

## National Water Quality Initiative - NWQI

### National Priorities:

Scoring Multiplier: 1.000

Questions:

Number	Question	Points
1	a. Is the program application to support the development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP)? If answer is "Yes", do not answer any other national level questions. If answer is "No", proceed with evaluation to address the remaining questions in this section.	250
2	a. Implementing the practices in a Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP)?	15
2	b. Implementing the practices in a Nutrient Management Plan (NMP)?	10
2	c. Reducing impacts from sediment, nutrients, salinity, or pesticides on land adjoining a designated "impaired water body" (TMDL, 303d listed waterbody, or other State designation)?	10
2	d. Reducing the impacts from sediment, nutrients, salinity, or pesticides in a "non-impaired water body"?	10
2	e. Implementing practices that improve water quality through animal mortality and carcass management?	10
3	a. Implementing irrigation practices that reduce aquifer overdraft.	15
3	b. Implementing irrigation practices that reduce on-farm water use?	10
3	c. Implementing practices in an area where the applicant participates in a geographically established or watershed-wide project?	10
3	d. Implementing practices that reduce on-farm water use as a result of changing to crops with lower water consumptive use, the rotation of crops, or the modification of cultural operations?	10
4	a. Meeting on-farm regulatory requirements relating to air quality or proactively avoid the need for regulatory measures?	10
4	b. Implementing practices that reduce on-farm emissions of particulate matter (PM2.5, PM10)?	10
4	c. Implementing practices that reduce on-farm generated greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide (CO2), methane (CH4), and nitrous oxide (N2O)?	10
4	d. Implementing practices that increase on-farm carbon sequestration?	10
5	a. Reduce erosion to tolerable limits (Soil "T")?	10
5	b. Increasing organic matter and carbon content, and improving soil tilth and structure?	10
6	a. Implementing practices benefitting threatened and endangered, at-risk, candidate, or species of concern.	10
6	b. Implementing practices that retain wildlife and plant habitat on land exiting the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) or other set-aside program?	10
6	c. Implementing practices benefitting honey bee populations or other pollinators?	10
6	d. Implementing land-based practices that improve habitat for aquatic wildlife?	10
7	a. Implementing practices that result in the management control of noxious or invasive plant species on non-cropland?	10
7	b. Implementing practice in an Integrated Pest Management Plan (IPM)?	10
8	a. Reducing on-farm energy consumption?	10
8	b. Implementing practice(s) identified in an approved AgEMP or energy audit, which meet ASABE S612 criteria?	10
9	a. Enhancement of existing conservation practice(s) or conservation systems already in place at the time the application is received?	10
Total Points		500

### State Issues:

Scoring Multiplier: 1.000

Questions:

Sub-heading Number	Question Number	Question	Points
1		If the application is for development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP), the agency will assign significant ranking priority and conservation benefit by answering "Yes" to the following question. Answering "Yes" to question 1a will result in the application being awarded the maximum amount of points that can be earned for the state priority category	
	1	a. Is the program application for development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP)? If answer is "Yes", do not answer any other State level questions. If answer is "No", proceed with evaluation to address the remaining questions in this section.	400
2		Water Quality - EPA Watersheds:	
	2	a. Does the application include core conservation practices that will be implemented within 1/4 mile of a stream or water body that is threatened (i.e., receives significant runoff of excess nitrogen and/or phosphorous), on the EPA 303 (d) list, or is impaired with a TMDL in place and therefore not on the 303 (d) list (or other critical stream or water body authorized by the Regional Conservationist)?	100
3		Geographic Impacts:	
	3	a. Are core conservation practices planned on the offered acres with (1.) Greater than 75% of the offered acres are within the focused watershed AND (2.) Greater than 75% of the offered acres have a core conservation practice planned for the application.	125

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4		Collaborative Efforts:	
	4	a. Are core conservation practices planned within an existing State agency or other non-USDA water quality project area addressing the same or similar pollutants?	75
5		Effort to address watershed impairments:	
	5	a. Does this program application include the implementation of a system of conservation practices which address the NWQI primary resource concerns (Primary resource concerns are: Nutrient in SURFACE water, Excess sediment in SURFACE water & Excess pathogens and chemicals from manure, bio-solids or compost applications in SURFACE water)?	50
6		High Risk Soils:	
	6	a. Are core conservation practices to be implemented on offered acres with a majority of soil types that are classified hydrologic group D (high runoff) or group A (high infiltration)?	50
Maximum Points: 400    Total Points			800

### For Cottonwood Lake Watershed:

#### Local Issues:

Scoring Multiplier: 1.000

Questions:

