

MN CREP Training

February 27, 2020*

*This PowerPoint contains edits made after the 2/27/2020 WebEx to reflect revisions on whom to contact with additional questions and/or training needs.

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- MN CREP Summary
- Guidance Document Updates
 - Waiver Requests
 - RIM-Only Lands
 - Buffer Law
- 2020 Signup
- Application Workbook (v08)
- CP-23 and CP-23a Implementation
- CP-23 and CP-23a Scoring and Applications
- Cost-Share Voucher Form

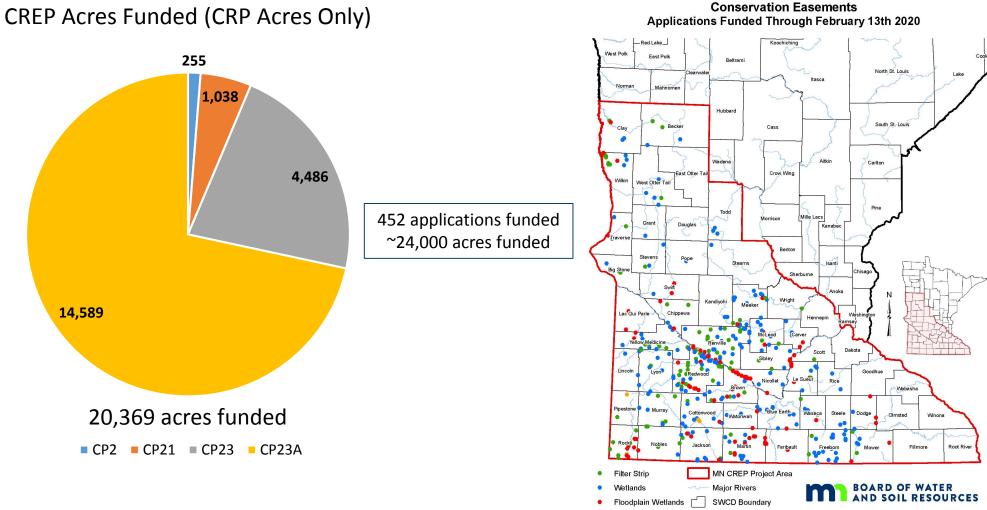


MN CREP Update Summary To-Date (CRP Acres)

СР	Applications Received	Applications Funded	CRP Acres Submitted	CRP Acres Funded
CP-2	7	4	614	255
CP-21	139	117	1,299	1,038
CP-23	128	115	4,966	4,486
CP23a	294	216	18,318	14,589
Total	568	452	25,197	20,368

MN CREP Summary To-Date

Minnesota Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (MN CREP)



Wellhead





Updated MN CREP Program Guidance Document

MN CREP for SWCDs

MENU «

Minnesota CREP Guidance Materials



MN Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) General Program Guidance Document February 2020



- <u>Cultural Resource Process for CP-23 and CP-23a Wetland Practices (pdf)</u>
- <u>CP-2 & CP-21 Scoresheet Instructions (pdf)</u>
- <u>CP-23 & CP-23a Scoresheet Instructions (pdf)</u>
- <u>Questions & Answers (pdf)</u>
- GIS Tips for Mapping Easement Polygons (pdf)
- Payment Estimate Guide (pdf)
- <u>MN Department of Agriculture Corporate Farm Law Webpage</u>
- <u>MN CREP Easement Application Module Login</u>

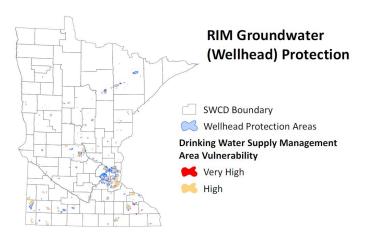
MN CREP Guidance Clarifications

• Joint Applications:

MN CREP

- When more than one MN CREP application is needed to successfully restore a drained wetland or complex of wetlands
- Limited to:
 - adjoining, already funded and new MN CREP applications where combined enrollment is necessary for restoration

- CP-2 Wellhead Applications:
 - 100% of the cropland offered for CRP must be physically located within an approved wellhead protection area
 - Only the land within the wellhead protection area is CRP eligible and paid at the MN CREP Cropland rate





MN CREP Guidance Clarifications

- Enrolling RIM-Only Lands:
 - Appropriate documentation must be completed in the workbook and/or maps provided
 - Total acreage will be verified to ensure acreage is within thresholds listed in the Program Guidance
 - BWSR reserves the right to not approve RIM-Only acres

- RIM-Only Crop and RIM-Only Non-Crop Allowable Categories:
 - Existing CRP Land
 - Other Lands
 - CP-23a Habitat Improvement
 - MN Buffer Law and Lands with Crop History



The CRP offer must be greater than or equal to 8 acres in size. If the CRP offer is under 8 acres, it must meet one of the following waiver criteria:

1. Socially Disadvantaged, Limited Resource, or Beginning Farmer or Rancher

At least one person or legal entity on the offer is a socially disadvantaged, limited resource, or beginning farmer or rancher as determined by USDA. The determination will be provided by FSA to the local SWCD.

