



Carnelian-Marine-St. Croix Watershed District

2015 CARNELIAN-MARINE-ST. CROIX COST SHARE PROGRAM MANAGEMENT POLICY

Adopted August 12th, 2015 in Board Resolution 8-12-15-02

The Carnelian-Marine-St. Croix Watershed District (CMSCWD) Cost Share Program was created to provide funds to landowners for the implementation of conservation practices that protect and improve water quality in rivers, lakes, streams and other valuable water resources located in the District's jurisdictional area. Landowners, citizen groups and local units of government can request financial and technical assistance from CMSCWD and the Washington Conservation District (WCD) through the cost share program for implementation of conservation practices. All requests are subject to approval by the CMSCWD Board of Managers (Board).

This Cost Share Management Policy (policy) lists practices that have been authorized for payments under the CMSCWD Cost Share Program. The Policy consists of three parts: Program Provisions, General Conservation Practice Provisions, and Specific Conservation Practice Provisions. The Program and General Conservation Practice Provisions list the requirements that are applicable to all or multiple practices. The Specific Provisions list the payment method, rates and limits, practice lifespan, and specific provisions for each conservation practice.

Changes in science and technology as well as shifts in Board philosophy require that these policies and practices be reviewed from time to time. A committee of the Board will review these policies and practices at least once a year and recommend any changes to the Board for its approval. The first review will be completed no later than December 31st, 2015.

PROGRAM PROVISIONS

The following provisions are requirements for cost share funding under this program:

ELIGIBILITY:

- 1) CMSCWD Cost Share Program payments are authorized for practices listed in the Policy. Non-Policy practices required for the implementation of a Policy practice shall be considered components of and subsidiary to the Policy practice. Conservation payments for components will be included with the payment for the Policy practice.
- 2) Cost share assistance is authorized for conservation practices that:
 - a. Are designed and constructed following the contents of appropriate and most current technical standards, including but not limited to: the NRCS Field Office Technical Guide, MPCA Stormwater Manual, MPCA Protecting Water Quality in Urban Areas, NPDES General Stormwater Permit for Construction Activity, Minnesota Urban Small Sites BMP Manual, BWSR Wetland Guide and other applicable local, state and federal regulations and standards.
 - b. Meet the general and specific conservation practice provisions for each practice included in the Policy.
 - c. Provide documentable environmental benefits, including but not limited to nutrient and sediment load reductions, from the existing condition except as noted under specific Policy practice.
 - d. Do not address erosion resulting from the direct impacts of development, unless the development occurred prior to applicable standards, such as NPDES permitting.
- 3) Cost share assistance may be authorized for repairs to existing practices if:
 - a) The practice was not previously cost shared, or was cost shared and the Board determines that the risk of failure poses significant threat to water quality or infrastructure; or
 - b) The practice was cost shared and is within the contract term, but damage was caused by an act of God or actions not attributable to the applicant, and the risk of failure poses significant threat to water quality or infrastructure
- 4) A cost share agreement may be amended to cover costs associated with re-grading, re-seeding and re-mulching cost share projects that have experienced erosion prior to final certification, as determined reasonable and necessary by the Board authorized Technical Representative. The cost share rate shall not exceed the rate set in the approved contract.
 - a) Amendments of greater than 10% of the original cost share amount shall be approved by the CMSCWD Board. Amendments of 10% or less than the original cost share amount may be approved by the District Administrator.
- 5) Cost share may be authorized for costs associated with installation of more durable erosion control measures as determined reasonable and cost effective by the authorized Technical Representative. This applies to projects that are cost shared through the CMSCWD and/or another funding source.
- 6) Applicants who start a practice before a contract is officially approved do so at their own risk and are not guaranteed funding. Any work that starts before the applicant signs the contract is ineligible for CMSCWD financial assistance for that practice. Work that starts after the application is signed but before it is officially approved is eligible for reimbursement provided: a) an official waiver form is signed by the applicant before any work commences; and b) the contract is officially approved.

- 7) The CMSCWD may require an applicant to implement additional practices as a condition of cost share approval if the additional practice or practices are vital to ensuring the integrity and/or benefit of the original practice. The CMSCWD will deny cost share for projects on parcels that are not compliant with federal, state or local rules or regulations.
- 8) Projects and practices required to satisfy conditions or stipulations of any permit are not eligible for cost share or incentive funding.

