

Nonstructural Land Management Practice (NLMP) FY 2019 Implementation Plan Instructions

For The Erosion Control and Water Management Program

August 2, 2018

Program and Policy Purposes

The BWSR Erosion Control & Water Management Program Policy, commonly known as State Cost Share Program, adopted July 1, 2017, Section 4.2.2 allows SWCD to provide financial support to a land occupier for Nonstructural Land Management Practices that are part of a planned erosion control or water quality improvement plan, when:

1. The District has submitted an Implementation Plan to BWSR, it is consistent with state board rules and policies relating to this program, and it has been approved by the Board Conservationist; and
2. After BC approval, the District Board has incorporated this approved Implementation Plan into their locally adopted Fiscal Year Cost-Share Program policy.

Program Definitions

Nonstructural Land Management Practice (NLMP) – Conservation management practices, such as but not limited to cover crops, residue management, nutrient management, that are incorporated into a farm management plan and have erosion control or water quality improvement benefits.

Planned Erosion Control or Water Quality Improvement Plan – A Whole Farm or Field Conservation Plan that addresses erosion control or water quality goals identified in a local water plan or watershed plan, are prioritized, targeted and measurable, and are aligned with state strategies.

Implementation Policy

1. On the NLMP Implementation Plan Form provided by BWSR, the district shall describe their proposed implementation policy by answering the questions provided. The answers should include the following details:
 - a. Prioritized, targeted and measurable actions taken to insure that there is a direct erosion control and water quality improvement connection to an identified larger scale plan.
 - b. Technical Quality Assurance information as per Grants Administration Manual (GAM). Include what technical assistance will be provided to the land occupier to insure a whole farm or field scale conservation plan is developed and implemented.
 - c. Types of nonstructural land management practices that will be eligible and NRCS Field Office Technical Guide standards or other recognized applicable standards that will be used. Include the effective life of the practice.
 - d. Proposed flat rates or maximum percentage based on invoices and receipts for these practices and contract implementation including technical certification procedures and payment schedule that is within the grant agreement period.

- e. Proposed O&M procedures and policy to ensure these practices are incorporated in the farming operation. This may include a modified operation, maintenance and site inspection program for nonstructural land management practices.
2. SWCD board action, documented in minutes, is required prior to submitting this NLMP Implementation Plan to BWSR for review and approval.

Requirements

1. SWCDs have until the end of the first Fiscal Year to request authorization to provide financial support for Nonstructural Land Management Practices. BWSR approval and locally adopted policy must be on file prior to implementing this authorization.
2. These practices must show a direct measurable connection to both a larger scale plan and a whole farm or field scale plan that has erosion control or water quality benefits.
3. This Implementation Plan must be consistent with state board rules and policies relating to the Erosion Control and Water Management Program (i.e. Cost-Share) and the GAM.
4. The technical assistance provider(s) must have appropriate credentials for practice investigation, design and implementation of whole farm or field conservation planning as per the GAM Technical Quality Assurance chapter.
5. District boards must incorporate and adopt these policies into their local cost-share program policy for the Fiscal Year Grant Allocation. The locally adopted cost-share program policy must be uploaded as an eLINK attachment.
6. The District is required to report in eLINK annually on activities related to this approved NLMP Implementation Plan.