

Plan of Operations for the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) Project (Milwaukee River Watershed Conservation Partnership)

Through RCPP, the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) offers financial assistance to agricultural producers to implement on-farm conservation practices. Eligible land is determined by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and is based on an identified resource concern. Eligible producers may apply for financial assistance on conservation practices that will address the identified resource concerns in the project area.

Eligible Project Area: Producers located within the Cedar Creek and Ulao Creek watersheds are eligible to participate in the project’s EQIP sign-up. At least 50% of the application area must be within the watershed boundaries to be eligible for financial assistance consideration through the RCPP-EQIP sign-up.

Eligible Practices and Payment Rates: Listed below are the practices eligible for the project. Practice [payment rates](#) can be viewed on the WI NRCS EQIP web site.

Conservation Activity Plans

102	Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan
104	Nutrient Management Plan

Core Conservation Practices

332	Contour Buffer Strips
327	Conservation Cover
340	Cover Crop
386	Field Border
393	Filter Strip
512	Forage and Biomass Planting ¹
410	Grade Stabilization Structure
412	Grassed Waterway
468	Lined Waterway or Outlet
590	Nutrient Management
528	Prescribed Grazing
329	Residue and Tillage Management, No-Till
572	Spoil Spreading
578	Stream Crossing
580	Streambank and Shoreline Protection
587	Structure for Water Control
638	Water and Sediment Control Basin

¹As an alternative to Filter Strip (393)

Supporting Conservation Practices

575	Trails and Walkways
326	Clearing and Snagging

342	Critical Area Planting
382	Fence
512	Forage and Biomass Planting
561	Heavy Use Area Protection
516	Livestock Pipeline
484	Mulching
500	Obstruction Removal
606	Subsurface Drain
614	Watering Facility

Eligible Land Uses: The following land uses are potentially eligible:

- Crop
- Pasture
- Forest
- Associated Ag Land

Eligible Resource Concerns:

Water Quality Degradation

- Nutrients in Surface Water
- Excessive Sediment in Surface Water
- Excess Pathogens and Chemicals from Manure, Bio-solids or Compost Applications in Groundwater

Soil Quality Degradation

- Compaction
- Organic Matter Depletion

Soil Erosion

- Classis Gully Erosion
- Ephemeral Gully Erosion
- Sheet and Rill Erosion
- Streambank, Shoreline, Water Conveyance Channels

Application Period: Applications may be taken at any time and those received by announced NRCS-WI batching dates will be evaluated for funding consideration.

Interested applicants may apply in person at the local USDA Service Center. Applicants may also request EQIP assistance by telephone, FAX, e-mail, or letter. Applicants may locate their local office using this link:

<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/wi/contact/local/>

Funding Pools: Applications will be placed in the MMSD RCPP-EQIP Milwaukee River Watershed Conservation Partnership fund pool.

Screening: All applications will be screened using the EQIP Application Screening Tool posted on the WI NRCS web site and assigned a High, Medium, or Low priority based on their screening status as of announced NRCS-WI application screening dates.

Ranking: Ranking of the applications will be done according to the ranking system posted on the WI NRCS web site for the MMSD RCPP-EQIP project. High priority applications will be ranked first, followed by Medium priority, if funding allows. Low priority applications will not be ranked. All rankings will be conducted in ProTracts. In the event of application ranking score ties, the application that has the higher tracking code (i.e. random number generated in ProTracts) will receive funding priority.

Applications for Conservation Activity Plans (CAPs) will receive the maximum ranking points. Contracts for CAPs are stand-alone and will only contain one contract item for the CAP.

Existing national and state EQIP-General ranking questions will be used. Local EQIP questions (250 total points) are as follows:

1. The project site is located within a Surface Water Quality Management Area (SWQMA) or within the watershed of a waterbody on the 303(d) impaired waters list due to excessive nutrients or sediment. **110 points**
2. The application includes one of the following practices: 329, 332, 340, 386, 393, 412, 512 (in lieu of 393), or 590. **110 points**
3. The application includes two of the following practices: 329, 332, 340, 386, 393, 412, 512 (in lieu of 393), or 590. **30 points**

Funding: Available EQIP funds will be allocated based on the numerical ranking system set forth on the web site. All ranking will be conducted in ProTracts. If insufficient funds are available to fund all eligible applicants, applications will be held and may be funded with extra EQIP funds received later during the fiscal year, or deferred to the next batching period.