



NEW Water: Ashwaubenon Creek and Dutchman Creek (ACDC) Watersheds Water Quality and Habitat Improvement – 2018 FB RCPP Project #2769 (CCA) FY2024

Project Description/Summary:

The Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) is a partnership that leverages capabilities and resources, targets assistance where it is most needed, cooperatively engages project partners, and works collaboratively with agriculture producers, forest land managers, and Tribes. This project will make a lasting improvement to the health and biodiversity of the Ashwaubenon Creek and Dutchman Creek (ACDC) subwatersheds by reducing phosphorus and total suspended solids in downstream receiving waters and by improving aquatic and terrestrial habitat. The ACDC subwatersheds drain into the Fox River, which supplies Lake Michigan with a third of its nutrients, and measurements of pollutants in Green Bay have shown heavy loadings of sediment and nutrients for decades. Sediment and nutrient impairments adversely impact fish and aquatic life, water quality, recreation, and nearshore habitats. Nearly 50% of the sediment and phosphorus originates from rural non-point runoff. This project aims to decrease some of that loading to the Fox River and the Great Lakes through RCPP Land Management producer contracts in the ACDC subwatersheds. These contracts will include structural and vegetative practices such as grassed waterways, water and sediment control basins, prescribed grazing, wetland restoration, open channel flow, and streambank protection. Partner funds will enhance the project by implementing nutrient management, no-till, and cover crop practices.

Project Area:

Applicants must have >50% of the project in the Ashwaubenon and/or Dutchman Creek watersheds; ranking will be set to implement these boundaries. See map at the end of this document.

Eligible Land Management Producer Contract Land Uses:

Crop, Pasture, Farmstead, and Associated Ag Land

**Forest land is only eligible when the land is adjacent to agriculture and for the purpose of outletting conservation practices or connecting conservation practices to complete a system associated with the agriculture production land. In general, Crop, Pasture, Farmstead, and Associated Ag Land will be the primary eligible land uses, and every eligible application will contain at least one of those four land uses.*

Eligible Resource Concern Categories:

This RCPP Project is within the Great Lakes Region Critical Conservation Area (CCA). As such, each producer contract must address at least one of the priority resource concerns of inadequate habitat or water quality degradation (equivalent CART resource concern categories are Field Sediment, Nutrient, and Pathogen Loss AND/OR Terrestrial Habitat AND/OR Aquatic Habitat). The NEW Water priority resource concern categories are: Concentrated Erosion; Degraded Plant Condition; Field Sediment, Nutrient, and Pathogen Loss; and Wind and Water Erosion. At least one of these primary resource concern categories must also be addressed by the producer contract. Associated resource concern categories are Aquatic Habitat, Terrestrial Habitat, Weather Resiliency, Livestock Production Limitations, and Soil Quality Limitations.



For example, a producer contract could address a resource concern in the Field Sediment, Nutrient, and Pathogen Loss category and meet both CCA and NEW Water requirements or a producer contract could address resource concerns in Degraded Plant Condition and Terrestrial Habitat categories to meet both CCA and NEW Water requirements.

Eligible Land Management Practices:

The Schedule of Operations must include at least one of the applicable core practices or must be completing a conservation system that supports core practices that are documented as already implemented on the land proposed in the application and identified in the CART assessment.

Code	Practice Name	Core Practice
342	Critical Area Planting	Core
350	Sediment Basin	Core
362	Diversion – added as core practice FY24	Core
412	Grassed Waterway	Core
528	Prescribed Grazing	Core
578	Stream Crossing	Core
580	Stream Bank Protection	Core
582	Open Channel	Core
600	Terrace – added as core practice FY24	Core
638	Water and Sediment Control Basin	Core
657	Wetland Restoration	Core
159	Grazing Management Design and Implementation Activity	
164	Improved Management of Drainage Water Design	
314	Brush Management	
327	Conservation Cover	
328	Conservation Crop Rotation	
329	Residue and Tillage Management, No Till	
330	Contour Farming	
332	Contour Buffer Strips	
338	Prescribed Burning	
340	Cover Crops	
345	Residue and Tillage Management, Reduced Till	
360	Waste Facility Closure	
367	Roofs and Covers	
382	Fence	
386	File Border	
391	Riparian Forest Buffer	
393	Filter Strip	
395	Stream Habitat Improvement and Management	
396	Aquatic Organism Passage	
410	Grade Stabilization Structure	
420	Wildlife Habitat Planting	
468	Lined Waterway or Outlet	



472	Access Control	
484	Mulching	
490	Tree/shrub Site Preparation	
500	Obstruction Removal	
512	Pasture and Hay Planting	
516	Livestock Pipeline	
527	Sinkhole Treatment	
533	Pumping Plant	
554	Drainage Water Management	
558	Roof Runoff Structure	
560	Access Road	
561	Heavy Use Area Protection	
570	Stormwater Runoff Control	
572	Spoil Disposal	
575	Trails and Walkways	
584	Channel Bed Stabilization	
587	Structure for Water Control	
590	Nutrient Management	
595	Pest Management Conservation System	
604	Saturated Buffer	
605	Denitrifying Bioreactor	
606	Subsurface Drain	
612	Tree and Shrub Establishment	
614	Watering Facility	
620	Underground Outlet	
632	Waste Separation Facility	
634	Waste Transfer	
635	Vegetated Treatment Area	
642	Water Well	
645	Upland Wildlife Habitat Management	
656	Constructed Wetland	
782	Phosphorus Removal System	



Application Processing:

RCPP is a stand-alone program and requires its own NRCS-1200 application separate from other NRCS FA programs. All 2018 Farm Bill (FB) RCPP applications will be continuously accepted and signup cut off dates will be publicly announced each year. For Land Management and Rental producer contracts, question 2 of the NRCS-CPA-1200 Conservation Program Application (version October 2021) should be marked “Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)”. Write “2769 NEW Water RCPP LM” in box 2a (see NB 300-22-8). 2018 Farm Bill RCPP applications will be managed through Conservation Desktop. USDA Financial Assistance Eligibility will need to be determined manually with the Farm Service Agency’s Subsidiary Report.

