

Exhibit E – FY 2015 RCPP Middle Cedar Partnership Project

Initiative Name and Acronym – RCPP Middle Cedar Partnership Project

Initiative Description/Summary:

The Middle Cedar Partnership Project (MCCPP) seeks resources to advance implementation of nutrient and flood reduction practices in targeted areas of the Middle Cedar watershed, a 2,417 square mile watershed, which is part of the larger Cedar River watershed. The Middle Cedar watershed is located in east central Iowa. The project seeks to target funds to five HUC 12 watersheds located in Benton, Tama, and Black Hawk Counties. The five HUC 12 watersheds total 135,000 acres.

The Middle Cedar watershed is designated as one of nine priority watersheds by the Iowa Water Resources Coordinating Council (IWRCC) under the Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy. Priority watersheds were chosen based on annual average levels of nitrogen and phosphorus export. Iowa has dedicated \$4.1 million to establish watershed projects to demonstrate practices identified in the Nutrient Reduction Strategy in the nine targeted watersheds. In the Middle Cedar, two such projects were awarded funding in early 2014 and are currently underway. The Miller Creek Water Quality Initiative Project was awarded \$499,530 and has been utilizing creative outreach strategies to educate farmers about conservation practices. The Benton/Tama Nutrient Reduction Demonstration Project was awarded \$468,000 and has been targeting seed corn growers in promoting cover crops and other strategies.

This project will seek to expand the scope, outreach, and longevity of the ongoing Miller Creek and Benton/Tama Water Quality Initiative demonstration projects in five sub-watersheds in the Middle Cedar watershed. Conservation practices currently identified include nutrient management, cover crops, bioreactors, saturated buffers, wetland creation, and wetland easements. To enhance adoption rates of conservation practices, the project partners will provide outreach to educate producers about the benefits of less widely adopted practices that hold significant promise for nutrient reduction.

Participating Counties See Exhibit F Map:

Benton, Blackhawk and Tama Counties.

Program Contact Information:

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Project Financial Assistance through EQIP:

- \$1,434,849

ProTracts Requirements:

1. Subaccount Guidance:

One subaccount is available in ProTracts to support this Initiative under RCPP EQIP 2014 titled "Middle Cedar Partnership Project."

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

3. 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 - State
- 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

Excess Water - Ponding, Flooding, Seasonal High Water Table, Seeps and Drifted Snow
Runoff, Flooding or Ponding

Soil Quality Degradation – Organic Matter Depletion
Organic Matter Depletion

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

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

- d. For this initiative the FYXX EQIP Cost List will be used for the Eligible Practices listed below with initiative or initiative HU rates.

CAP Practices (EQIP or EQIP HU Payment Rates)

Practice Name	Practice Code
Nutrient Management Plan	104

Core Conservation Practices (Initiative or Initiative HU Payment Rates)

Practice Name	Practice Code
Cover Crop	340
Constructed Wetland	656
Denitrifying Bioreactor	605
Nutrient Management	590
Residue and Tillage Management, No-Till	329
Saturated Buffer	604

- e. The FY20XX EQIP Cost List will be uploaded into ProTracts for the RCPP Projects each Fiscal year. This Cost List has been provided to the Field Office to be loaded into Toolkit.

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

Ranking will be uploaded into ProTracts each Fiscal year.

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4. Additional Initiative Guidance:

The primary project partner for this project is the City of Cedar Rapids, Benton SWCD, Blackhawk SWCD and the Tama SWCD. There are 14 total project partners for this project. Project staff assigned to Water Quality Initiatives as part of the Nutrient Management Reduction Strategy in these watersheds will assist with project implementation.