

SWCD WATER POLLUTION ABATEMENT COST-SHARE PROGRAM POLICY: WELL ABANDONMENT

PURPOSE

To abate water pollution in the County. To provide financial assistance for landowners to properly abandon a well by sharing the costs. This funding assistance is to help aid the landowner in avoiding the difficulties of monetary hardship that can result with providing the total necessary funds for the abandonment.

GENERAL POLICY

The eligibility and administration procedures included in the SWCD Water Pollution Abatement Cost-Sharing Program Policy, are applicable with the following exceptions:

1. SWCD well abandonment cost-share funds shall not exceed \$750.00 per well to an individual applicant. SWCD cost sharing shall not exceed 90% of the total cost of the approved project. In addition, the approved cost-share maximums are as follows:

WELL SITE CONDITIONS		COST-SHARE MAXIMUMS	
PUMP	PIT/DUG	<100 feet depth	≥100 feet depth
Absent	Absent	\$300.00	\$600.00
Absent	Present	\$600.00	\$750.00
Present	Absent	\$400.00	\$650.00
Present	Present	\$650.00	\$750.00

When SWCD cost-share funds are used in addition to other sources of cost-share funds, the SWCD cost-share amount shall be limited to the total necessary to bring the total cost-share from all sources to 90%.

2. Wells eligible for county cost share funds are limited to wells that are currently not in use and have not been in use for a minimum of fifteen months. Wells that are currently in use are eligible if recent drinking water tests determine the well to be unsafe. Wells that do not qualify above, but are an immediate and apparent threat to ground or drinking water are also considered eligible. Wells that are required to be abandoned because of property transfer, remodeling or construction, or that are being required to be abandoned by a unit of government are not eligible for cost-share funds.
3. A "Water Pollution Abatement Plan" means a SWCD approved document which identifies the type of well to be abandoned (i.e. drilled unconsolidated or bedrock formation, driven point, dug, well pit, diameter, total depth, standing water depth), and the method of permanent abandonment. The location of the well shall also be described in the Plan.
4. Unless otherwise specified in this policy, all permanent or temporary well abandonment procedures must be in full compliance with Chapter NR 812.26 Well and Drillhole Abandonment, Wisconsin Administrative Code.
5. Wells abandoned with bentonite chips must be filled by a licensed well driller or plumber to be eligible for cost sharing. In addition, the person to perform the abandonment must attend a SWCD well abandonment technical session (WATS). Required attendance to WATS may be waived upon proof of prior formal technical training regarding the proper abandonment methods when using bentonite chips.
6. Temporary abandonment of a well is an eligible practice under the SWCD Well Abandonment Program.
7. The SWCD staff shall be notified two days prior to the filling of the well to insure all necessary paperwork is complete.
8. Alternative funding sources, other than Priority Watershed funds, shall be fully utilized prior to, or in lieu of, SWCD cost-share funds.
9. Preliminary LCC approval authority is given to SWCD staff. SWCD staff approvals shall be reported at the next LCC meeting.