



# FY 2011 SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

## GRANT ALLOCATIONS

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### **FY'11 SWCD STATE COST SHARE GRANTS - \$1,548,000**

Cost Share Base Grants	\$972,000
Native Buffer	\$576,000

Grant Budget Reduction: The FY' 10 reduction was \$175,000 and the FY '11 reduction was \$277,000 for a total reduction of \$452,000. Since the FY '10 grants have already gone out, the total reduction must be applied in FY '11.

Grant Reduction Implementation: Native Buffer Cost Share Program applications from the FY '10 Competitive Grants Program that are funded with the FY'11 appropriation. As provided by the appropriation language, any remaining Native Buffer funds will be added to the Cost Share Base Grant Program to be proportionally allocated.

All of the Cooperative Weed Management Program funds for the biennium were allocated in the FY' 10 Competitive Grants program. Therefore there are no funds remaining for this program.

### **Native Buffer Cost Share Program Grants - \$576,000**

These grants are for cost-sharing up to 75% to establish and maintain diverse native vegetation by planting vegetation or sowing seed that originates from as close to the project site as possible, and preferably of the local ecotype region, while protecting existing native prairies from genetic contamination.

The following information summarizes the FY '11 Native Buffer Program Grant allocations. The SWCDs that are proposed for funding submitted applications in the FY '10 Competitive Grant Program process and were not-funded or received partial funding. BWSR staff are working with them to address any questions or concerns that were identified during the grant ranking process; proposed changes to applications/projects are included with the summary of each application below. Of the \$576,000 available for FY '11, \$385,443 will be allocated to these projects with the remaining \$190,557 to be transferred to the Cost Share Base Grant Program.

### Description of Funded Projects:

#### **Ramsey SWCD**

Recommended Funding: \$90,000

Project Summary: The Ramsey CD will partner with local watersheds, homeowners, and Northwestern College, to stabilize the lake shoreline on Gervais, Kohlman, and Johanna.

**Scott SWCD**

Recommended Funding: \$25,000

Project Summary: This project will utilize BWSR Native Buffer funds, along with a 25% landowner match, to establish and maintain native prairie planting in Scott County.

**Martin SWCD**

Recommended Funding: \$135,000

Project Summary: Develop a seed source for local ecotype native species (Martin County Origin) emphasizing rare and declining species. Prioritize based on projected outcomes: Successful seed source and water quality benefit.

**Winona SWCD**

Recommended Funding: \$53,019

Project Summary: Native Prairie plantings will be burned to maintain their vigor and help control invasive species. Other plantings are being installed on organic farms that need annual burns the first 3-5 years to replace spraying.

**Wright SWCD**

Recommended Funding: \$22,424

Project Summary: Stabilize exposed banks and replace traditional lawn with native vegetation by blending grasses, sedges, and forbs, along an extensive span of lakeshore and streambank.

**Wabasha SWCD**

Recommended Funding: \$20,000

Project Summary: Shoreland landowners will be invited to sign up for cost share to convert row crops to locally-sourced switch-grass dominant buffers.

**Morrison SWCD**

Recommended Funding: \$40,000

Project Summary: To restore shorelines on the Mississippi River and tributaries of the Mississippi, to protect and enhance the natural and scenic stretch of the Mississippi Headwater's southernmost county.

**Cost Share Base Grants** - \$972,000 base + \$190,557 native buffer = \$1,162,557

The purpose of this program is to provide grants to SWCDs so they can help local landowners or land occupiers offset the costs of installing conservation practices that protect and improve water quality by controlling soil erosion and reducing sedimentation.

Grant amounts are determined by applying a proportional increase to FY '10 allocations, and are listed on the document *PROPOSED FY '11 SWCD BASE GRANTS*.

## PROPOSED FY '11 SWCD SERVICE GRANTS - \$3,050,000

General Services	\$1,708,000
Easement Services	\$282,000
Non Point Engineering Assistance	\$1,060,000

Grant Budget Reduction: The FY'10 reduction was \$135,000 and the FY '11 reduction was \$315,000 for a total biennial reduction of \$450,000. Since the 2010 grants have already gone out, the total reduction must be applied in FY'11.

Grant Reduction Implementation: The General Services and Easement Services Grants will be proportionally reduced by \$450,000. The amount available for FY '11 NPEA Program allocations will be the same as FY '10. The NPEA program has just undergone a significant restructuring in order to address funding issues. A reduction to the NPEA Program at this time was not deemed feasible.