2. CP-2 offers

The majority (>50%) of the land in the CREP application is physically located within a Wellhead Protection Area (WHPA) identified by the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) AND mapped as very high and/or high vulnerability.

3. CP-21 offers

The CP-21 must be immediately adjacent to a Public Water included on the buffer protection map. The CP-21 will be adjacent to a CREP eligible offer or approved contract. The CP-21 will, at a minimum, meet the required width for filtering sediment, soluble materials and pathogens according to NRCS CP21 Filter Strip Documentation of Suitability and Feasibility Worksheet and the MN NRCS Filter Strip (393) Conservation Practice Standard.

4. CP-23 and CP-23a offers

The CP-23 or CP-23a will be immediately adjacent to already permanently protected land (fee title or easement) or another MN CREP application.



- Waiver requests are available for exceeding RIM-Only percentages and CRP payment limitations.
- Requests for waivers should be discussed in advance with the Private Lands Specialist and must be approved by the Easement Section Manager prior to submittal of the MN CREP application.
- For CRP annual payment limitations, the current application must exceed \$50,000 to be eligible for a waiver.
- In the absence of an approved waiver, the enrollment of acres exceeding the limits must be treated as donated lands.



- Enrollment of existing CRP acres is limited to no more than 50% of the acres being enrolled as MN CREP Cropland.
- CRP contracts approved after <u>May 2017</u> do not qualify as existing CRP for this section.



RIM-Only: Other Lands

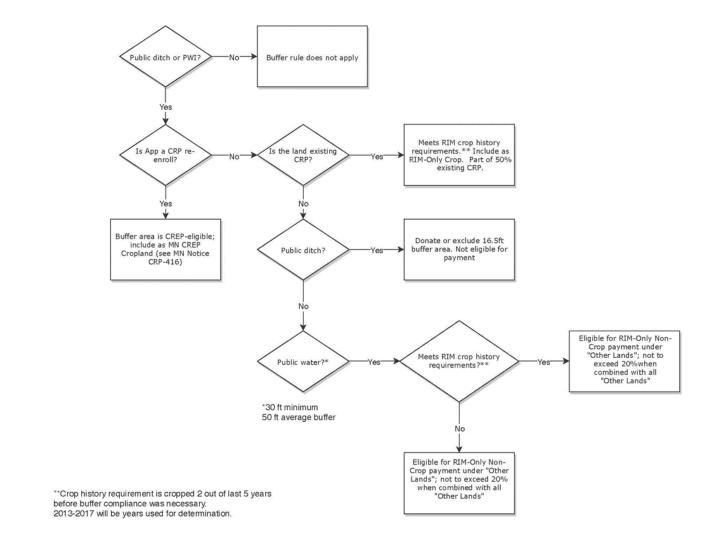
The total acreage of land categorized as Other Lands is limited to no more than 20% of the acres being enrolled as MN CREP Cropland.

- *2.1 Landlocked Areas
- 2.2 Minnesota Biological Survey Areas of Biodiversity Significance or the Minnesota Wildlife Action Plan
- *2.3 Areas Needed to Provide Manageable Easement Boundaries
- 2.4 Non-Cropped Lands Needed to Enable Wetland Restoration
- 2.5 Lands Meeting Crop History within Buffers of Public Waters

*This does not include large non-crop areas adjacent to a public water



Buffer Law MN Statute 103F.48 and CREP Eligibility





Scoring Thresholds

 Scoring thresholds from the last Batching Period (8/27/2019) can be used as a guide for new sign-ups

Practice	Minimum Score			
CP-2	60			
CP-21	27			
CP-23	12			
CP-23a	40			



Rates and Payment Calculations

- 2018 MN CREP Landowner Payment Rates
- Sent via email on June 28th, 2018
- Use these rates for the 2020 sign-ups

