|  |
| --- |
| **National Water Quality Initiative Call for Proposals!** |
| The NRCS State Conservationist in Minnesota is accepting proposals for National Water Quality Initiative (NWQI) watershed activities in FY 2023 until close of business Wednesday, June 15, 2022. The proposals can be for implementation or planning activities. Selected watersheds, or Source Water Protection Area’s (SWPA), will receive specific federal funds for conservation implementation or planning activities. |
|  |
| **Action Required By:** **Wednesday, June 15,** **2022** |
| NWQI watershed activities are guided by multi-year implementation plans that document annual targets for conservation activity directed at solving the critical source of an impaired waterbody or SWPA. All NWQI watersheds or SWPA must have an assessment that meets NRCS standards located within Attachment C. Priority watersheds that do not fully meet the required level of planning as described in Attachment A or Attachment B for SWPA, may propose a planning phase in FY 2023.  The new implementation watershed proposals need to meet, or state how they will meet, the criteria outlined in Attachment A or Attachment B for SWPA proposals. The final assessment report requires completed maps identifying critical source areas with GIS data supporting the identified areas. Proposals where local NRCS and partners work together to set joint goals and outline their shared implementation or planning plan will have the highest consideration through the watershed selection process. This includes proposals that provide proof of producer willingness and readiness to adopt needed conservation activities, aligned with local (NRCS & Partners) capacity to provide technical assistance for implementation.  To submit a watershed proposal for either a planning or new implementation NWQI watershed or SWPA the following applicable worksheets must be completed:  New Watershed planning or implementation   * Attachment D- NWQI Watershed Assessment Checklist * Attachment F - NWQI FY2023 Action Needed Spreadsheet,   New SWPA planning or implementation   * Attachment E - NWQI SWPA Assessment Checklist * Attachment F – NWQI FY2023 Action Needed Spreadsheet   The proposal must address the selection criteria provided in Attachment A or B. Proposals may be submitted with one or multiple HUC12s. Proposals must be submitted to Keith Kloubec at [keith.kloubec@usda.gov](mailto:keith.kloubec@usda.gov) on **Wednesday, June 15,** **2022**. The Watershed Subcommittee of the Minnesota State Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) will review and select proposals, utilizing the STAC Watershed Selection Criteria and Attachment C . The Subcommittee will then make recommendations to the Minnesota STAC and State Conservationist on which proposals to submit to the National review board for final selection. |
|  |
| If you have questions or need additional information, please contact Keith Kloubec, Assistant State Conservationist for Programs: keith.kloubec@usda.gov or 651-602-7931 |
|  |
| Enclosures: |
| 1. Attachment A – NWQI/MRBI Watershed Assessment Guidance 2. Attachment B – NWQI SWP Assessment Guidance 3. Attachment C – NWQI Watershed and SWPA Selection Criteria 4. Attachment D – NWQI Watershed Assessment Checklist 5. Attachment E – NWQI SWPA Assessment Checklist 6. Attachment F - NWQI FY2023 Action Needed 7. Minnesota MSTC Watershed Selection Criteria |