nutrient management 590 be implemented in conjunction with erosion control practices to control the loss of nitrogen and phosphorus from fields?	40
	2	Will a cover crop be utilized on at least 25 percent of the offered acres?	30
	3	Will practices to exclude livestock from all streams on the offered acres be implemented with this application?	30
3		Addressing soil factors that influence water quality.	
	1	Will the application of conservation practices result in an SCI greater than or equal to 0.3 on over 75 percent of the offered acres?	15
4		Addressing streams issues.	
	1	Are planned conservation practices within ¼ mile of a blue line stream on a USGS topographic map within the impaired watershed?	50
5		Utilizing a systems approach.	
	1	Will the implementation of practices in this application result in the existence of a conservation system where there is at least one practice in each of the avoid, trap, and control categories on greater than or equal to 75% percent of the offered acres? (Can only answer yes to one of questions 5.1-5.3)	15
	2	Will the implementation of practices in this application result in the existence of a conservation system where there is at least one practice in each of the avoid, trap, and control categories on between 26% and 74% percent of the offered acres? (Can only answer yes to one of questions 5.1-5.3)	10
	3	Will the implementation of practices in this application result in the existence of a conservation system where there is at least one practice in each of the avoid, trap, and control categories on between 1% and 25% percent of the offered acres? (Can only answer yes to one of questions 5.1-5.3)	5
6		Addressing resource concerns on priority land.	
	1	1 - 10 acres of priority land will be addressed by this contract. Answer yes once in questions 6-1 thru 6-4.	20
	2	11 - 20 acres of priority land will be addressed by this contract. Answer yes once in questions 6-1 thru 6-4.	25
	3	21 - 30 acres of priority land will be addressed by this contract. Answer yes once in questions 6-1 thru 6-4.	30
	4	31+ acres of priority land will be addressed by this contract. Answer yes once in question 6-1 thru 6-4.	35

7		Utilizing Best Management Practices.	
	1	Distance of lowest BMP to Perennial Stream (information coming from Iowa Streams Layer in Arc Map) is 0 - 500 feet. Answer yes once in questions 7-1 thru 7-4.	35
	2	Distance of lowest BMP to Perennial Stream (information coming from Iowa Streams Layer in Arc Map) is 501 - 1000 feet. Answer yes once in questions 7-1 thru 7-4.	30
	3	Distance of lowest BMP to Perennial Stream (information coming from Iowa Streams Layer in Arc Map) is 1001 - 2000 feet. Answer yes once in questions 7-1 thru 7-4.	25
	4	Distance of lowest BMP to Perennial Stream (information coming from Iowa Streams Layer in Arc Map) is 2001+ feet. Answer yes once in questions 7-1 thru 7-4.	20
		Maximum Points: 250 Total Points	665