2018 MN CREP Landowner Payment Rates June 2018 MN Land Economics website data released Jan 2018 Metro counties located at the end of this document		201	8 MN CREP	201	8 RIM-only	20	18 RIM-only
County	Township/City	Cro	oland Rate	CRE	P Crop Rate	CREF	Noncrop Rate
Clay	Glyndon city	\$	4,244.85	\$	3,784.17	\$	2,193.72
Clay	Glyndon twp	\$	4,913.35	\$	4,380.12	\$	2,539.20
Clay	Goose Prairie twp	\$	4,161.02	\$	3,709.44	\$	2,150.40



MN CREP Batching Periods

- Batching Period 1
 - March 2 March 30
- Batching Period 2
 - Beginning sometime in April
- Future batching periods will be announced at a later date







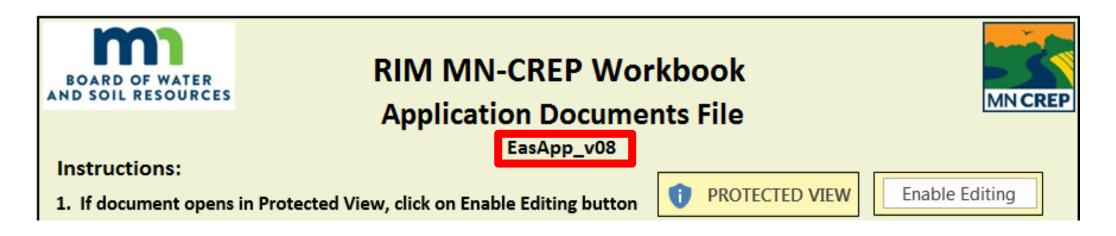
v08: REQUIRED for new 2020 applications (sign-up 53)



v05 – v07: accepted ONLY for revisions to 2019 applications (sign-up 52)



How do you know which version you have?





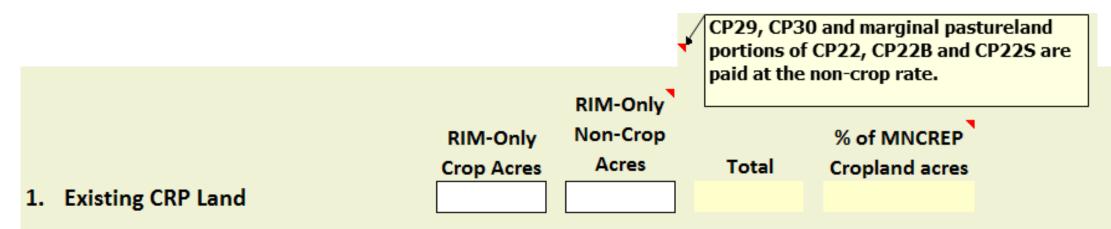


Order for filling out the workbook

Application Form	Program Eligibility Form	CRP Data	RIM-Only Lands Eligibility	CEFW



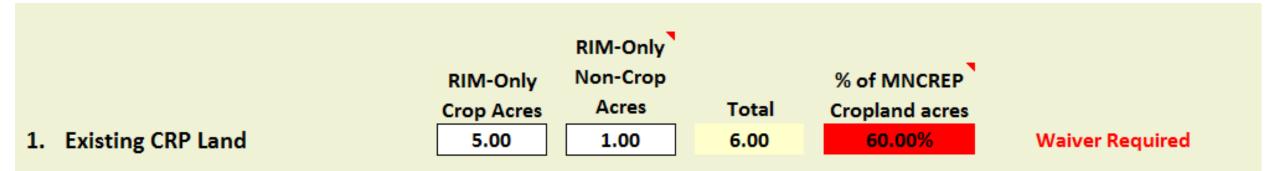
RIM-Only Lands Eligibility Worksheet



- ☐ Yes ☐ No Was the CRP contract for existing CRP acres approved prior to May 2017?
- ☐ Yes ☐ No Are any of the existing CRP acres Marginal Pastureland?



