

**Winona County
Soil & Water Conservation District**

Cost-Share Assistance Policy

**SWCD Board Approved
August 8, 2024**

Policy Intent

Provide financial and technical assistance to landowner/occupier for soil and water conservation practices to manage natural resources on the land.

Funding Sources - Follow Funding Policy/Guidelines

- BWSR State Grants
- BWSR Watershed Based Implementation Funds (WBIF) (1W1P) - Clean Water Funds
 - ✓ Root River
 - ✓ WinLaC - Mississippi River - Winona / LaCrescent
- Other Grants or Sub-Agreements
- County Allocation

Cost-Share Financial Assistance - Leverage Federal or Other Non-State Funds

- **Percentage Rate - Whichever is Less**
 - ✓ 75% of eligible project cost
 - ✓ 90% of eligible project cost combined with Federal funding
 - ✓ \$15,000 per project per landowner/occupier

Well Decommissioning

 - ✓ 75% of eligible project cost
 - ✓ \$5,000 per well
- **Flat Rate - Per Acre**

Cover Crops

 - ✓ SWCD Funds and Watershed Based Implementation Funds (WBIF) combined to provide same rates to all producers in Winona County
 - ✓ Rates
 - Single Specie \$50
 - Multi Species \$60
 - ✓ Not to exceed 100 acres per landowner/occupier
 - ✓ Landowner/occupier eligible for up to two (2), one (1) year contracts
 - 1st Contract - Single or Multi Species
 - 2nd Contract - Enhancing previous soil health practices
 - ✓ SWCD District Manager authorized to approve contracts due to timing of activity
 - ✓ Contract for cover crops required to be approved by August 31
 - ✓ Payment made after cover crops have been certified with SWCD and approved by Board

Cost-Share Financial Assistance - Leverage Federal or Other Non-State Funds

- **Flat Rate - Per Acre**

- **Ecological Habitat Improvement Practices**

- ✓ 50% Less Per Acre - If combined with other outside funding sources

Brush Management 314		50% Less
• Hand Cut & Chemical	\$600	\$300
• Mechanical & Chemical	\$1,200	\$600
Herbaceous Weed Treatment 315		
• Chemical	\$250	\$125
• Mechanical & Chemical	\$350	\$175
Conservation Cover 327		
• Native Grasses Forbs and Legumes	\$900	\$450
Tree/Shrub Establishment 612		
• Hardwood and/or Conifers	\$400	\$200

Requirements

- Land within Winona County
- Follow current Conservation Contracts Program Policy (previously known as Erosion Control and Water Management Program Policy)
- Percent Rate Contracts
 - ✓ 2 Bids from different contractors of project cost
 - ✓ Lowest of 2 bids from landowner/occupier will determine cost-share
- Follow Operation and Maintenance Plan for effective life of conservation practices
- Feedlots
 - ✓ Open feedlots under 500 animal units
- Cooperative Weed Management Area (CWMA)
 - ✓ Project eligibility determined using MN Tactical Invasive Species Management Plan Flow Chart
 - ✓ Follow approved Forest Invasive Species Management Plan
- Well Decommissioning
 - ✓ Sealing by MN Department of Health Licensed Well Contractor
 - ✓ Provide SWCD copy of estimate from contractor
 - ✓ Provide SWCD copy of Well and Boring Sealing Record when completed

Conservation Practices

- Qualified technician/engineer will determine eligibility based on standards and specifications consistent with USDA NRCS (Natural Resources Conservation Services) Field Office Technical Guide (FOTG) or other professionally accepted engineering or ecological practices guidance or design standards.
- Available but not limited to
 - 313 Waste Storage Facility
 - 340 Cover Crop
 - 342 Critical Area Planting
 - 351 Well Decommissioning
 - 360 Waste Facility Closure
 - 362 Diversion
 - 382 Fence
 - 393 Filter Strip
 - 410 Grade Stabilization Structure
 - 412 Grassed Waterway
 - 468 Lined Waterway or Outlet
 - 472 Access Control
 - 512 Pasture & Hay Planting
 - 516 Livestock Pipeline
 - 528 Prescribed Grazing
 - 558 Roof Runoff Structure
 - 561 Heavy Use Area Protection
 - 590 Nutrient Management
 - 600 Terrace
 - 614 Watering Facility
 - 635 Vegetated Treatment Area
 - 638 Water & Sediment Control Basin
- Cover Crops
 - ✓ Seeding
 - 340 Cover Crop USDA NRCS Field Office Technical Guide (FOTG)
 - Or other professionally accepted standards may be used in developing seeding and termination plans - U of MN Extension, U of WI Extension, Purdue Extension and Midwest Cover Crops Council

Technical Assistance

- SWCD Staff with appropriate technical Job Approval Authority (JAA)
- Conservation Partners with appropriate technical Job Approval Authority (JAA)
 - ✓ Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)
 - ✓ Southeast SWCD Technical Support
- Other
 - ✓ Professional Licensed Engineer
 - ✓ Reputable vendor with applicable expertise and liability coverage or other applicable credentials, training and/or expertise.

Priorities

- Applications considered on first-come-first-serve basis
- Cost-Share
 1. Projects with other cost-share but needs additional financial assistance to get to, or closer to, eligible cost-share amount
 2. Projects not eligible for other financial assistance
- Feedlots
 1. Areas identified in local CWMP, WRAPS and TMDL plans
 2. Feedlots that pose the greatest bacteria pollution potential
- Cover Crops
 1. Producers new to using cover crops
 2. Producers enhancing their previous soil health practices
 3. Fields located in priority sub-watersheds identified in CWMPs (1W1P)
- Cooperative Weed Management Area (CWMA)
 1. MN Tactical Invasive Species Management Plan and Prioritization Maps with high and medium priority management ratings
- Well Decommissioning

Additional

- In-kind services and materials provided by the landowner/occupier such as, but not limited to, earthwork, seedbed preparation, seeding and permanent fencing materials may be credited toward the landowner/occupier's share of total eligible cost of the practice not to exceed rates listed in the most recent Iowa Farm Custom Rate Survey
- Multiple funds can be used to provide the maximum percentage allowed for project
- Combined financial assistance from SWCD and all other sources may not exceed 100% of total eligible project cost
- Projects funded by Watershed Based Implementation Funds (WBIF) (1W1P) will follow policies set by Root River and WinLaC Policy Committees