Sub-heading Number	Question Number	Question	Points
1		General questions:	
	1	Does the application consist of the practice (340) Cover Crop?	100
	2	Does the application consist of the practice (380) Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment?	50
2		Practice Type - (Note: If the application contains any practices that require design and construction of engineered standards, answer "yes" and allocate the associated points.)	
	3	Does the application consist of a practice that requires Job Approval Authority (JAA) for Engineering?	50
3		Location/Proximity - (Note: If the application consists of a practice that addresses a resource concern upstream of Cottonwood Lake, answer "yes" and allocate the associated points.)	
	4	Does the application consist of a practice that will be located upstream of Cottonwood Lake?	50
Maximum Points: 250    Total Points			250

### For Dobbins Creek Watershed:

#### Local Issues:

Scoring Multiplier: 1.000

Questions:

Sub-heading Number	Question Number	Question	Points
1		Targeting Pollution Runoff on Impaired Waters:	
	1	Project is located in the North Branch of Dobbins Creek.	60
	2	Project is located in the headwaters of Dobbins Creek. This includes Dexter Twp. and Red Rock Twp. 13 - 26.	45
2		Fecal Coliform Impairment Reduction:	
	3	The project supports the reduction of Fecal Coliform by implementing any of the following practices; (329) Residue and Tillage Management - No Till, (340) Cover Crop OR (528) Prescribed Grazing.	30
3		Soil Loss Reduction for Reduction of Total Suspended Solids Impairment: (Answer ONE of the following for a maximum of 55 points). Note: Core practices are listed in the NWQI guidance NI 307.28.	
	4	a. 1 core conservation practice on the tract acres will result in water resource benefits that avoids, trap or control runoff.	35
	4	b. 2 core conservation practices on the tract acres will result in water resource benefits that avoids, trap or control runoff.	45
	4	c. 3 core conservation practices on the tract acres will result in water resource benefits that avoids, trap or control runoff.	55
4		Flow Control Goal - Upland treatment to support flood reduction:	
	5	Project supports implementation of Soil health practices, as proposed in GSSHA modeling strategy (340 - cover crops or 329 Residue and Tillage Management - No Till).	35
5		Answer ONE of the following for a maximum of 25 points.	
	6	a. Cover crop will be utilized on at least 75% of the tract acres.	25
	6	b. Cover crop will be utilized on at least 50% of the tract acres.	15
Maximum Points: 250    Total Points			345

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**For Sevenmile Creek Watershed:**

**Local Issues:**

Scoring Multiplier: 1.000

Questions:

Sub-heading Number	Question Number	Question	Points
1		If the application is for development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP), the agency will assign significant ranking priority and conservation benefit by answering "Yes" to the following question. Answering "Yes" to question 1a will result in the application being awarded the maximum amount of points that can be earned for the Local priority category.	
	1	a. Is the program application for development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP)? If answer is "Yes", do not answer any other Local level questions. If answer is "No", proceed with evaluation to address the remaining questions in this section.	250
2		Impairments:	
	2	a. Will nutrient management (590) be implemented in conjunction with erosion control practices to control the loss of nitrogen and phosphorus from fields?	25
	2	b. Cover crop will be utilized on at least 25% of the offered acres.	10
	2	c. Cover crop will be utilized on at least 50% of the offered acres.	20
	2	d. Cover crop will be utilized on at least 75% of the offered acres.	30
	2	e. Will livestock be excluded from all streams on the offered acres?	15
3		Soil factors:	
	3	a. Will the application of conservation practices reduce the STIR rating to less than or equal to 30 on over 75% of the offered acres?	20
	3	b. Will the application of conservation practices reduce the STIR rating to between 31 and 50 on over 75% of the offered acres?	10
4		Stream Issues:	
	4	a. Are planned conservation practices with 1/4 mile of a blue line stream on the USGS topographic map within the impaired watershed?	25
	4	b. Are planned conservation practices with 1/8 mile of a blue line stream on the USGS topographic map within the impaired watershed?	35
5		Systems:	
	5	a. Will the implementation of 1 planned conservation practice on at least 50% of the offered acres result in the existence of a conservation system where at least one practice exist in each of the avoid, trap, and control categories (See guidance NI 307.28)?	10
	5	b. Will the implementation of 2 planned conservation practice on at least 50% of the offered acres result in the existence of a conservation system where at least one practice exist in each of the avoid, trap, and control categories (See guidance NI 307.28)?	20
	5	c. Will the implementation of 3 planned conservation practice on at least 50% of the offered acres result in the existence of a conservation system where at least one practice exist in each of the avoid, trap, and control categories (See guidance NI 307.28)?	30
Maximum Points: 250    Total Points			500