RIM-Only Lands Eligibility Worksheet



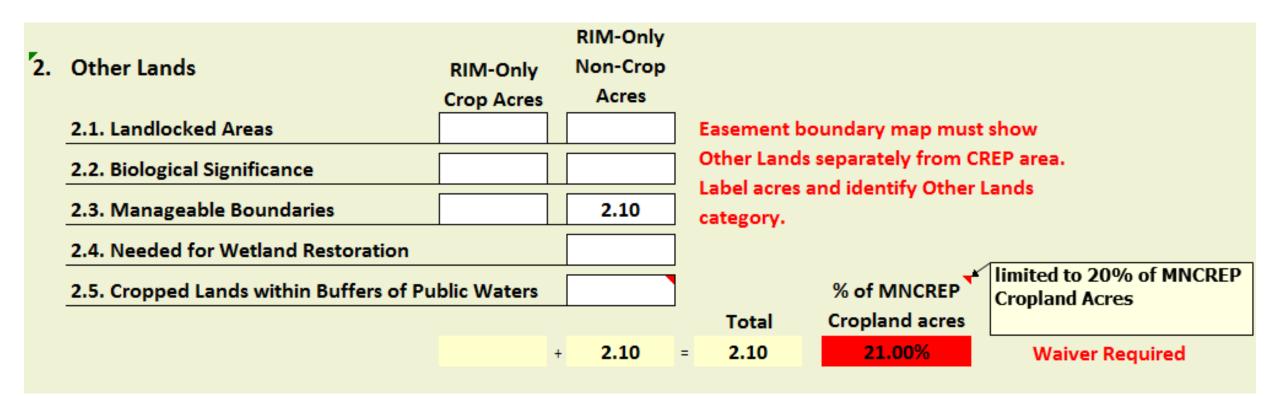
Ves 🗌 No Was the CRP contract for existing CRP acres approved prior to May 2017?

🔽 Yes 🦷 No Are any of the existing CRP acres Marginal Pastureland? Enter acres under RIM-Only Non-Crop above

Easement boundary map must show Existing CRP acres separately from CREP acres. Include CRP expiration date, label acres and identify CRP practice if marginal pastureland.



RIM-Only Lands Eligibility Worksheet





RIM-Only Lands Eligibility Worksheet



- ✓ Yes □ No Has the upland to wetland acre ratio been maximized at Upload CRP CP2: 4:1 within the CRP offer? Worksheet and r
- ✓ Yes □ No When these RIM-Only Crop acres are combined with Uple acres in the CRP offer, is the new upland to wetland ratio area within the 8:1 limit?

Upload CRP CP23A Suitability and Feasibility Worksheet and map displaying upland and wetland portions of CRP offer with acres labeled

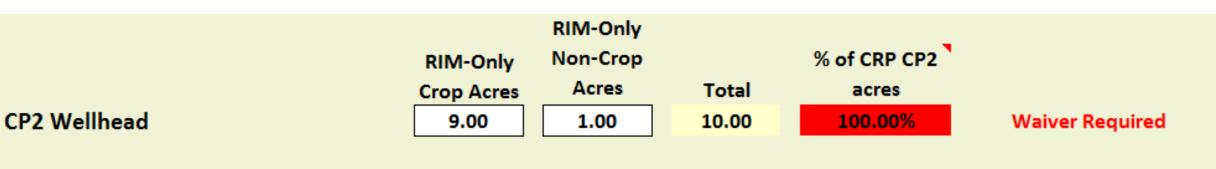
Upload map displaying revised upland and wetland area that includes RIM-Only Crop acres in this section. Label acres and list ratio.



RIM-Only Lands Eligibility Worksheet	Agreement Information Form Air Photo and Map Application-signed copy CRP-1		
RIM-Only Crop Acres 2.00	Deed Minimum Size Waiver Ownership and Eligibility Shapefile W-9 IRS Form		
Yes No Has the upland to wetland acre ratio been maximized at 4:1 within the CRP offer?	Upload CRP CP23A Suitability and Feasibility Worksheet and map displaying upland and wetland portions of CRP offer with acres labeled		
✓ Yes □ No When these RIM-Only Crop acres are combined with acres in the CRP offer, is the new upland to wetland ratio within the 8:1 limit?	Upload map displaying revised upland and wetland area that includes RIM-Only Crop acres in this section. Label acres and list ratio.		



RIM-Only Lands Eligibility Worksheet



Yes No Does the additional RIM-Only acreage abut or adjoin the CRP offer and is it within the same parcel or field as the CRP offer?
 Upload map displaying RIM-Only area separately from CREP area. Label acres and include parcel/field boundaries.

		RIM-Only
	RIM-Only	Non-Crop
	Crop Acres	Acres
Totals for CEFW	11.00	3.10





CP23 and CP23a Practice Implementation Status

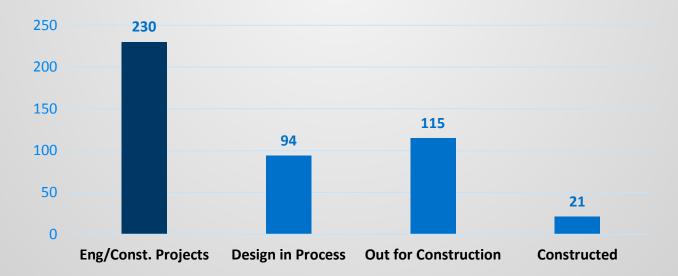
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CREP CP23/23A Enrollment/Project Status