PAYMENT METHODS:

- 9) Two types of payment methods are used in this program: incentive payments and cost sharing.
 - a. Incentive Payments:
 1. One Time Incentive Payment – Payment is made upon certification of practice implementation unless a different procedure is specified under Practice Provision.
 2. Annual Incentive Payment – Payment is calculated for a specified number of years. Payment is made in two to four installments, of which the first installment shall be made upon certification of installation and the second and any subsequent installments shall be upon certification of establishment. A single payment may be authorized for annual incentive payment projects if the site is already established, as certified by the Technical Representative.
 - b. Cost Sharing Payments: Cost sharing is reimbursement to a participant to help offset the construction costs associated with implementing a practice. The maximum cost share rate for 2015 CMSCWD contracts with private landowners or land occupiers is listed for each practice and shall be considered the maximum rate of actual construction costs or the estimated cost (whichever is less) of implementing the practice unless; 1. practice is within a CMSCWD focused or impaired priority watershed and/or 2. practice is part of an Individual Resource Management plan approved by CMSCWD Board or 3. the practice is listed as a CMSCWD capital improvement project.
 - c. Individuals with the appropriate technical approval authority must be involved in the preparation of cost estimates, either as preparer or reviewer.
- 10) The maximum Cost Share or Incentive rates listed in this Policy are not guaranteed rates. The Board may reduce the maximum rate depending on the public benefit.
- 11) Other sources of cost share, including state and federal, shall be used whenever possible before, either solely or in conjunction with CMSCWD funds. The total payment to the landowner shall not, however, exceed the maximum cost share or incentive rate listed in the CMSCWD Cost Share Policy except under conditions listed in 8.b. above. Other program rules regarding maximum payment rates and other limitations shall be observed.
- 12) The amount to be cost shared will be limited to that required for the practice to be installed. When additional or alternative work or material is performed or used at the landowner's request, any costs greater than the minimum required for the practice will be borne by the owner.
- 13) Practices that cost share on seeding will include all associated costs needed to implement the seeding plan.

APPROVAL PROCESS:

- 14) Applications for funding will be reviewed and recommended to the Board by the CMSCWD Cost Share Committee after completed applications are received. Applications for cost share and/or incentive totaling \$7,500 or more in CMSCWD funding shall be considered by the CMSCWD Board.
- 15) Approvals of applications for cost share are subject to the availability of funding.

REPAYMENT OF FUNDS:

- 16) Should the applicant remove or fail to maintain the practice during its effective life, the applicant is liable to the CMSCWD for up to 105% of the full amount of financial assistance received to install and establish the practice. The applicant is not liable for cost-share assistance received if the failure was caused by reasons beyond the applicant's control, as determined by the Board.

GRANT PROVISIONS:

- 17) For projects cost shared using funds from a federal, state or other non-local grant source, the cost share rates, eligible practices, and other related provisions set forth in the approved grant agreement, if different, shall prevail.

GENERAL CONSERVATION PRACTICE PROVISIONS

The following provisions apply to the design and construction of conservation practices:

1. **Soil Testing:** A soil test may be required for any practice that targets the reduction of phosphorus. The purpose of the soil test is to determine nutrient content of the soil so that more accurate estimates of phosphorus loading and reductions can be made. A soil test shall be performed for any practice requiring the application of liming materials, commercial fertilizer, and/or manure for the establishment of vegetation. All soil tests shall be completed by a soil testing laboratory shown on the Minnesota Department of Agriculture's list of approved Soil Testing Laboratories. Application rates of lime, commercial fertilizer, and manure shall be based on University of Minnesota recommendations, or from North Dakota's or South Dakota's Land Grant University. Soil testing requirements may be waived if acceptable soil tests from the site were taken within the previous three years.
2. **Upland Treatment:** As a requirement of eligibility, participants are required to perform upland treatment actions, through a conservation plan, according to Minnesota Conservation Planning Policy, and adequately address potential adverse impacts to conservation practices. Adverse impacts to conservation practices could include, but are not limited to, increased sediment deposition from upland erosion, excessive runoff, degradation of vegetation practice components by pesticides transported in runoff, and degradation of wildlife habitat.
3. **Materials:** New materials must be utilized in the construction of practices, unless approved by an Authorized Engineer prior to installation.
4. **Land Rights:** Participants requesting cost share funds for practices on land they do not own are responsible for obtaining easements, permits, right-of-way, and other reasonable and customary permissions necessary to perform and maintain the practices. Expenses associated with these items are not cost shared. Permission by the land owner(s) is deemed granted by their signature on the cost share application.

5. Permits: The applicant is responsible for obtaining all permits required in conjunction with the installation and establishment of the practice prior to starting construction of the project. The District will provide guidance in obtaining permits at the request of the applicant.
6. Operation and Maintenance: The applicant is responsible for the operation and maintenance of the conservation practice for the minimum lifespan listed in the specific provisions of this document and as detailed in the cost share agreement.