2. Interested in participating in the following (select all that apply):

- Agricultural Conservation Easement Program-Wetland Reserve Easement (ACEP-WRE)
- Agricultural Management Assistance (AMA)
- Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)
- Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)
- Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)

a) Program enrollment type, activity type, and/or project name, as applicable:

2769 NEW Water RCPP LM

Workload Prioritization:

Follow the approved Workload Prioritization Tool for the NEW Water RCPP #2769 project. All High Priority applications will be ranked. Medium Priority applications may be ranked depending upon funding and the desire of the project partners.

Priority Determination for Conservation Desktop (CD)– Select One:	
<p><u>High Priority Category:</u> The application meets RCPP eligibility and has been identified by NEW Water as a Bundle application.</p>	High
<p><u>Medium Priority Category:</u> The application has not been identified by NEW Water as a Bundle applications, but – 50% or more of the application acres are within the Ashwaubenon and/or Dutchmans Creek watersheds and includes practices that benefit surface water quality. Implementation of the application will include NRCS engineering and/or vegetative practices that will address Field Sediment, Nutrient and Pathogen Loss.</p>	Medium
<p><u>Low Priority Category:</u> All other applications.</p>	Low



Bundling:

Outagamie County Land Conservation District (LCD) will typically make first contact with eligible producers and bring bundled application to the NRCS Field Offices. Outagamie LCD will identify Bundled applications by writing “Bundle” on top of the NRCS-CPA-1200 and/or NRCS-CPA-1202.

Partner Responsibilities:

Technical assistance is being delivered as a project contribution from NEW Water, and Outagamie County LCD will complete project planning and designs. All designs completed by Outagamie County LCD will meet the Field Office Technical Guide standards and specifications. Designs will be approved and signed off by someone at the LCD or DATCP Bureau of Land and Water Resources with appropriate Job Approval Authority. NEW Water or Outagamie County LCD will communicate with NRCS any further need for JAA-type oversight. The NEPA will be completed by the NRCS with inputs coming from the partner planner.

Ranking Criteria:

Section: Applicability - WI - 2769 NEW Water RCPP v23		
Question	Answer Choices	Points
Does the assessed practice schedule intersect the boundary of the NEW Water project area?	50% or greater of the project is in the NEW Water defined project area.	--
	Otherwise	--

Section: Category - WI - 2769 NEW Water RCPP v23		
Question	Answer Choices	Points
Is this application meant to compete in the NEW Water RCPP LM Project and does it have an applicable CCA Resource Concern?	Yes - 2769 NEW Water RCPP	--
	No	--



Section: Program - WI - 2769 NEW Water RCPP v23

Question	Answer Choices	Points
This application includes the following number of priority practices:	3+ priority practices	40
	2 priority practices	30
	1 priority practice	20
	none	10
A majority of the application area is located on land owned by the Oneida Nation.	Yes	20
	Otherwise	0
The applicant has marked on the NRCS-CPA-1200 that they are a Historically Underserved participant.	YES	40
	NO	0
Is this application identified as a bundle by the lead partner?	YES	50
	NO	0
The applicant has worked with a conservation planner through the conservation process to the extent that:	all implementation requirements or job sheets for all activities included in the application are complete and final.	10
	at least 1 practice in the application has an implementation requirement or job sheet that is complete and final.	5
	no implementation requirement or job sheets are complete and final.	0
Where is the participant's progress in obtaining permits to complete the project?	The project does not require permits.	40
	The project requires permits and the participant has all final permits in hand.	30
	The project requires permits and the participant has applied for all required permits.	20
	The project requires permits and the participant has not applied for all required permits.	10

Section: Resources - WI - 2769 NEW Water RCPP v23

Question	Answer Choices	Points
The application contains practices which will address the following resource concerns:	Field Sediment, Nutrient, and Pathogen Loss	60
	Degraded Plant Condition	30
	Wind and Water Erosion	30
	Concentrated Erosion	30
	Aquatic Habitat	15
	Terrestrial Habitat	15
	Weather Resiliency	10
	Livestock Production Limitations	5
	Soil Quality Limitations	5



RCPP Project Contacts:

RCPP Coordination:

RCPP Coordinator, Brandi Richter, brandi.richter@usda.gov

LMR Contract Coordinator, Jenn Chakravorty, jennifer.chakravorty@usda.gov

Lead Partners with NEW Water:

Erin Houghton, (920) 438-1071, ehoughton@newwater.us

Angela Kowalzek-Adrians, (920) 438-1072, akowalzek-adrians@newwater.us

Approved project scope: ACDC Watersheds