Sign-Up Year	Crop Cessation/ Unrestorable	Engineering/ Construction*	Design in Process	Out for Construction	Constructed
2017	5	27	1	17	9
2018	41	93	22	59	12
2019	50	110	71	39	0
TOTALS	96	230	94	115	21

*Single or Multiple Easement Construction Projects



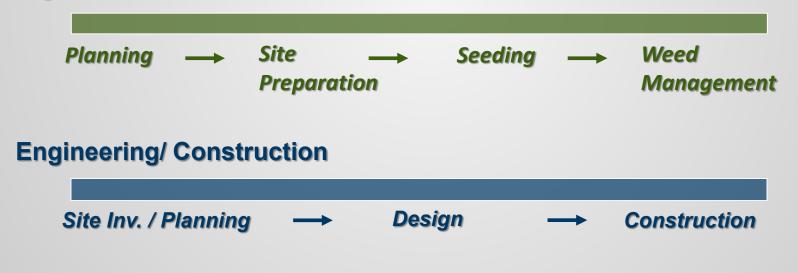


Restoration Workload, Process and Timelines

Acquisition

Application ---> Easement

Vegetation Establishment





Overcoming Barriers to Successful Practice Implementation



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Generally Speaking – CRP allows producers 36 months from start of CRP contract to complete approved practices.

Likely occurring in 12 month intervals so it is critical to stay on top of this and work with local NRCS and FSA staff to request extensions (FSA approved revised plans), when needed.

Meritorious requests for additional time being discussed with state FSA staff.





Restoration Workload, Process and Timelines

Things That Will Help

Prepare Program Conservation Plans – ASAP





Practice (Construction) Funds

CRP – Cost-Share (NTE 50%)

- Level 1 \$350 per acre Where Minimal Construction Work is Needed
- Level 2 \$700 per acre

Where More Complex (costly) Work is Needed

- Will want to recommend Level 2 most of the time.
- Do not have NRCS indicate that "cessation of cropping is sufficient" on CPA-6 from when construction is needed/desired. Results in \$0 CRP funds for restoration.



Practice (Construction) Funds

RIM – Practice Payment (Reimbursement)

- \$600 per acre (RR-8 Wetland Restoration Areas)
- This max may be exceeded To be determined on a case by case basis in consultation with BWSR engineering and RIM program staff









Practice (Construction) Funds

RIM – Practice Payment (Reimbursement)

- All drained and altered wetland areas should be claimed as RR-8 practice (see Appendix 1 of RIM General Program Guidance document)
- RR-8's should have RR-2a supporting practice if vegetative work is planned within any part of defined wetland area (most always)



CONSERVATION PRACTICE CODES AND DESCRIPTIONS RR-1a Introduced Grasses/Legumes To Be Established RR-5 Diversion RR-1b Introduced Grasses/Legumes Already Established RR-6 Erosion Control Structure RR-2a Native Grasses To Be Established RR-7 Grass Waterway RR-2b Native Grasses Already Established RR-8 Wetland Restoration RR-3a Tree and/or Shrub Planting To Be Established RR-11 Highway Windbreak

- RR-11 Highway Windbreak RR-12 Wetland Creation
 - RR-13 Existing Wetland
 - RR-14 Existing Watercourse/Ditch
 - RR-FP Wildlife Food Plot

RR-3b Tree and/or Shrub Planting Already Established

RR-4a Field Windbreak To Be Established

RR-4b Field Windbreak Already Established



Things That Will Help

- Work with landowners to get contractors hired as soon as information (approved construction plans) are prepared/ provided (even if easement is not yet recorded)
- 6 Contractor Workshops Recently Conducted







Preparing and Scoring MN CREP CP23 and CP23a Applications





Section A. Restoration Benefits – Maximum Score 50 points

Factors Affecting Section Scoring

- Landscape (Type of Wetlands Being Restored)
- Number and Size of Restorable Wetlands
- Functional Gain from Identified Restorations
- Extent of Upland Buffer Included

Two Parts of the Section (can only score in one area)

- Depressional Wetland Landscape Setting
- Non-Depressional Wetland Landscape Setting