SPECIFIC CONSERVATION PRACTICE PROVISIONS

If available, a link is provided for each practice standard or construction specification

The following specific provisions exist for each CMSCWD conservation practice as listed below:

PRACTICE STANDARD-BIORETENTION/BIOFILTRATION/BIOINFILTRATION BASINS

REFERENCE: MPCA	Code /Link	Incentive Payment		Cost Sharing	Lifespan
		Type	Amount \$	Maximum Eligible Cost Share Rate	
Bioretention Basin (Redevelopment/Community)	LINK			50% of actual construction costs, not to exceed 50% of cost estimate	10 years
Residential Rain Gardens				50% of actual construction costs, not to exceed 50% of cost estimate	10 years

1. Upland treatment is required for cost shared projects. See General Conservation Practice Provision #3.
2. Materials eligible for cost share include plants, biologs, erosion control blankets, site preparation materials, edging, mulch, stakes and other items critical to the proper function of the rain garden. Materials not eligible for cost share include those items that do not benefit practice function, such as ornamental rock or other decorative items.

PRACTICE STANDARD 342 – CRITICAL AREA PLANTING

REFERENCE: NRCS	Code/ Link	Incentive Payment		Cost Sharing	Lifespan
		Type	Amount \$	Maximum Eligible Cost Share Rate	
Critical Area Planting	342			50% of actual construction costs, not to exceed 50% of cost estimate	10 years

1. Upland treatment is required. See General Conservation Practice Provision #3.
2. Critical Area Planting (342) must be completed following an approved establishment and management plan.

PRACTICE STANDARD 362 – DIVERSION

REFERENCE: NRCS	Code/ Link	Incentive Payment		Cost Sharing	Lifespan
		Type	Amount \$	Maximum Eligible Cost Share Rate	
Diversion	362			50% of actual construction costs, not to exceed 50% of cost estimate	10 years

1. Upland treatment is required. See General Conservation Practice Provision #3.
2. The use of tile or other underground pipe to drain hillside seeps, low or wet spots in fields is not an eligible single component of this practice.
3. Diversion (362) is allowed as a stand-alone practice for feedlots when used as a clean water diversion.
4. If a Diversion (362) is a component of Wastewater and Feedlot Runoff Control (784), cost sharing is **NOT** authorized for the Diversion (362) as a stand-alone practice. The cost will be included in the cost of Wastewater and Feedlot Runoff Control (784).

PRACTICE STANDARD– EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

REFERENCE:	Code/	Incentive Payment	Cost Sharing	Lifespan
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NA	Link	Type	Amount \$	Maximum Eligible Cost Share Rate	
Watershed Education Programs				100%	
Educational Aids and Support				50%	10 years

1. Recipient must be a certified educational institution or 501c(3) organization with mission including natural resource education

PRACTICE STANDARD 393 (PS 393) – FILTER STRIP

REFERENCE: NRCS	Code /Link	Incentive Payment		Cost Sharing	Lifespan
		Type	Amount \$	Maximum Eligible Cost Share Rate	
Filter Strips and Field Borders	393	Annual	\$50 per pound of phosphorus reduced on an annual basis, with \$150/acre minimum and \$400/acre maximum (1)	50% of cost estimate or actual costs, whichever is less (2)	10-15 years

1. Phosphorus removal rates shall be based on meeting the minimum width specified in NRCS Practice Standard 393 and respective pollutant removal characteristics (i.e., particulate or soluble).
2. Cost share shall be limited to harvested filter strips and field borders seeded to native grasses only
3. Soil testing is required for filter strips. See General Conservation Practice Provision #1.
4. Sensitive field borders are strips of permanent vegetation along road ditches, grassed waterways, and other concentrated flow areas not having seasonal or perennial stream characteristics, and on headlands created to accommodate contour farming.
5. Filter Strips located in areas where the maintenance of permanent natural vegetation is used to meet the requirements under Chapter 70-8-11, WCD County Zoning Ordinance, are not eligible for funding.
6. Non-harvestable filter strips are not eligible for renewal.
7. Harvestable filter strips must be harvested, with forage removed, at least once every year.
8. New filter strips must have been planted to an annually seeded crop in at least 4 of the past 6 years, or is hay in rotation where the annually seeded crop was planted no more than 4 years prior to the date of application.
9. Incentives for renewal filter strips where vegetation is adequately established are eligible for a one-time payment.
10. Sites where upland runoff does not flow through the filter strip due to the presence of a levee (e.g. spoil piles) or negative slope shall not be eligible under this practice. They may, however, be eligible under the riparian Buffer Practice.

PRACTICE STANDARD 410 – GRADE STABILIZATION STRUCTURE

REFERENCE: NRCS	Code/ Link	Incentive Payment		Cost Sharing	Lifespan
		Type	Amount \$	Maximum Eligible Cost Share Rate	
Grade Stabilization	410			50% of actual construction costs, not to exceed 50% of cost estimate	10 years

1. Upland treatment is required. See General Conservation Practice Provision #3.
2. Cost is for earthwork and any seed and seeding expenses.

