

Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations (WFPO) Program

Project Sponsor Responsibilities

Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations (WFPO) projects are planned and carried out jointly by local, state, and federal agencies with support of community landowners and citizens in the watersheds. Communities identify resource problems to be addressed, conservation practices to be installed, and carry out major portions of a WFPO project.

WFPO projects are sponsored by one or more local organizations. The Sponsoring Local Organization (SLO) requests technical and financial assistance from NRCS. When funding is allocated, the SLO and NRCS enter into an agreement that defines the roles and responsibilities of each party to complete the WFPO project.

SLOs are responsible for and agree to carry out specific project functions, as listed below.

Project sponsors are responsible for and agree to carry out specific parts of the project, including:

Land Rights

Obtaining landrights including real property, water, mineral, and other rights needed for the project.

Permits

Obtaining required permits and licenses in accordance with local, State, and Federal laws.

Implementing needed watershed management features such as permitting, zoning, land use regulations, easements, or upstream watershed protection.

Financial

Providing a means of financing the local share of the cost of the project as well as operation and maintenance expenses.

Landowner Agreements

Obtaining agreements from landowners to implement soil conservation plans that meet NRCS Field Office Technical Guide (FOTG) criteria on not less than 50 percent of the lands situated in the drainage area above each retention reservoir to be installed with Watershed Program funds (Public Law 83-566 Section 4(5)). Projects that include land treatment practices must, at a minimum, have a project sponsor that has soil and water conservation responsibilities organized under State law.

Public Participation

Developing and carrying out activities that encourage public participation in the watershed project planning process.

Operation and Maintenance

Showing evidence of commitment for funding, installing, operating, and maintaining the project. The sponsor will perform all contracting for construction of any structure.

Ensuring the installation, operation, and maintenance of the project as planned.

Municipal and Industrial Water Supply

Provide evidence that any proposed municipal and industrial (M&I) water supply use will be acceptable in quantity and quality to meet the anticipated

needs. The sponsor must provide all technical services to implement M&I water supply. The sponsor must provide adequate assurances prior to initiation of construction that USDA will be reimbursed for at least one-half of the cost of M&I storage for current demand and all of the cost of M&I storage for future demand.

Storm and Sanitary Sewers

Taking sole responsibility for new storm and sanitary sewers, or relocations and changes to existing sewer facilities, in urban or built-up areas.

For More Information

For more information about watershed programs in North Dakota, see Technical Resources > Engineering > Watershed Operations Program at www.nd.nrcs.usda.gov.

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