A. RESTORATIO	Score								
Wetland Con	dition →	Effectively Drained	Partially Drained	Farmed Only		Size of Largest Basin (acres)			Upland : and Ratio
	No. of Basins	Check one (if applicable)	Check one (if applicable)	Check one (if applicable)		Check one (if applicable)			eck one oplicable)
 Restorable Depressional Wetlands (Basins)	1 2 3 4 5 6 ≥ 7	☐ 10 ☐ 15 ☐ 20 ☐ 25 ☐ 30 ☐ 35 ☐ 40	☐ 6 ☐ 10 ☐ 14 ☐ 17 ☐ 21 ☐ 24 ☐ 28	☐ 3 ☐ 5 ☐ 7 ☐ 9 ☐ 11 ☐ 13 ☐ 15	AND	 6 0 6-10 7 11-20 15 21-30 20 31-40 25 >40 30	AND	<1:1 ≥1:1 ≥2:1 ≥3:1 ≥4:1	 0 2 6 8 10

OR

	Wetland Con	dition \rightarrow	Effectively Drained	Partially Drained	Farmed Only			
		Wetland Acres	Check one (if applicable)	Check one (if applicable)	Check one (if applicable)			
	Restorable Non-	< 10	5	3	1			
	Depressional	10 - 40	9	6	2			
	Wetlands	41 - 80	1 2	5 8	4			
		81 - 120	1 6	1 1	6			
		≥ 121	20	1 4	5 8			

Total Upland : Wetland Ratio							
	eck one plicable)						
<1:1	0						
≥1:1	2						
≥2:1	6						
≥ 3:1	8						
≥4:1	1 0						

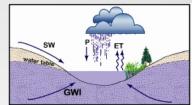
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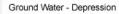


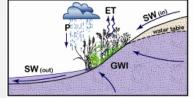


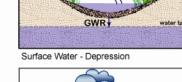
Definitions

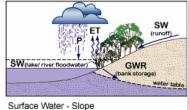
- ★ Depressional Wetlands
 - Non-Depressional Wetlands
- **+** Farmed Only Wetlands
 - Drained Wetlands
 - **>** Effectively Drained
 - Partially Drained
- ★ <u>Basin</u>
- ★ Size of Largest Basin
 - Total Upland to Wetland Ratio



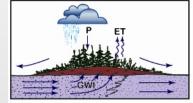






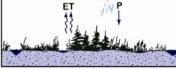


Ground Water - Slope

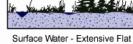


Ground Water - Extensive Flat

Precipitation ET = Evapotranspiration SW = Surface Water



GWI = Ground Water Inflow GWR = Recharge to Ground Water





Depressional Wetlands - Basins















Non- Depressional Wetlands (Not Basins)







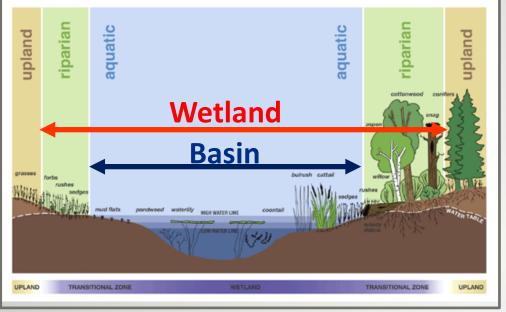
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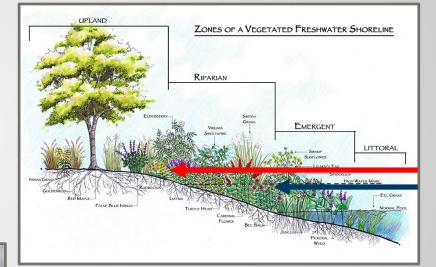
<u>Basin</u> - The basin shall be determined as the area of restored **<u>ponded</u>** water (temporary or permanent) under <u>normal conditions</u> of a **depressional wetland**.

To claim for scoring - Clear evidence of a basins presence on LiDAR or other supporting documents/resources is needed