PRACTICE STANDARD 412 – GRASSED WATERWAY

REFERENCE: NRCS	Code/ Link	Incentive Payment		Cost Sharing	Lifespan
		Type	Amount \$	Maximum Eligible Cost Share Rate	
Grassed Waterway	412			50% of actual construction costs, not to exceed 50% of cost estimate	10 years

1. Upland treatment is required. See General Conservation Practice Provision #3.
2. Cost is for earthwork and any seed and seeding expenses.

PRACTICE STANDARD - HYDRODYNAMIC DEVICES

REFERENCE: MPCA	Code/ Link	Incentive Payment		Cost Sharing	Lifespan
		Type	Amount \$	Maximum Eligible Cost Share Rate	
Hydrodynamic Devices (Government)	LIN K			50% of actual construction costs, not to exceed 50% of cost estimate	10 years

1. Upland treatment is required. See General Conservation Practice Provision #3.
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PRACTICE STANDARD - HARVESTING/REUSE STORMWATER

REFERENCE: MPCA	Code/ Link	Incentive Payment		Cost Sharing	Lifespan
		Type	Amount \$	Maximum Eligible Cost Share Rate	
	LIN K			50% of actual construction costs, not to exceed 50% of cost estimate	10 years

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PRACTICE STANDARD – INNOVATIVE PRACTICES

REFERENCE: NA	Incentive Payment		Cost Sharing	Lifespan
	Type	Amount \$	Maximum Eligible Cost Share Rate	
Innovative Practices (Redevelopment/Community)			50% of actual construction costs, not to exceed 50% of cost estimate	10 years
Innovative Practices (New Development)			50% of actual construction costs, not to exceed 50% of cost estimate	10 years

1. Initial interest for innovative practices is discussed with CMSCWD staff.
2. Applications are taken by WCD staff.
3. The WPC makes a recommendation to the CMSCWD Board, who makes the final approval/disapproval decision.
4. Approved applications are assigned to WCD for technical assistance.
5. Eligible practices include regenerative dustless street sweepers, porous pavers, porous pavement, green roofs, and other practices determined on a case by case basis.

REFERENCE:	Code/ Link	Incentive Payment		Cost Sharing	Lifespan
		Type	Amount \$	Maximum Eligible Cost Share Rate	

PRACTICE STANDARD - IRON ENHANCED SAND FILTER

REFERENCE: MPCA	Code/ Link	Incentive Payment		Cost Sharing	Lifespan
		Type	Amount \$	Maximum Eligible Cost Share Rate	
	LIN			50%	20 years

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PRACTICE STANDARD – NATURAL SHORELINE RESTORATION and/or STABILIZATION

REFERENCE: NRCS	Code/L ink	Incentive Payment		Cost Sharing	Lifespan
		Type	Amount \$	Maximum Eligible Cost Share Rate	
Natural Shoreline Restoration		1 time	\$5/sq yd		10 years
Shoreline Stabilization	580			50% of actual construction costs, not to exceed 75% of cost estimate	10 years
Streambank Stabilization	580			50% of actual construction costs, not to exceed cost estimate	10 years

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2. Applications for cost share funding will be reviewed by the Cost Share Committee prior to consideration by the CMSCWD Board.
3. Project designs shall meet the intent of restoring the shoreline to predominantly natural conditions, including but not limited to the use of natural and native vegetative buffers, limiting turf grass, and using bioengineering methods. Minimum specifications include a 10 feet wide seeded native vegetation buffer along no less than 50% of the total width of the lot, less the footage or shoreline having existing natural and desirable vegetation. Where agriculture is adjoining land use an area of unmaintained vegetation or conservation plan must be in place in accordance with County Shoreland Rules.
4. Funding for hard armor practices (e.g. rock riprap) are not eligible for funding unless bio-engineering methods are determined to be an insufficient means of needed stabilization.
5. Upland treatment is required. See General Conservation Practice Provision #3.
6. Streambank Stabilizations must be reviewed by the Cost Share Committee with the cost share amount being discretionary depending on project benefits.

PRACTICE STANDARD – NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT

REFERENCE:	Code/ Link	Incentive Payment		Cost Sharing	Lifespan
		Type	Amount \$	Maximum Eligible Cost Share Rate	
Manure Testing	NA			100% of Actual Cost	1 year
Nutrient Management Plan	NA	1-time	\$10/ac up to 400 acres		1 year

1. Requires workshop attendance and development of a Nutrient Management Plan in a format approved by the SWCD.

PRACTICE STANDARD 338 – PRESCRIBED BURNING

REFERENCE: NRCS	Code/ Link	Incentive Payment		Cost Sharing	Lifespan
		Type	Amount \$	Maximum Eligible Cost Share Rate	
Prescribed Burning	338	1 Time	\$50/acre		5 years

1. A detailed burn plan describing the practice objective, species to control and species to be benefited, timing, weather conditions and management guidelines will be developed.
2. Technical assistance will be provided by a technically qualified and adequately insured individual.
3. All laws and regulations pertaining to burning will be followed.
4. The conservation plan must document that the landowner has been notified in writing that they are subject to all liability due to damages caused by fire.
5. It is the landowner’s responsibility to obtain all permits and to notify surrounding landowners that may be affected.
6. Cost share is eligible once every 5 years.

