



Natural
Resources
Conservation
Service

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SUBJECT: ACEP – ALE Subgroup Recommendation to the Michigan State
Technical Committee

Date: January 16, 2019

TO: GARRY LEE File Code: 300
State Conservationist
NRCS
East Lansing, Michigan

Agricultural Conservation Easement Program – Agricultural Land Easements (ACEP-
ALE)

Recommendation to the Michigan State Technical Committee (MTC)

ACEP Subgroup Date: October 17, 2018 (by email)

Topics for Recommendation:

Revision of the State ACEP-ALE Ranking Criteria to meet program policy.

Background:

Ranking criteria may include only the following: (CPM 440 Part 528.41 C (2))

- i. The location of a parcel in an area zoned for agricultural use.
- ii. The eligible entity's performance in managing and enforcing easements. The measure of performance is the efficiency of easement transactions completion or percentage of parcels monitored annually and the percentage of monitoring results reported annually.
- iii. Multifunctional benefits of agricultural land protection including social, economic, historical and archaeological, environmental benefits, species protection, or climate change resiliency.
- iv. Geographic regions where the enrollment of particular lands may help achieve national, State, and regional conservation goals and objectives or enhance existing government or private conservation projects.
- v. Diversity of natural resources to be protected.
- vi. Score in the land evaluation and site assessment system or equivalent measure for grassland enrollments. This score serves as a measure of agricultural viability (access to markets and infrastructure).

Recommendation:

Question 2 distance to sewer was deleted and replaced with a diversity of resource question to fit criteria v.

2) To promote the diversity of natural resources protected, does the easement contain forests, lakes, rivers, or wetlands? Check all that apply. (Max 15 points) Points _____

- Forest greater than 10 acres. 5 pts
- Wetland greater than 2 acres. 5 pts
- Lake or river frontage of more than a quarter mile. 5 pts

Question 3 was reworded to fit under criteria vi. access to markets and infrastructure.

3) Undeveloped road frontage (paved or gravel) adjacent to parcel that facilitates access to markets and agricultural infrastructure. (Max 25 points) Points _____

- No road frontage. 0 pts
- Road frontage less than ¼ of a mile. 5 pts
- Road frontage is ¼ mile or more but less than ½ mile. 15 pts
- Road frontage is ½ mile or more but less than ¾ of a mile. 20 pts
- Road frontage is ¾ mile or more. 25 pts

Question 4 was reworded to make it clear that it fit under criteria iii.

4) To provide additional socioeconomic benefits, is any portion of the subject parcel enrolled in the Commercial Forest Act (part 512 of NREPA), Hunter Access Program, or will the conservation easement deed provide for the non-motorized recreational use by members of the public? (Max 10 points) Points _____

- Yes 10 pts
- No 0 pts

Question 8 was reworded to give fewer points to a level of conservation a little less than no-till or long rotations. This will allow some spread in the ranking scores.

8) To benefit Multifunctional Conservation Values, Enhancing Carbon Sequestration and Improving Resiliency to Adverse Weather on agricultural land. (Max 10 points) Points _____

Does the agricultural operation utilize no-till, permanent hay, pasture, or orchard? 10 pts

Does the agricultural operation utilize strip till, reduced tillage, or are there existing buffer practices installed on the farm?

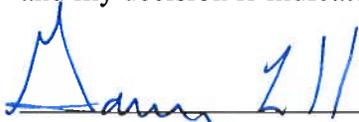
5 pts

None

0 pts

STC Decision: Approved Denied

I have considered the recommendation presented at the MTC Meeting on January 16, 2019, and my decision is indicated above.



GARRY LEE
State Conservationist

2.20.19
Date