### **General Service Grants - \$1,708,000**

General Services Grants provide each Soil and Water Conservation District with funds for the general administration and operation of the district. These administrative and operational costs include paying for the costs of: employing staff, office space, transportation, postage and utilities, and supervisors' compensation and expenses.

Grant amounts are determined by applying a proportional reduction to FY '10 allocations, and are listed on the attachment *PROPOSED FY '11 SWCD BASE GRANTS*.

### **Easement Services Grants - \$282,000**

This grant assists SWCDs with their site inspection costs and other management activities associated with the easements in their county. These activities include ownership changes, staking boundaries, conservation plan revisions, and assisting landowners with ongoing maintenance of installed conservation practices.

The BWSR currently holds 5,027 conservation easements on 189,667 acres throughout the state. SWCDs range from a low of 0 easements in 12 SWCDs, to a high of 368 easements in Renville SWCD. The service grant amount for FY '11 is \$56.10 per easement.

The attached spreadsheet lists individual SWCD grants proposed for each SWCD (# of easements in each SWCD x \$56.10) - *PROPOSED FY '11 SWCD BASE GRANTS*.

### **Non Point Engineering Assistance - \$1,060,000**

The Non Point Engineering Assistance (NPEA) Base Grants are allocated annually to the NPEA (TSA) Joint Powers Boards for the purpose of providing technical assistance to landowners to apply conservation practices.

This Grant Program is proposed be implemented according to the August 2008 BWSR adopted *CTAC Short-Term Consensus Recommendation to Address Structure and Financial Challenges of the NPEA Program Proposed Clarifications by Recommendations Work Group*

The following policy from this Recommendation directs the FY '11 allocations as follows:

1. \$65,000 per 1 FTE engineer (TSA staff or contracted)
2. \$50,000 per 1 FTE technician (TSA staff or contracted)
3. Maximum annual grant amount for staff or contracted engineering services = \$115,000 per TSA, except for TSA 3, which receives up to \$165,000 per year for NPEA staff through FY 2011, or until it has 1 FTE engineer and 1 FTE technician, whichever occurs sooner. If less than the maximum is requested by one or more TSAs, the difference is split equally among all TSAs.
4. Additional \$5,000 per Host and/or Fiscal Agent SWCD (up to 2 Host SWCDs per TSA). The TSA decides how to distribute between Host and Fiscal Agent SWCD and Host-only SWCD.
5. 1 Fiscal Agent SWCD per TSA, must be a Host SWCD, if the TSA has staff
6. In order to help develop and maintain consistency across TSAs, the remaining state funding (estimate \$30,000 / year, depending on number of Host SWCDs statewide) is used for NPEA staff training, computer hardware, software, and survey equipment and associated costs. This is based on an annual plan developed by NPEA staff and BWSR and coordinated with TSAs. This will result in a 4-yr. rotation of two \$15,000 allocations with the highest priority for those TSAs still using the original Total Station equipment acquired in 1995. TSA 8 (North Central) and TSA 3 (Northeast) are the recommended recipients for FY 11.
7. Minimum 10% cash local share, from other than NPEA grant \$, for engineering assistance in the TSA.

Local share does not include in-kind services, but can include local, other state and federal funding for shared technical assistance to and through the TSA SWCDs, such as:

- Fees for services (from landowners, or other sources)
- Member SWCD cash contributions
- Federal TSP funding
- Federal grant funds
- Other state programs
- Gifts and donations

FY '11 NPEA Base Grants will be allocated according to the Board adopted policy as follows:

<b>NPEA Area</b>	<b>Base Grant</b>	<b>Host/Fiscal Agent SWCD</b>	<b>Equipment</b>	<b>Total Grant</b>
1	\$115,000	\$10,000	\$0	<b>\$125,000</b>
2	\$115,000	\$5,000	\$0	<b>\$120,000</b>
3	\$165,000	\$10,000	\$15,000	<b>\$190,000</b>
4	\$115,000	\$5,000	\$0	<b>\$120,000</b>
5	\$115,000	\$10,000	\$0	<b>\$125,000</b>
6	\$115,000	\$5,000	\$0	<b>\$120,000</b>
7	\$115,000	\$10,000	\$0	<b>\$125,000</b>
8	\$115,000	\$5,000	\$15,000	<b>\$135,000</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>				<b>\$1,060,000</b>