



Natural Resources Conservation Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



Watershed Programs

Sponsor Review and Project Highlights

FARM PRODUCTION AND CONSERVATION
FSA | NRCS | RMA | Business Center



Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations (WFPO) Program

Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act

- Allows for cooperation between the Federal government and **eligible sponsors** to address resource concerns due to erosion, floodwater, and sediment and provide for improved utilization of the land and water resources through authorized watershed project plans.



Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) Program

Program Objective and Scope

- Assists **qualified sponsors** with implementing emergency recovery measures for runoff retardation and erosion prevention to relieve imminent threats to life and property due to a sudden impairment of a watershed that was created a natural disaster.



Project Sponsorship

Sponsorship Begins at the Local Level

- Locally-led government agencies and organizations understand the needs of their communities.
- Participation from the grassroots level on up is vital to help communities establish a successful watershed project plan.

Locally-Led Participation

- Sponsors must be able to create and produce effective engagement campaigns and supporting outreach materials that encourage public participation in the watershed planning process.

Fiscal Responsibility

- Sponsors must have the ability to act as the watershed project's fiscal agent.
- They not only need to provide commitments for funding but also **demonstrate a history of project management** and oversight of contracts, construction, installation, operation, and maintenance of similar projects.



16 U.S.C. 1002 – Definitions

“Local Organization”

- Any State, political subdivision thereof, flood prevention or control district, or combinations thereof, or any other agency **having authority under State law to carry out, maintain and operate the works of improvement**; or any irrigation or reservoir company, water users' association, or similar organization having such authority and not being operated for profit that may be approved by the Secretary; or any Indian tribe or tribal organization, as defined in section 5304 of title 25, having authority under Federal, State, or Indian tribal law to carry out, maintain, and operate the works of improvement.



16 U.S.C. 1004 and 7 CFR 622.10 – Conditions for Federal Assistance

Plans that incorporate the use of nonstructural or structural measures must be sponsored by organizations that have:

- The power of eminent domain; and
- The authority to levy taxes to finance their share of the watershed project cost and all operation and maintenance costs.

To receive Federal assistance for project installation, sponsors must commit to use their powers and authority to carry out and maintain the project as planned.



7 CFR 624.4 – Definitions

“Project Sponsor”

- A State government or a political subdivision thereof, local unit of government, or any Native American tribe or tribal organization as defined in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 450b), **with a legal interest in and responsibility for the values threatened by a watershed emergency;**
- Capable of obtaining necessary land rights; and
- Capable of carrying out any operation and maintenance responsibilities that may be required.



7 CFR 624.6 – Program Administration

Sponsors must:

- Contribute their share of the project costs, as determined by NRCS, by providing funds or certain services necessary to undertake the activity. Contributions that may be applied towards the sponsor's applicable cost-share of construction costs include:
 - Cash;
 - In-kind services such as labor, equipment, design, surveys, contract administration and construction inspection, and other services as determined by the State Conservationist; or
 - A combination of cash and in-kind services;
- Obtain any necessary real property rights, water rights, and **regulatory permits**; and
- Agree to provide for required operation and maintenance of the completed emergency measures.



SF-424D – Construction Assurances

Certification that the applicant:

- Has the legal authority to apply for Federal assistance, and the **institutional, managerial, and financial capability** (including funds sufficient to pay the non-Federal share of project costs) to ensure proper planning, management, and completion of the project.
- Will provide and maintain competent and adequate engineering supervision at the construction site to ensure that the complete work conforms with the approved plans and specifications.
- Will comply with the requirements of the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970 which provide for fair and equitable treatment of persons displaced or whose property is acquired as a result of Federal and federally-assisted programs.
- Will comply with all applicable requirements of all other Federal laws, executive orders, regulations, and policies governing the program.



