

Exhibit G – FY 2016 RCPP Midwest Agriculture Water Quality Partnership (MAWQP)

Initiative Name and Acronym – RCPP Midwest Agriculture Water Quality Partnership

Initiative Description/Summary:

This proposal addresses water quality as the primary resource concern in the heavily farmed upper Midwest, consistent with the National priorities identified in the RCPP announcement of program funding. More specifically, this proposal will accelerate the installation and adoption of the most effective nutrient reduction practices and practices to improve soil health from targeted watershed projects as established through the Iowa Water Quality Initiative (WQI) and Watershed Management Authority (WMA) watersheds. The WQI was established by the State of Iowa to begin implementation efforts specifically addressing the Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy (NRS). Its development was prompted by the 2008 Gulf Hypoxia Action Plan that calls for Iowa and states along the Mississippi River to develop strategies to reduce nutrient loadings to the Gulf of Mexico. The Gulf Hypoxia Action Plan establishes a goal of at least a 45% reduction in total nitrogen and total phosphorus loads. The strategy will also intensify efforts to address nutrient related water quality problems in Iowa's waters that negatively impact beneficial water uses enjoyed and required by all Iowans.

The proposal supports implementation and demonstration of conservation activities within designated watersheds, measurement/evaluation of the efficacy of these practices, outreach/education efforts, and will strengthen and expand existing partnerships.

Success will be measured by adoption of conservation practices and their corresponding nutrient and sediment load reductions. Practices implemented will include both public and privately funded. A selection of farmers within the targeted watersheds will conduct edge of field monitoring to confirm the results of these practices before and after implementation.

Participating Counties:

Buena Vista, Pocahontas, Sac, Calhoun, Webster, Hamilton, Hardin, Carroll, Greene, Boone, Story, Marshall, Guthrie, Dallas, Polk, Jasper, Adair, Madison, Warren, Marion, Mahaska, Keokuk, Clarke, Lucas, Worth, Mitchell, Floyd, Chickasaw, Franklin, Butler, Bremer, Grundy, Black Hawk, Buchanan, Tama, Benton and Linn Counties.

Applications will be eligible for funding if the planned conservation practice(s) are located within the HUC 8 Focus Area. Priority ranking points will be awarded to those applications located within the 2016 RCPP Designated Priority Watersheds (See Exhibit H – FY 2016 RCPP Midwest Agriculture Water Quality Partnership Projects **V2 7/23/2018 Map**).

Program Contact Information:

Paul Goldsmith at (515) 323-2224 or paul.goldsmith@ia.usda.gov

Project Financial Assistance through EQIP:

- \$6,384,377

ProTracts Requirements:

1. Subaccount Guidance:

One subaccount is available in ProTracts to support this Initiative under RCPP EQIP 2014 titled "Midwest Agricultural Water Quality Partnership."

Batching Dates will be the regular EQIP Batching Dates and will be placed on the Iowa NRCS Website.

Exhibit G – FY 2016 RCPP Midwest Agriculture Water Quality Partnership (MAWQP)

2. Application, Evaluation, and Ranking Tool Guidance – Choice Lists and Matrix Data:

a. Approved Land Types – The following applicable land types are eligible for this initiative:

Crop
Other
Pasture

b. RCPP Application Type - National

c. Approved Natural Resource Concerns:

Water Quality Degradation – Excess Nutrients in Surface and Groundwater
Nutrients in Surface Water
Nutrients in Groundwater
Water Quality Degradation – Excessive Sediment in Surface Water
Excessive Sediment in Surface Water

Soil Quality Degradation – Organic Matter Depletion
Organic Matter Depletion

Soil Erosion – Sheet, Rill and Wind Erosion
Sheet and Rill Erosion
Wind Erosion

Fish and Wildlife – Inadequate Habitat
Inadequate Habitat - Food
Inadequate Habitat – Cover/Shelter

Note: No additional resource concerns may be added or used in ProTracts AERT to support this initiative.

d. For this initiative the current FY EQIP Cost List will be used for the Eligible Practices listed below with either regular EQIP or Initiative Payment Rates as identified by the practices.

