

DOOR COUNTY SOIL and WATER CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT

Water Pollution Abatement Cost-Sharing Program Policy

PURPOSE

To abate water pollution in the county. To provide monetary incentive to landowners by sharing in the cost of the installation of practices which will abate water pollution. Cost-share funds may also be used for other conservation projects by action of the LCC.

ROLE OF SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT PERSONNEL

To serve as the agent of the Land Conservation Committee in administering the program.

To provide technical assistance in developing a water pollution abatement plan with the applicant. To advise cost-share applicants of all options available to them.

To present applications to the LCC with recommendation for their approval or disapproval.

To inspect installation of the project for final approval as for compliance of minimum requirements and specifications of the water pollution abatement plan and program policy.

ROLE OF THE LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

To make preliminary and final approval of all eligible applications.

ELIGIBILITY OF APPLICANT AND PROJECT

Units of Government are not eligible for cost-sharing.

A definite probability that the proposed project will significantly reduce existing or potential water pollution, rather than private benefits such as convenience.

The project will be of an enduring nature.

Installation of the project shall not begin before preliminary grant application approval is given by the LCC.

Installation of the project shall not begin before the Water Pollution Abatement Plan (construction plan) is approved by the SWCD.

Cost-share recipients must agree to maintain, and operate, the pollutant control practice for a minimum of ten years.

Failure to maintain the pollutant control practices in accordance with all minimum requirements and specifications of the water pollution abatement plan, may subject the funds recipient, except for circumstances beyond the control of the recipient, to complete repayment of all SWCD cost-sharing funds received and jeopardize the landowner's future eligibility for SWCD, state or federal cost-sharing funds and/or technical assistance.

GENERAL FUND ADMINISTRATION

SWCD cost-sharing shall not exceed 70% of the total costs of an approved project. SWCD cost-share funds may be utilized to cost-share 70% of the remaining costs after other sources of cost-share funds are applied. Cost-share rates may be adjusted in special circumstances by action of the LCC.

When SWCD administered cost-share funds are used in addition to other sources of cost-share funds, the SWCD administered cost-share amount shall be applied last and shall be limited to an amount which results in the total cost-share received from all sources to not exceed 100% of eligible costs. The SWCD 100% total cost-share maximum shall

apply to, and include only, those items deemed cost-share eligible costs by the cost-share program(s) administered by the SWCD.

SWCD cost-share funds shall not exceed \$3,000 per year to an individual applicant, for all projects except for barnyard runoff control systems and manure storage facilities which shall have a \$5,000 maximum. For nutrient management cost-sharing, an annual upfront payment of up to \$7,000 is permissible, with a maximum breakdown of \$1,750 per year for four years. Cost-share limits may be adjusted in special circumstances by the action of the LCC.

The cost-share applicant will provide copies of invoices (and estimated applicant's in-kind contribution), of labor, materials, equipment use and other costs incurred during construction before any cost-sharing funds may be distributed. Proof of payment, which includes canceled checks and contractor lien waivers, and other evidences of payment, will be required prior to the issuance of cost-share grants.

All cost-share grant approvals expire on December 31 of the year that approval was given by the LCC. Carry-over of approved cost-share grants from one calendar year to the next may be approved by the LCC at the applicant's written request.

Cost-share payments shall be paid following the completion of the project according to the Water Pollution Abatement Plan. The LCC may approve partial grant payments, at the applicant's written request, if the project will not be completed on schedule due to circumstances beyond the control of the applicant or to facilitate proper installation of the project at a modified installation schedule.

Failure to comply with all the conditions of the cost-sharing program policy will result in the applicant's forfeiture of eligibility to receive a cost-share grant under this program.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE

Applicant's may apply for cost-share funds at the SWCD office by completing, and submitting, a Request of Cost-Sharing form.

Application denials are final and subsequent applications for the same or substantially similar proposed projects will not be accepted.

VARIANCE PROCEDURE

The LCC may approve a variance from a requirement of this policy upon written request of the applicant if the LCC determines that a variance is essential to effect program objectives and where special circumstances make a variance in the best interest of the program. The LCC will consider such factors as good cause, circumstances beyond the control of the applicant and financial hardship.

DEFINITIONS

"Water Pollution" means the presence in water of dissolved or suspended substances, of such character and in such forms, amounts, or concentrations that the water is rendered injurious to human life, harmful to commercial or recreational use, or harmful to fish, bird, animals or plant life.

"Water Pollution Abatement Plan" means a document which provides necessary and appropriate drawings, maps, pictures and descriptions of soils, waters and other relevant natural features; identifying management practices which are to be undertaken in order to abate such pollution, including drawings, design standards and specifications; and a time schedule for accomplishing the plan objectives.

ADOPTED BY THE LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE – 7/08/09