**Required Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) Screening Criteria Worksheet:   
NRCS Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)**

**Tri-State Western Lake Erie Basin (WLEB) Phosphorus Reduction Initiative**

**Indiana**

***A Screening Worksheet must be completed for each eligible EQIP application.***

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| Instructions:  This screening worksheet must be completed for each eligible producer applying for RCPP EQIP WLEB project assistance. Applications will be accepted on a continuous basis; however, application periods are established for purposes of evaluation, ranking, and funding decisions. The goal of this screening tool is to ensure that conservation technical assistance and the EQIP program benefits are managed efficiently to address priority conservation needs related to this initiative.  **Completion of this worksheet and documentation does not constitute agreement to provide EQIP program benefits nor approval of a program contract**. **The original screening worksheet should be filed with the applicant case file or EQIP program file and unless the application is determined to be ineligible, the screening priority (high, medium, and low) must be recorded in ProTracts. Upon request, a copy of any completed screening worksheet may be provided to the applicant.** | | | |
| **Detailed Screening Criteria Worksheet – Complete for Each Eligible EQIP Applicant** | | | |
| Applicant Name: |  | County: |  |
| Application No.: |  | Field Office: |  |
| Evaluator Name: |  | Date: |  |
| **Priority Determination for ProTracts – Select One:** | | |  |
| **Instructions:**  Participant works with District Conservationist to select options from the list on the next page. Points are totaled from categories 1-5 based on options identified by the producer. Selected options means the producer agrees to include those practices/components in the schedule of operations. | | |  |
| **High Priority Category:**  **Required plus optional from step one PLUS 65 or more points total from the selections in step 2.** High priority applications may be immediately considered for funding if all other participant and land eligibility requirements are met AND the ProTracts AERT and application has been completed and passes application quality assurance (QA). | | | **High Priority** Status in ProTracts |
| **Medium Category:**  **Required plus optional from step one PLUS 41 to 64 points total from the selections in step 2.** Medium priority applications may be considered for funding after all High priority apps have been funded AND all other participant and land eligibility requirements are met and the ProTracts AERT AND application has been completed and passes application QA. | | | **Medium Priority** Status in ProTracts |
| **Low Priority Category:**  **Required plus optional from step one PLUS 40 points or less total from the in step 2.** Low priority applications may be considered for funding after all High and Med priority applications have been funded AND all other participant and land eligibility requirements are met and the ProTracts AERT AND application has been completed passes application QA. | | | **Low Priority** Status in ProTracts |

**The priority determination of high, medium, or low must be recorded in ProTracts for this applicant.**

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| D.C. Approval: |  | Date Approved: |  |

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| **Step 1** | 1 & 2 Required Practices1 | Description | Points |
| Mandatory practices | 1.Stream Buffers | All perennial streams must be protected with a grass strip, minimum of 20 ft |  |
| (Both 1&2) | 2.Nutrient Management Plan | Zone or grid sampling (3 year min interval) and reviewed annually between CCA and participant. |  |
| 3 Optional | 3.Schedule of Operations | Application must include at least 2 newly adopted practices.  For programs, 590, 329, and 340, applications must be for 3-year consecutive years. | 25 |
| Step 2 | Chose from each Category | Description |  |
| Category 1 | Nutrient Application and Soil Amendments |  |  |
| Choose at least one | 590 Phosphorus Drawdown | Applicant has soils with Bray P1 levels greater than 50ppm. Note: If applicant enrolls land with a Bray P1 phosphorus level above 50 ppm applicant must agree to follow a P draw down plan to reduce P levels in those fields to Tri-state Fertilizer Guide maintenance levels. A soil test may be required to show the 50 ppm. | 10 |
|  | 590 Variable Rate Application | Variable rate P fertilizer application | 5 |
|  | 590 Phosphorus Application in a growing crop | Application of P fertilizer during June 1 thru Aug 31. | 15 |
|  | 333 Gypsum Soil Amendments | Gypsum (calcium-sulfate) application | 5 |
|  | 590 Subsurface placement of P @ 2” | With minimal disturbance (must be injected. Broadcast and incorporation is not permitted. | 15 |
| Category 2 | Residue Management |  |  |
|  | 329 Residue and Tillage Mgmt No-Till or Strip Till |  | 15 |
| Choose at least one | 329 Residue and Tillage Mgmt No-Till or Strip Till | Modified no-till to incorporate fertilizer. If broadcasting fertilizer, vertical tillage incorporation that will leave at least 40% residue cover after planting must occur within 48 hours of application. | 10 |
|  | Early Fall Tillage (By Sept 15) | Plus, must choose a cover crop that does not winter kill and follow FOTG planting dates, no spring tillage | 0 |
|  | 328 Conservation Crop Rotation | Add wheat to rotation, application of P containing fertilizer (commercial or manure) following wheat harvest but prior to Sept. 15. | 20 |
| Category 3 | Cover Crop |  |  |
|  | 340 Cover Crop | Winter Kill cover crop (single or multiple species) | 0 |
| Choose only one | 340 Cover Crop | Over-wintering cover crop (single species, herbicide burn down) | 15 |
|  | 340 Cover Crop | Over-wintering cover crop (multiple species, herbicide burn down) | 20 |

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| Category 4 | Advanced Optional Practices |  |  |
|  | Water Management | Includes five target demonstration areas (may be exempted from NMP at the discretion of the DC as part of a paired watershed study for the non-treatment area) |  |
| May choose | 587 Water Control Structure | Drainage water management control structure | 20 |
| none or | 620 Underground Outlet | Blind Inlets | 20 |
| any | 582 Open Channel | Two-Stage Ditch | 20 |
|  | 327, 390, 386 or 512 | Near Water conveyance areas not eligible for 393, (e.g., road ditches), minimum 30 FT wide. | 20 |
|  | 656 Constructed Wetlands | Ag drainage treatment wetlands | 20 |
| Category 5 | Priority Areas-Project has land located in: |  |  |
| May choose | Greater than 50% of the offered acres located within one of the five priority HUC 12: | Trier Ditch, Black Creek, Marsh Ditch-Maumee River, Nickelsen Creek, or Blue Creek | 30 |
| none or any | Auglaize, St. Mary’s or Upper Maumee w/s | Greater than 50% of the offered acres located in any of these three watersheds. | 20 |
|  | The WLEB | Only land within the WLEB is eligible. | 10 |
|  |  | **Point Total** |  |