7. Associated costs with obtaining and notification of neighbors, units of government, and agencies are entirely the landowner's expense.
8. Not eligible where an existing conservation contract requires landowner maintenance.

PRACTICE STANDARD 390 and 391 – RIPARIAN BUFFER

REFERENCE: NRCS	Code /Link	Incentive Payment		Cost Sharing	Lifespan
		Type	Amount \$	Maximum Eligible Cost Share Rate	
Forested Stream Buffer Improvement >1 ac parcel	391			Up to \$1,000/acre for plants, seeds, labor and materials	15 years
Herbacious or Forested Buffer Establishment (Native Vegetation)	390 or 391	Annual	\$150/ac up to 50 foot width	75% of actual construction costs, not to exceed 75% of cost estimate	10-15 years
Herbacious or Forested Buffer Establishment	390 or 391	Annual	\$150/ac up to 50 foot width		10-15 years

1. A potential tax credit exists for parcels greater than 20 acres.
2. Projects can be either new establishment or renovation.
3. Plan required from theWCD.
4. Minnesota Conservation Corps may be used for labor counting as part of the cost share

PRACTICE STANDARD)- SWALES

REFERENCE: MPCA	Code /Link	Incentive Payment		Cost Sharing	Lifespan
		Type	Amount \$	Maximum Eligible Cost Share Rate	
	LIN K			50%	20 years

PRACTICE STANDARD – SUB-SURFACE SEWAGE TREATMENT SYSTEM (SSTS)

REFERENCE: NA	Incentive Payment		Cost Sharing	Lifespan
	Type	Amount \$	Maximum Eligible Cost Share Rate	
Septic System Repair/Replacement	1 Time	\$2,000		10 years

1. Initial interest for innovative practices is discussed with CMSCWD staff.
2. Available to existing owner-occupied, direct riparian properties only
3. Applications are taken after Washington County Public Health SSTS Loan Program application
4. Incentive payment available only in CMSCWD priority areas with approved Implementation Plans

PRACTICE STANDARD 600 – TERRACE

REFERENCE: NRCS	Code/ Link	Incentive Payment		Cost Sharing	Lifespan
		Type	Amount \$	Maximum Eligible Cost Share Rate	
Terrace	600			50% of actual construction costs, not to exceed 50% of cost estimate	10 years

1. Upland treatment is required. See General Conservation Practice Provision #3.

- The use of Subsurface Drain (606) or Underground Outlet (620) to drain hillside seeps, low or wet spots in fields is not an eligible single component of this practice. The landuser shall identify, in writing the purpose of the larger tile and indicate the area that it will serve. The difference in cost of installing tile larger than that specified by the technician will be borne by the producer.
- Cost sharing for Underground Outlet (620) is limited to the diameter and length needed to convey water from surface intakes to a safe outlet as determined by the designer.
- Cost sharing for Subsurface Drain (606) is limited to drains needed in the impounded area of the terrace as determined by the designer.

PRACTICE STANDARD - TREE BOXES/TREE TRENCHES

REFERENCE: MPCA	Code/ Link	Incentive Payment		Cost Sharing	Lifespan
		Type	Amount \$	Maximum Eligible Cost Share Rate	
	LIN K			50% of actual construction costs, not to exceed 50% of cost estimate	10 years

- Upland treatment is required. See General Conservation Practice Provision #3.

PRACTICE STANDARD - TURF MANAGEMENT

REFERENCE: MPCA	Code/ Link	Incentive Payment		Cost Sharing	Lifespan
		Type	Amount \$	Maximum Eligible Cost Share Rate	
Lawn Aeration	NA			50% of actual construction costs, not to exceed 50% of cost estimate	5years
Soil Amendments	LIN K			50% of actual construction costs, not to exceed 50% of cost estimate	10 years

- Cost share available only to direct riparian residential property owners.
- Available only in CMSCWD focused and impaired priority areas.
- Contractor must be approved by CMSCWD

PRACTICE STANDARD 620 – UNDERGROUND OUTLET

REFERENCE: NRCS	Code /Link	Incentive Payment		Cost Sharing	Lifespan
		Type	Amount \$	Maximum Eligible Cost Share Rate	
Underground Outlet	620			50% of actual construction costs, not to exceed 50% of cost estimate	10 years

- Cost sharing is limited to replacing existing surface tile inlets.