2 CFR 200 Subpart D – Procurement Standards

General Procurement Standards

- When conducting procurement transactions under a Federal award, recipients **must follow the same policies and procedures** it uses for procurements with non-Federal funds. (2 CFR 200.317)
- The recipient **must maintain and use documented procedures** for procurement transactions under a Federal award, including for acquisition of property or services. These procedures must be consistent the standards identified in 2 CFR 200.317 through 200.327. (2 CFR 200.318(a))

Oversight of Contractors

- Recipients **must maintain oversight** to ensure that contractors perform in accordance with the terms, conditions, and specifications of their contracts or purchase orders. (2 CFR 200.318(b))

Conflicts of Interest

- Recipients **must maintain written standards of conduct covering conflicts of interest** and its employees engaged in the selection, award, and administration of contracts. (2 CFR 200.318(c))



EWPP-FPE Special Project

Easement Acquisition and Floodplain Restoration

- **Sponsor:** Town of West Warwick
- **Status:** Acquisition Due Diligence
- **Estimated Cost:** \$3,203,129



United Way of Rhode Island

Woonasquatucket River Streambank Stabilization

- **Sponsor:** City of Providence
- **Status:** Completed September 2025
- **Construction Cost:** \$1,060,787





































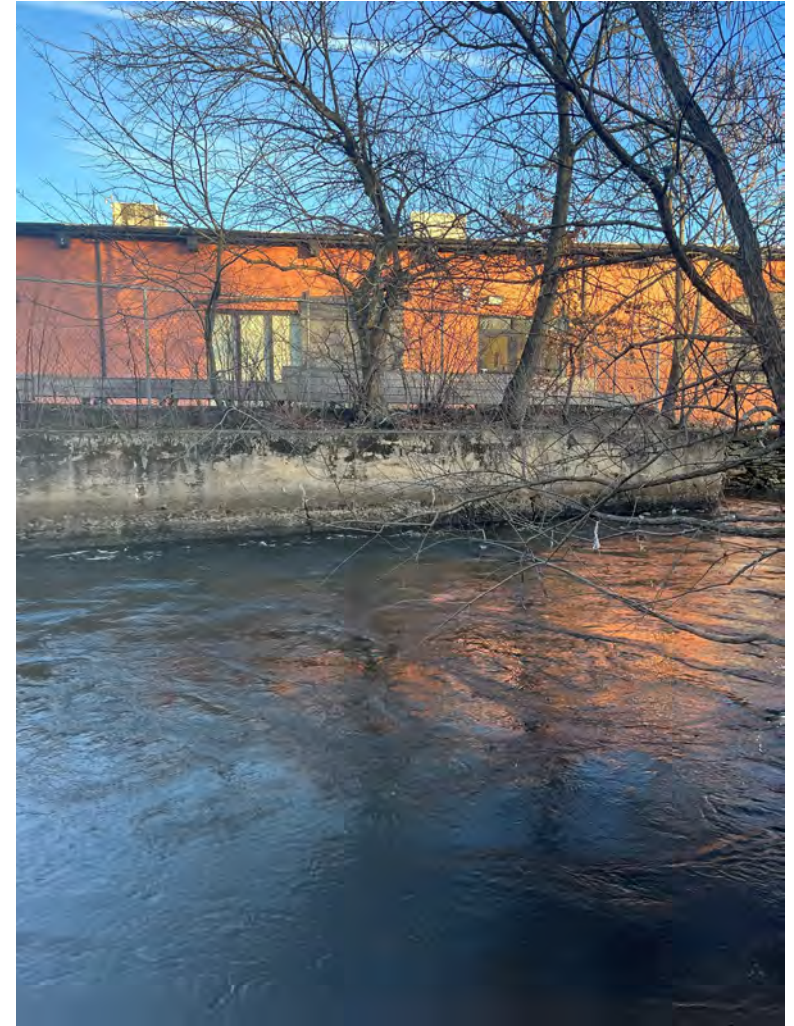






















UNITED WAY
Rhode Island

Cap Ex Advisory Group