CAP Practices (EQIP or EQIP HU Payment Rates)

Practice Name	Practice Code
Nutrient Management Plan	104
Drainage Water Management Plan	130

Conservation Practices (Initiative and Initiative HU Payment Rates)

Practice Name	Practice Code
Conservation Cover	327
Constructed Wetland	656
Denitrifying Bioreactor	605
Drainage Water Management	554
Structure for Water Control	587
Saturated Buffer	604

Exhibit G – FY 2016 RCPP Midwest Agriculture Water Quality Partnership (MAWQP)

Conservation Practices (EQIP or EQIP HU Payment Rates)

Practice Name	Practice Code
Cover Crop	340
Critical Area Planting	342
Nutrient Management	590
Residue and Tillage Management, No-Till	329
Subsurface Drain	606

- e. The current FY 20XX EQIP Cost List will be uploaded into ProTracts for the RCPP Projects each fiscal year. This Cost List will be provided to the Field Office to be loaded into Toolkit.
- f. All applications will be screened using the [Exhibit G -Iowa FY 2016 RCPP Midwest Ag Water Quality Partnership Project](#) (for FY 2019 and later applications) *Screening Criteria Worksheet*. This Screening Criteria Worksheet is posted on the Iowa NRCS Website. Based on the screening all applications will be assigned either a High, Medium or Low Priority.

3. **Application, Evaluation, and Ranking Tool Guidance – Ranking Criteria Questions:**

Ranking will be uploaded into ProTracts each fiscal year.

4. **Additional Initiative Guidance:**

The primary project partners for this project are the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship Division of Soil Conservation and Water Quality and the Iowa Agricultural Water Alliance. Project staff assigned to Water Quality Initiatives as part of the Nutrient Management Reduction Strategy will assist with project implementation.

**Exhibit G - Iowa FY 2016 RCPP Midwest Ag Water Quality
Partnership Project (for FY 2019 and later applications)**

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)
SCREENING CRITERIA WORKSHEET

A screening worksheet will be completed for each eligible RCPP application.

<p>Instructions:</p> <p>Complete a screening worksheet for each eligible producer applying for RCPP EQIP Midwest Ag Water Quality Partnership Project assistance. Completion of this worksheet and documentation does not constitute agreement to provide EQIP benefits nor approval of a program contract. The original screening worksheet should be filed with the applicant case file or EQIP file and unless the application is determined to be ineligible, the screening priority (High, Medium, or Low) will be recorded in ProTracts application priority. A copy of any completed screening worksheet may be provided to the applicant.</p>			
Detailed Screening Criteria Worksheet – Complete for each eligible EQIP applicant			
Applicant Name:		County:	
Application No: (OPTIONAL)		Field Office:	
Evaluator Name:		Date:	
Priority Determination for ProTracts – Select and circle one:			
<p>High Priority Category: Application area is located within one of the 2016 RCPP Designated Priority Watersheds (See Exhibit H – FY 2016 RCPP - Midwest Ag Water Quality Partnership Project Map V2 7-23-2019).</p> <p>Or: Application is within the HUC 8 Focus Area and includes an Edge of Field practice, i.e. 604 Saturated Buffer, 605 Denitrifying Bioreactor or 656 Constructed Wetland.</p>		<p align="center">High Priority Status in Protracts</p>	
<p>Medium Priority Category: Application area is located within the HUC 8 Focus Area and does not include Edge of Field Practices, 604 Saturated Buffer, 605 Denitrifying Bioreactor or 656 Constructed Wetland (See Exhibit H – FY 2016 RCPP - Midwest Ag Water Quality Partnership Project Map V2 7-23-2019).</p>		<p align="center">Medium Priority Status in ProTracts</p>	
<p>Low Priority Category: 51% or more of the Application area is not within the HUC 8 Focus Area - Low priority applications will not be ranked.</p>		<p align="center">Low Priority Status in ProTracts</p>	
The priority determination of High, Medium, or Low will be recorded in ProTracts application priority for this applicant.			
D.C. Approval:		Date Approve:	