PRACTICE STANDARD 635 – VEGETATED TREATMENT AREA (formerly Wastewater Treatment Strip)

REFERENCE: NRCS	Code/L ink	Incentive Payment		Cost Sharing	Lifespan
		Type	Amount \$	Maximum Eligible Cost Share Rate	
Level 2 to 4 Vegetated Treatment Area – lot size of 1 acre or less	313			50% of actual construction costs, not to exceed 75% of cost estimate	10 years
Level 2 to 4 Vegetated Treatment Area – lot size of 1.1 acre to 2 acres	313			50% of actual construction costs, not to exceed 75% of cost estimate	10 years

Level 2 to 4 Vegetated Treatment Area – lot size 2.1 to 5 acres	313			50% of actual construction costs, not to exceed 75% of cost estimate	10 years
Level 2 to 4 Vegetated Treatment Area – lot size greater than 5 acres	313			50% of actual construction costs, not to exceed 75% of cost estimate	10 years
Level 5 Control – vegetated buffer	313			50% of actual construction costs, not to exceed 75% of cost estimate	10 years

1. Payment is limited to where the implementation of this practice will correct an existing pollution problem. As outlined by the EQIP manual, any EQIP contract that includes an animal waste storage or treatment facility will provide for the development of a CNMP prior to implementation of the storage or treatment. MPCA’s definition is used to define a pollution problem.
2. Consult EQIP General Provision 12 for Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP) requirements.
3. Consult EQIP General Provision 13 for requirements related to manure application land base and/or manure applications on land not owned or controlled by the EQIP contract holder.
4. Payment for Vegetated Treatment Area on operations with pollution problems less than 5 years old is not authorized.
 - a. Examples:
 - i. Producer A has had a dairy farm operation for 20 years. Producer B purchases the dairy and continues milking cows. This pollution problem is greater than 5 years old and producer B meets this eligibility requirement for Payment assistance.
 - ii. A producer has a dairy operation on farm A. He purchases farm B and moves the dairy operation to farm B where there was no previous pollution problem. Farm B would be considered a new facility and would not be eligible for Payment assistance.
1. Payment is not authorized for Vegetated Treatment Area on operations where the system establishment is required as a result of judicial or court action. MPCA Stipulation Agreement and Schedule of Compliance (SOC) are not considered a judicial or court action, and practice implementation is still considered voluntary for EQIP eligibility purposes, even if fines have been levied by the MPCA.

PRACTICE STANDARD 313 – WASTE STORAGE FACILITY

REFERENCE: NRCS	Code /Link	Incentive Payment		Cost Sharing	Lifespan
		Type	Amount \$	Maximum Eligible Cost Share Rate	
Concrete or Metal Tank	313			50% of actual construction costs, not to exceed 50% of cost estimate	10 years
Stacking Slab	313			50% of actual construction costs, not to exceed 50% of cost estimate	10 years
Pond – composite liner	313			50% of actual construction costs, not to exceed 50% of cost estimate	10 years
Pond – membrane liner	313			50% of actual construction costs, not to exceed 50% of cost estimate	10 years
Pond – no liner	313			50% of actual construction costs, not to exceed 50% of cost estimate	10 years
Pond – soil liner	313			50% of actual construction costs, not to exceed 50% of cost estimate	10 years
Concrete slab	313			50% of actual construction costs, not to exceed 50% of cost estimate	10 years
Non liquid tight deep pack – concrete wall	313			50% of actual construction costs, not to exceed 50% of cost estimate	10 years

1. The eligible volume of storage is the total storage volume, including the design storage volume plus freeboard as required in the standard. As outlined in Waste Storage Facility (313), the maximum design storage period is 14 months.
2. The maximum allowable storage volume is based on the current capacity of the existing facility plus up to 25% expansion.
3. Payment is limited to where the implementation of this practice will correct an existing pollution problem. As outlined by the EQIP manual, any EQIP contract that includes an animal waste storage or treatment facility will provide for the development of a CNMP prior to the implementation of the 313. MPCA’s definition is used to define a pollution problem.
4. Consult EQIP General Provision 13 for Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP) requirements.
5. Consult EQIP General Provision 14 for requirements related to manure application land base and/or manure applications on land not owned or controlled by the EQIP contract holder.

