



**NONSTRUCTURAL LAND MANAGEMENT PRACTICES (NLMP)  
IMPLEMENTATION PLAN REQUEST FORM  
FY 2021 CONSERVATION COST SHARE BASE GRANT**  
(Period of January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2023)  
For The Erosion Control and Water Management Program

**SWCD: Chisago**

**Contact: Craig Mell**

Briefly describe the District's proposed local policy and implementation plan for incorporating nonstructural land management practices into your conservation cost share program by answering the following questions. A maximum of three pages, not including the signature page is allowed for your answers.

**1. What prioritized, targeted and measurable actions have been taken to ensure that there is a direct erosion control and water quality connection to an identified large-scale plan?**

*Several plans and locally completed assessments have identified and prioritized nonstructural practices as important practices to control erosion and reach water quality goals. Plans include the Lower St. Croix Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan (page 61), the Lake St. Croix TMDL Implementation Plan (page 17), along with local TMDL WRAPS for the Goose, Sunrise and Chisago Lakes watersheds.*

**2. How and what technical assistance will be provided to land occupier to insure a whole farm or field scale conservation plan is developed and implemented?**

*Ag: Our office, NRCS and SWCD, follows Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) planning steps, which includes a whole farm evaluation. Soil health is the base of good management and erosion control. Cover crops and residue management are always part of the discussion with landowners and part of the site assessment. SWCD also follows NRCS practice standards to ensure the success of practices. Technical expertise of the district includes 3 staff with Technical Approval Authority for Practice Standard 329 – Residue and Tillage Management and 340 - Cover Crop.*

*Urban: Although there is not a NRCS standard to follow, in 2015 we began implementing an urban street sweeping program based on factors including high tree canopy streets, proximity to a lake, areas with little to no existing stormwater treatment, and knowledge of high rates of sand and/or salt applied to the roads. This program has been implemented locally with very good pollution reduction number results. Casey Thiel, SWCD water resource specialist, has overseen this program locally.*

**3. List the types of nonstructural land management practices that will be eligible for financial assistance. What specific FOTG standards will be used for these practices? What will be the effective life of these practices?**

*Ag – Cover Crops (340), 3-year commitment*

*Ag – Residue and Tillage Management No-Till/Strip-Till (329), 3-year commitment*

*Urban – Enhanced Street Sweeping (no FOTG standard), 3-year commitment*

**4. What will be proposed flat rates OR the maximum percentage based on invoices and receipts for the listed practices and, if flat rates are being proposed, how did you determine the feasibility of these rates? Will there be any other program funding being paid on these practices?**

*Ag – Flat rates will be used and were determined based on a review of USDA NRCS EQIP rates and local board discussion.*

- Cover Crops – Proposed rates are \$25/acre/year for a three-year contract. There will be no requirement on number of species seeded but higher diversity will be encouraged. There will be a maximum of 100 acres per applicant.*

- *Residue and Tillage Management No-Till/Strip-Till – Proposed rates are \$20/acre/year for a three-year contract. There will be no requirement on number of species seeded but higher diversity will be encouraged. There will be a maximum of 100 acres per applicant.*

*Urban – Flat rates will be used and were determined based on discussion with local City public works staff and local board discussion.*

- *Enhanced Street Sweeping – Proposed rates are \$100/curb mile/year for a three-year contract. There will be a maximum of 25 miles per applicant.*

*The maximum for any individual cost share contract for NLMP practices is not to exceed \$7,500.*

**5. How will the District implement contracts with Land Occupiers for technical assessments, conservation planning, practice implementation and technical certification, payment schedule within the timelines of the grant agreement and practice noncompliance issues?**

*We will utilize the existing structure and policies from the BWSR Grants Administration Manual, which includes all required phases and documentation from planning, implementation oversight, final certification and inspections. A one-time payment will be made after successful completion of the first-year of the installation of the practice (cover crop, residue management, or enhanced street sweeping). Chisago SWCD will be entering into a 3-year state cost share contract with the land owner and will be subject to yearly inspections. Inspections will note compliance with the individual's operation and maintenance plan and address noncompliance with the practice. Non-compliance with the program will follow BWSR's Grants Administration Manual guidelines with the goal of bringing the land occupier into compliance. If there is a failure to maintain compliance, the land occupier is liable to the SWCD for up to 150% of the flat-rate payment received.*

**6. What are your proposed O&M procedures and policy to ensure these practices are incorporated into the farming operation? Will this result in a modified operation, maintenance and site inspection program for nonstructural land management practices as per BWSR GAM policy? And, if yes, what are those modifications.**

*Each practice will have an Operations and Maintenance Plan developed to meet the applicable practice standard that is specific to the site and practice installed. Inspections will continue to occur per BWSR GAM policy for nonstructural land management practices; inspections will be completed annually to ensure that the practice has been incorporated. After the completion of the contract, follow up with the landowner will allow the SWCD to gauge whether adoption of non-structural practices continues to occur after financial assistance ceases.*

**7. Is there any other information you would like to provide at this time?**

*This policy will pertain to the following BWSR grants:*

- *2020 SWCD Local Capacity Services Grant*
- *2021 SWCD Local Capacity Services Grant*
- *All Chisago SWCD current CWF Grants*

**SIGNATURE PAGE**

Requested By:

\_\_\_\_\_

SWCD Chair Signature

\_\_\_\_\_

Date

Approved By:

\_\_\_\_\_

Board Conservationist Signature

\_\_\_\_\_

Date

Please submit this request to your Board Conservationist on or before the end of the first Fiscal Year of the grant.

*BCs must attach a copy of the approved request form under the Attachments Tab of the grant record in eLINK.*