Identifying Restorable Wetland Areas







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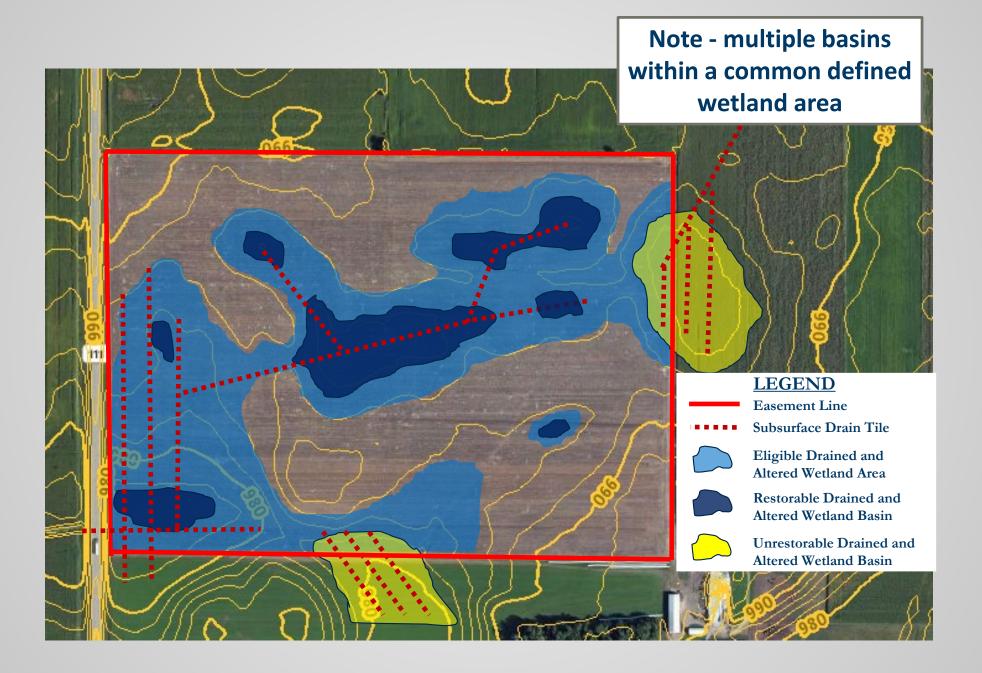


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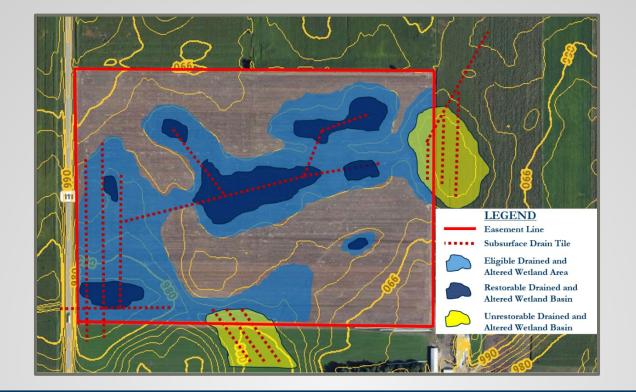
<u>Size of Largest Basin</u> – Refers to the size of the largest depressional wetland basin than can be restored as part of the application (see basin definition).











A. RESTORATION BENEFITS (maximum score capped at 50)

Score

47

Wetland Con	Wetland Condition \rightarrow		Partially Drained	Farmed Only		Size of Largest Basin (acres)		Total Upland : Wetland Ratio	
	No. of Basins	Check one (if applicable)	Check one (if applicable)	Check one (if applicable)		Check one (if applicable)		Check one (if applicable)	
Restorable Depressional Wetlands (Basins)	1 2 3 4 5 6 ≥7	10 15 20 25 30 25 30 40	6 10 14 17 21 24 28	▼ 3	AND	< 6 □ 0 6-10 ▼ 7 11-20 □ 15 21-30 □ 20 31-40 □ 25 >40 □ 30	AND	<1:1 0 \geq 1:1 2 \geq 2:1 6 \geq 3:1 8 \geq 4:1 10	



Application Checklist

APPLICATIONS WITH CP-23 AND/OR CP-23a—additional documentation:

Map 3

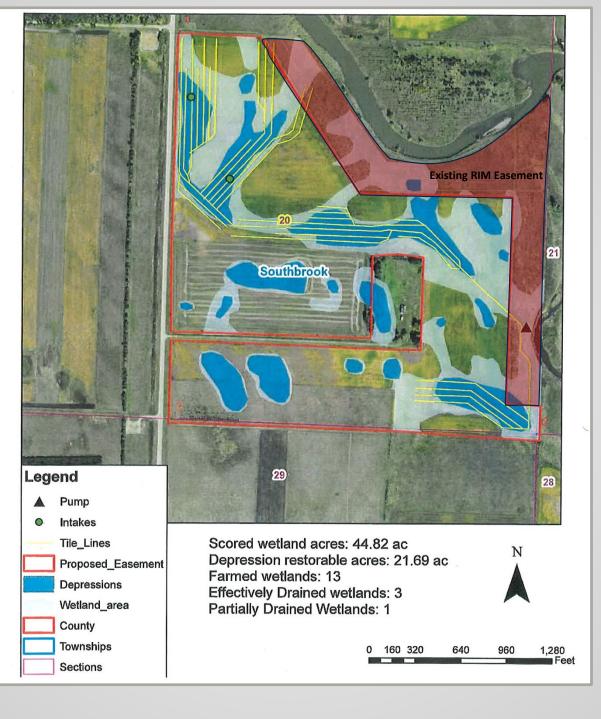
- Documentation identifying any drainage components (tile, ditches, pumps, etc.)
- Types and locations of basic wetland restoration strategies that are anticipated such as tile blocks, tile outlets, tile reroutes, pump removal, ditch plugs, embankments, scrapes, etc.
- Location of all program eligible drained/altered wetland areas. If the application contains eligible drained/altered wetlands that are unsuitable for scoring, identify them separately from scored wetland areas. If depressional (ponded) areas exist within wetland areas and are used in scoring, indicate them as well.