6. For purposes of this practice, “waste” refers to raw manure and urine; runoff water contaminated through contact with manure and urine; milking center wastewater; and silage leachate as appropriate.
7. Silage storage facilities are not eligible components. Payment for components addressing silage leachate concerns under Waste Storage Facility start at the edge of the silage storage facility.
8. For livestock operations that are not or will not be permitted under the NPDES system, silage leachate systems can be funded as stand-alone practices if these systems are the only livestock related practices being requested. The development of a CNMP IS required with a silage leachate system but the CNMP does NOT have to be implemented.
9. Payment is authorized for tanks that serve as foundations for buildings, however eligible costs are those associated with the storage function only. Payment is not authorized for production oriented building components.
10. Payment for Concrete Slab is authorized for concrete agitation and pump out pads, pond lining, ramps and chutes within the pond.
11. Payment is authorized for feedlot relocation, with the following provisions:
 - a. The payment for relocation shall be based on the most practical and feasible waste management facility at the existing site.
 - b. Payment at the new site is only authorized for components applicable to the transfer, storage, or treatment of wastes.
 - c. Existing location is to be abandoned in an environmentally safe manner as outlined in MPCA guidelines.
 - d. Operator must agree to permanently remove all livestock from the existing location along with any other designated pollution sources. The following statement shall be included in the EQIP contract: “As a condition of EQIP Payment on feedlot relocation, the producer agrees to permanently eliminate all animals and designated pollution sources at this facility. Failure to comply with this provision may result in a recovery of federal Payment funds.”
 - e. In the event of a change in ownership, the abandoned lots will permanently not be eligible for future USDA Payment on waste management practices.
12. Payment for Waste Storage Facility (313) on operations with pollution problems less than 5 years old is not authorized.
 - a. Examples:
 - i. Producer A has had a dairy farm operation for 20 years. Producer B purchases the dairy and continues milking cows. This pollution problem is greater than 5 years old and producer B meets this eligibility requirement for Payment assistance.
 - ii. A producer has a dairy operation on farm A. He purchases farm B and moves the dairy operation to farm B where there was no previous pollution problem. Farm B would be considered a new facility and would not be eligible for Payment assistance.
13. Payment is not authorized for Waste Storage Facility (313) on operations where the system establishment is required as a result of judicial or court action. MPCA Stipulation Agreement and Schedule of Compliance (SOC) are not considered a judicial or court action, and practice implementation is still considered voluntary for EQIP eligibility purposes, even if fines have been levied by the MPCA.
14. State NRCS Conservationist approval is required for systems involving agricultural waste generated off-site.
15. Payment for Waste Storage Facility is capped at \$250,000. This cap applies to the total facility being installed under 313. Other components such as manure transfer, safety fence, etc are allowed in the contract in addition to the capped \$250K for the 313 practice.
16. Non Liquid Tight Deep Pack – Concrete Wall is authorized only for stacking slabs where enough bedding or organic matter is added to the manure to eliminate liquid runoff or leaching and therefore a concrete floor is not required. The manure and organic pack resulting from the operation of a “Compost Barn” as defined by the University of Minnesota meets this definition.

PRACTICE STANDARD 629 – WASTEWATER TREATMENT

REFERENCE: NRCS	Code /Link	Incentive Payment		Cost Sharing	Lifespan
		Type	Amount \$	Maximum Eligible Cost Share Rate	
Flocculation Treatment	629			50% of actual construction costs, not to exceed 50% of cost estimate	10 years
Vegetated Dosing Area	629			50% of actual construction costs, not to exceed 50% of cost estimate	10 years
Bark Bed	629			50% of actual construction costs, not to exceed 50% of cost estimate	10 years
Aerobic Treatment	629			50% of actual construction costs, not to exceed 50% of cost estimate	10 years

1. Payment is limited to where the implementation of this practice will correct an existing pollution problem. As outlined by the EQIP manual, any EQIP contract that includes an animal waste storage or treatment facility will provide for the development of a CNMP prior to implementation of the storage or treatment. MPCA’s definition is used to define a pollution problem.
2. Consult EQIP General Provision 13 for Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP) requirements.

3. Consult EQIP General Provision 14 for requirements related to manure application land base and/or manure applications on land not owned or controlled by the EQIP contract holder.
4. Payment for Wastewater Treatment on operations with pollution problems less than 5 years old is not authorized.
 - a. Examples:
 - i. Producer A has had a dairy farm operation for 20 years. Producer B purchases the dairy and continues milking cows. This pollution problem is greater than 5 years old and producer B meets this eligibility requirement for Payment assistance.
 - ii. A producer has a dairy operation on farm A. He purchases farm B and moves the dairy operation to farm B where there was no previous pollution problem. Farm B would be considered a new facility and would not be eligible for Payment assistance.
5. Payment is not authorized for Wastewater Treatment on operations where the system establishment is required as a result of judicial or court action. MPCA Stipulation Agreement and Schedule of Compliance (SOC) are not considered a judicial or court action, and practice implementation is still considered voluntary for EQIP eligibility purposes, even if fines have been levied by the MPCA.
6. Payment rate includes components needed for the actual waste treatment. Components needed for temporary storage and transfer of wastes are covered under separate practices.

