

## Part 581 – Regional Conservation Partnership Program

### Subpart B – Iowa Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) Projects

#### 581.10 FY 2015 RCPP Projects

**FY 2015 RCPP Projects** – during FY 2015 three (3) RCPP projects were approved for funding in Iowa. These include:

- (1) *RCPP Regional Grassland Bird and Grazing Initiative* – this project was approved as a National application with Missouri being the lead state. Other states include Iowa, Nebraska, and Kansas. This project is located in the southern two (2) tiers of counties in Iowa. See [Exhibit A](#) – FY 2015 RCPP Regional Grassland Bird and Grazing Initiative for details and [Exhibit B](#) – FY 2015 RCPP Regional Grassland Bird and Grazing Initiative Map for the project location.
- (2) *RCPP Iowa Targeted Demonstration Watersheds Partnership Project* – this proposal addresses water quality as the primary resource concern in the Mississippi River Basin, consistent with the Critical Conservation Area (CCA) priorities. This project targets eight (8) sub-watersheds in the Iowa Nutrient Management Strategy Basins. See [Exhibit C](#) – FY 2015 RCPP Iowa Targeted Demonstration Watershed Partnership Project for details and [Exhibit D](#) - FY 2015 RCPP Iowa Targeted Demonstration Watershed Partnership Project Map for the project location. There are limited funds remaining in this project. Additional selections may or may not be made based on slippage from existing contracts or potential supplemental funding.
- (3) *RCPP Middle Cedar Partnership Project* – this proposal 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 above Cedar Rapids, Iowa. The Middle Cedar Watershed is located in east central Iowa in Benton, Blackhawk, and Tama Counties. See [Exhibit E](#) - FY 2015 RCPP Middle Cedar Partnership Project for details and [Exhibit F](#) - FY 2015 RCPP Middle Cedar Partnership Project Map for the project location. There are limited funds remaining in this project. Additional selections may or may not be made based on slippage from existing contracts or potential supplemental funding.

#### 581.11 FY 2016 RCPP Projects

**FY 2016 RCPP Projects** – during FY 2016 three (3) additional RCPP Projects were approved for funding in Iowa. These include:

- (1) *RCPP Midwest Agriculture Water Quality Partnership Project* – the lead partners for this project include the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship Division of Soil Conservation and Water Quality and the Iowa Agricultural Water Alliance. This proposal addresses water quality as the primary resource concern in the Mississippi River Basin, consistent with the national priorities. This project targets five Hydrologic Unit Code (HUC) eight (8) focus areas in the Iowa Nutrient Management Strategy Basins. See [Exhibit G](#) - FY 2016 RCPP Midwest Agriculture Water Quality Partnership Project guidance *along with EQIP Screening Criteria Worksheet* (for FY 2019 and later applications). See [Exhibit H](#) - FY 2016 RCPP Midwest Agriculture Water Quality Partnership Project **V2 7/23/2018 Map** for the project location.

- (2) *RCPP Upper Cedar Watershed Urban-Rural Partnership Project* – the lead partner for this project is the City of Charles City. This proposal seeks to leverage existing efforts in the Rock Creek Watershed, where a Farmer Advisory Board is working with local partners to advance practice implementation according to goals set in the Rock Creek Watershed Management Plan. The project will implement conservation practices such as Cover Crops, Bioreactors, and Saturated Buffers and will also conduct outreach activities through partners to increase adoption of conservation practices. See [Exhibit I](#) - FY 2016 RCPP Upper Cedar Watershed Urban – Rural Partnership Project for project guidance and [Exhibit J](#) - FY 2016 RCPP Upper Cedar Watershed Urban – Rural Partnership Project Map for the project location.
- (3) *RCPP Improving Working Lands for Monarch Butterflies* – the lead partner is the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. This project was approved as a national application with Texas being the lead state. Other states include Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Oklahoma and Wisconsin. Targeted areas will be identified through a US Geological Survey led initiative examining fine scale opportunities for the restoration of milkweed and other pollinator plants. See [Exhibit K](#) - FY 2016 Improving Working Lands for Monarch Butterflies for project guidance. This project is offered statewide in Iowa.

### 581.12 FY 2017 RCPP Projects

**FY 2017 RCPP Projects** – during FY 2017 two (2) additional RCPP Projects were approved for funding in Iowa. These include:

- (1) *RCPP Fox River Water Quality Project* – the lead partner is the Davis County Soil and Water Conservation District. This project is a watershed based project to improve Water Quality, reduce impacts of Soil Erosion, improve Soil Quality and reduce downstream flooding. The project is a national RCPP project affecting three (3) counties in Iowa, Appanoose, Davis and Van Buren and Scotland and Clark Counties in Missouri. The project will include the installation of structural practices for Water Quality and Erosion control benefits and management practices for soil quality improvement. See [Exhibit L](#) - FY 2016 RCPP Fox River Water Quality Project for guidance. See [Exhibit M](#) - FY 2016 RCPP Fox River Water Quality Project Map for the project location.
- (2) *RCPP Innovative Conservation Agriculture Project* – The lead partner is the Allamakee County Soil and Water Conservation District. This project is located in Allamakee and Clayton County in northeast Iowa in the Driftless Area. This area has karst topography with shallow limestone and degraded soils. The purpose for this project is to facilitate the implementation of management practices to improve Soil Health, Water Quality and reduce Soil Erosion. See [Exhibit N](#) - FY 2017 Innovative Conservation Agriculture Project for project guidance. See [Exhibit O](#) - FY 2017 Innovative Conservation Agriculture Project Map for the project location.

### 581.13 FY 2018 RCPP Projects

**FY 2018 RCPP Projects** – during FY 2018 two (2) additional RCPP Projects were approved for funding in Iowa. These include:

- (1) *RCPP SmithGro: Sustainable Grain Supply Chains (SSGSC) Project* - The lead partner for this project is the Environmental Defense Fund and Smithfield Foods. The project target area will lead to successful, measurable outcomes in addressing water quality and soil health by focusing on the counties in Iowa where Smithfield has the strongest relationships and can have the greatest influence over farmer practices. The planned project area includes seven (7) counties in eastern North Carolina (Sampson, Duplin, Greene, Wayne, Lenoir, Pitt, and Robeson) and five counties in northwest Iowa (Wright, Humboldt, Kossuth, Palo Alto, Winnebago). The project is a National RCPP Project. This

- project will promote management practices that improve soil health and water quality. See Exhibit R – FY 2018 RCPP SmithfieldGro : Sustainable Grain Supply Chains for guidance. See Exhibit S – FY 2018 RCPP SmithfieldGro: Sustainable Grain Supply Chains map for project location.
- (2) *RCPP Driftless Area Habitat for the Wild & Rare Phase 2 (DAHWR) Project* - The lead partner for this project is Trout Unlimited. The project area is the Driftless area of Northeast Iowa. RCPP funding will provide a new comprehensive, targeted regional approach to restoring cold-water streams and their riparian areas for the benefit of the many at-risk species. The project is a National RCPP Project. The project will provide financial assistance for improving Fish and Wildlife Habitat and improving water quality. See Exhibit P – FY 2018 RCPP Driftless Area Habitat for the Wild & Rare Phase 2 for guidance. Applications for this project will be screened using the Iowa FY 2018 RCPP Driftless Area Habitat for the Wild & Rare Phase 2 *Screening Criteria Worksheet* (See Exhibit P). See Exhibit Q1 & Q2 – FY 2018 Driftless Area Habitat for the Wild and Rare Phase 2 **Maps**.