Map 4

- LiDAR information for application area
- Think about scoring and how this information supports it
- Some flexibility allowed depending on site

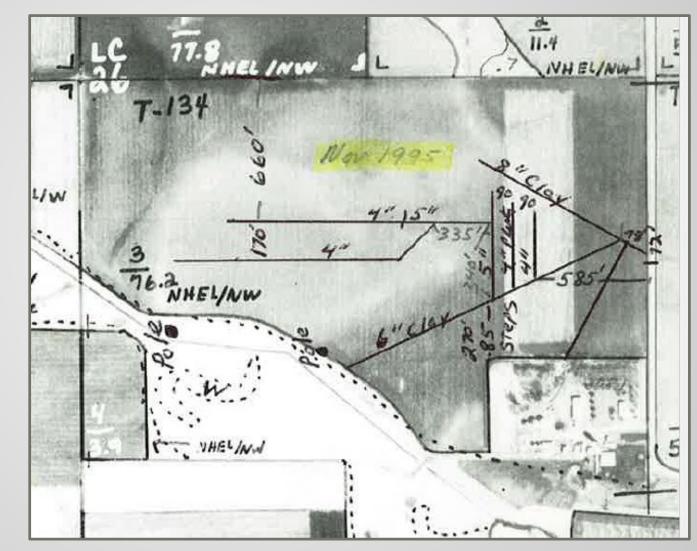


Good Example



Keys to Preparing a Successful Application





Provide copies of actual tile maps when available



Questions?











Voucher Form Updates

/2020)								
	NM COST-SHARE VOUCHE							
PAYEE INFORMATION (Che	ck if name and address change)	В.	B. PROJECT INFORMATION					
ame:		I.D. N	umber					
ohn Doe								
ddress:		BWSR (Status	SE ONLY: Funding	BWSR USE	ONLY-ENG APPROVAL :			
2345 Example Ave.			PIRF Funded		~			
ity, State, & Zip		Prad	ice Type (one only)	Practice Area(s)	Arres Completed:			
. Paul MN, 55155								
COST	Basis of Request		Type of Re	quest	Completion Date:			
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- Updates to the form: The update that you will notice the most, are drop down menus for practice types, as well as drop down menus for partner payments. We tried to include the most used partners, but we do have an 'other' option if none of the listed options fit.
- Vouchers can now be submitted electronically to the RIM general email address <u>bwsr.rim@state.mn.us</u>, if you have any questions before submitting feel free to reach out to me.



Run	COST-SHARE VO	oucher & P	PRACTIC	E CERT	IFICATIO	on for/	1	
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John Doe					_	_		
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City, State, & Zip			/ P	actice Type	e (one only	Practice	e Area(s)	Acres Completed:
St. Paul MN, 55155								
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MN CREP

4. <u>Terms of the Conservation Plan Payment</u>: Reimbursement payments will be made up to program limits for installing conservation practices as described in the Conservation Plan. This payment shall be paid to the Grantor or designated individual and any assigned co-payee(s) listed below after final acceptance of the conservation easement by the State. Payments for installing conservation practices shall be made upon receipt of a cost-share voucher from the local soil and water conservation district (SWCD) approving the costs incurred and certifying satisfactory completion of practice installation. If the conservation easement is not accepted by the State, the State is not obligated to pay for any associated conservation practice costs.

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Name and Address of Payee		Co-payee(s)
John Doe		
12345 Example Ave.)	
St. Paul MN 55155		

During the application phase, whoever is indicated as the payee on item #4
from the agreement, should match what is sent up on the voucher form in
section A. This can expedite the payment process by avoiding the need to
submit additional W9's to create a vendor.



Thank You!

If you have additional questions or training needs, contact Dusty Van Thuyne or Sharon Doucette.

dusty.vanthuyne@state.mn.us; 651-508-0000

sharon.doucette@state.mn.us; 651-539-2567