PRACTICE STANDARD 638 – WATER AND SEDIMENT CONTROL BASIN

REFERENCE: NRCS	Code /Link	Incentive Payment		Cost Sharing	Lifespan
		Type	Amount \$	Maximum Eligible Cost Share Rate	
Water & Sediment Control Basin	638			50% of actual construction costs, not to exceed 50% of cost estimate	10 years

1. The use of Subsurface Drain (606) or Underground Outlet (620) to drain hillside seeps, low or wet spots in fields is not an eligible single component of this practice. The landuser shall identify, in writing the purpose of the larger tile and indicate the area that it will serve. The difference in cost of installing tile larger than that specified by the technician will be borne by the producer.
2. Upland treatment is required. See General Conservation Practice Provision #3.
3. Cost sharing for Subsurface Drain (606) is limited to drains needed in the impounded area of the basin as determined by the designer.
4. Farmable WASCOD is eligible only if it is the most practical alternative, as determined by the WCD.

PRACTICE STANDARD 351 – WELL DECOMMISSIONING (Unused Well Sealing)

REFERENCE: NRCS	Code /Link	Incentive Payment		Cost Sharing	Lifespan
		Type	Amount \$	Maximum Eligible Cost Share Rate	
Well Decommissioning	351			75% of actual construction costs, not to exceed 75% of cost estimate or \$1,000, whichever is less	10 years

PRACTICE STANDARD 658 – WETLAND CREATION

Wetland restorations cost share and incentive payments are covered under the Wetland Restoration and Enhancement Program (WREP) for perpetual agreements. Shorter, 15 year agreements need to meet the following standards.

REFERENCE: NRCS	NRCS Code	Incentive Payment		Cost Share	Lifespan
		Type	Amount \$	Maximum Eligible Cost Share Rate	
Wetlands Creation	658	1 Time	\$2,000/Ac.	Between 75 and 100%.	15 years

1. Wetland Restoration Incentives are eligible for restorations that results in type III, IV, or V wetlands.
2. The producer is responsible for obtaining easements, right of ways, local, state and federal permits and other permission necessary to perform and maintain the practice. Expenses incurred due these items are not cost shared. Incentive payments will not be made until proof of necessary permits has been provided.
3. The restored area shall not be used for irrigation or livestock watering purposes, to produce agricultural commodities, or for grazing livestock.
4. Upland Treatment is required. See General Provision.
5. Not applicable where the wetland restored is part of a required mitigation plan.

- 6 30 foot minimum native buffer required. Upland buffer can be completed as a filter strip or native grass planting practice using respective cost and incentive rates.

PRACTICE STANDARD 657 – WETLAND RESTORATION

Wetland restorations cost share and incentive payments are covered under the Wetland Restoration and Enhancement Program (WREP) for perpetual agreements. Shorter, 15 year agreements need to meet the following standards.

REFERENCE: NRCS	Code /Link	Incentive	Payment	Cost Share	Lifespan
		Type	Amount \$	Maximum Eligible Cost Share Rate	
Wetland Restoration	657	1 Time	\$2,000/Ac.	Between 75 and 100%.	15 years

1. Wetland Restoration Incentives are eligible for restorations that results in type III, IV, or V wetlands.
2. The producer is responsible for obtaining easements, right of ways, local, state and federal permits and other permission necessary to perform and maintain the practice. Expenses incurred due these items are not cost shared. Incentive payments will not be made until proof of necessary permits has been provided.
3. The restored area shall not be used for irrigation or livestock watering purposes, to produce agricultural commodities, or for grazing livestock.
4. Upland Treatment is required. See General Provision.
5. Not applicable where the wetland restored is part of a required mitigation plan.
- 6 30 foot minimum native buffer required. Upland buffer can be completed as a filter strip or native grass planting practice using respective cost and incentive rates.

Practice Standard 659- Wetlands Enhancement

REFERENCE: NRCS	Code /Link	Incentive	Payment	Cost Share	Lifespan
		Type	Amount \$	Maximum Eligible Cost Share Rate	
Wetlands Enhancement	659	1 Time	\$2,000/Ac.	Between 75 and 100%.	15 years

1. Wetland Restoration Incentives are eligible for restorations that results in type III, IV, or V wetlands.
2. The producer is responsible for obtaining easements, right of ways, local, state and federal permits and other permission necessary to perform and maintain the practice. Expenses incurred due these items are not cost shared. Incentive payments will not be made until proof of necessary permits has been provided.
3. The restored area shall not be used for irrigation or livestock watering purposes, to produce agricultural commodities, or for grazing livestock.
4. Upland Treatment is required. See General Provision.
5. Not applicable where the wetland restored is part of a required mitigation plan.
- 6 30 foot minimum native buffer required. Upland buffer can be completed as a filter strip or native grass planting practice using respective cost and incentive rates.

Management of Aquatic Invasive Species

REFERENCE: NA	Code /Link	Incentive	Payment	Cost Share	Lifespan
		Type	Amount \$	Maximum Eligible Cost Share Rate	
Chemical Treatments				80% of Organizational's first request up to \$5,000, 50% match up to \$5,000 per year after	

1. Recipient must be a recognized Lake Owners Association
2. Recipient must have a DNR approved management Plan
3. Refer to CMSCWD AIS Management Plan for additional requirements