

## Exhibit C – FY 2015 RCPP Iowa Targeted Demonstration Watershed Partnership Project

**Initiative Name and Acronym** – RCPP Iowa Targeted Demonstration Watershed Partnership Project

**Initiative Description/Summary:**

This proposal addresses water quality as the primary resource concern in the Mississippi River Basin, consistent with the Critical Conservation Area (CCA) priorities identified in the RCPP announcement of program funding. More specifically, this proposal will accelerate the installation and adoption of the most effective nutrient and sediment loss reduction practices from targeted watershed projects as established through the Iowa Water Quality Initiative (WQI). 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 See Exhibit D Map:**

Sioux, Plymouth, Kossuth, Hancock, Humboldt, Wright, Hamilton, Winneshiek, Chickasaw, Fayette, Allamakee, Clayton, Keokuk, Washington, Wapello, Jefferson, Henry, Van Buren and Lee Counties.

**Program Contact Information:**

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**Project Financial Assistance through EQIP:**

- \$3,027,350

**ProTracts Requirements:**

**1. Subaccount Guidance:**

One subaccount is available in ProTracts to support this Initiative under RCPP EQIP 2014 titled “Iowa Targeted Demonstration Partnership Project.”

Batching Dates will be the regular EQIP Batching Dates and will be placed on the NRCS Web Page.

**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

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b. RCPP Application Type - CCA

c. Approved Natural Resource Concerns:

<b>Water Quality Degradation – Excess Nutrients in Surface and Groundwater</b>
Nutrients in Surface Water
Nutrients in Groundwater
<b>Water Quality Degradation – Excessive Sediment in Surface Water</b>
Excessive Sediment in Surface Water

<b>Soil Quality Degradation – Organic Matter Depletion</b>
Organic Matter Depletion

<b>Soil Erosion – Sheet, Rill and Wind Erosion</b>
Sheet and Rill Erosion
<b>Soil Erosion – Concentrated Flow Erosion</b>
Ephemeral Gully Erosion
Classic Gully Erosion

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

d. For this initiative the FY16 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

**Core Conservation Practices (Initiative and Initiative HU Payment Rates)**

Practice Name	Practice Code
Constructed Wetland	656
Denitrifying Bioreactor	605
Drainage Water Management	554
Grade Stabilization Structure	410
Grassed Waterway	412
Structure for Water Control	587
Terrace	600
Saturated Buffer	604
Water & Sediment Control Basin	638

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### Supporting Practices (EQIP or EQIP HU Payment Rates)

Practice Name	Practice Code
Conservation Crop Rotation	328
Cover Crop	340
Critical Area Planting	342
Nutrient Management	590
Residue and Tillage Management, No-Till	329
Subsurface Drain	606
Underground Outlet	620

e. The current FY20XX 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.

### 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 partner for this project is the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship Division of Soil Conservation. Project staff assigned to Water Quality Initiatives as part of the Nutrient Management Reduction Strategy will assist with project implementation.