



United States Department of Agriculture



Minnesota

Natural  
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# 2022 Farm Bill 14 and Farm Bill 18 RCPP Sign Up

11/16/21 | Jessica Weis

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# RCPP Agenda



- **MN Bulletin**
- **Important Dates**
- **Guidance Documents**
- **FA Funds**
- **TA Funds**
- **TA Responsibilities**



# MN Bulletin



- **MN Bulletin 300-22-09: Guidance for Implementation of FY22 RCPP Land Mgt Contracts for MDA-Irrigation Partnership to Protect Groundwater**
  - Emailed April 28, 2022



# Important Dates – Program Delivery Schedule

- **Sign up May 5 – June 17, 2022**
- **Farm Business Management Letter – June 17, 2022**
- **Prioritization Worksheet – June 21, 2022**
- **Assessment and Ranking Deadline – July 15, 2022**
- **Application Pre-Approvals/Intent – July 20, 2022**
- **Application Approvals – August 12, 2022**
- **Contract Obligation Deadline – September 2, 2022**



# Guidance Documents

- [RCPP Land Management - #2365 MDA IPPGW - All Documents \(sharepoint.com\)](#)



## RCPP Land Management

Home + New Upload Edit in grid view Share Copy link

Project Contract Guidan... Partner Project Agreeeme... RCPP LMR Payment Inbox RCPP Notice of Funding ... RCPP LMR Modification ... Edit

Project Contract Guidance Materials > #2365 MDA IPPGW

Name	+ Add column
2022	
2365_IPPGW_Map.pdf	

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# Guidance Documents

- [RCPP Land Management - #2365 MDA IPPGW - All Documents \(sharepoint.com\)](#)
  - Guidance Document
  - Farm Business Management Letter
  - Workload Prioritization Worksheet
  - Payment schedule
  - Map



# Guidance Documents

- **Guidance Document**

- 20 eligible counties:
  - Becker, Benton, Cass, Dakota, Douglas, East Otter Tail, Grant, Hubbard, Kandiyohi, Meeker, Morrison, Pope, Sherburne, Stearns, Stevens, Swift, Todd, Wadena, West Otter Tail, and Washington



# Guidance Documents

- **Guidance Document**

- Payment caps

- For example: The payment cap for 449 regardless of what scenarios are selected over the life of the contract is \$6,900.00. This means that all \$6,900.00 could be scheduled in one year or up to three years.
    - Reminder, Intermediate or Advanced IWM needs to be scheduled at some point even if the payment cap has been met. This follows the prioritization worksheet.





# Guidance Documents

- **Guidance Document**

- Applicability

- When scheduling 442 and/or 449 irrigation history requirements apply. The land must be irrigated 2 of the last 5 years. (Note: Irrigation waivers may be considered)
    - Management practices 329, 340, 345, and 590 are only eligible on irrigated land where 442 and/or 449 is scheduled.
    - Exception: Scheduling 442 and/or 449 is not a requirement when planning the following supporting practices on adjacent non-irrigated land. 351, 372, 374, 430, 441, 533, 642



# FA Funds



- **Total \$2,457,350.00**
  - 2022 - \$784,850.00
  - 2023 - \$1,224,850.00
  - 2024 - \$447,650.00





# TA Funds



- **TA-E Partner - \$245,735 (7%)**
- **TA-I Partner - \$491,470 (14%)**
- **TA-I NRCS - \$315,945 (9%)**



# TA Crosswalk



<b>A Generalized Crosswalk: Aligning SA TA-I Practices to NRCS 9 Step Planning Process</b>	
<b>TA-I Practice Code and Name</b>	<b>Implementation TA Tasks – Must be directly related to a potentially viable RCPP funded FA application or contract, and not be otherwise precluded like are TA-E items (per APF), and partner administrative expenses (per Statute.)</b>
RTIP001 – TA-I, Negotiated Pre-Application	Pre-application assistance may assistance to producers in completion of application, establishing FSA records, and or field work to support eligibility or screening. <b>(Reminder: this activity does NOT include outreach to producers or general meetings to raise producer awareness of project, which are TA-E or contribution tasks.)</b>
RTIP002 – TA-I, Negotiated Planning	Steps 1-7 Note: TA-I Planning, Design tasks require adherence to NRCS planning procedures and or practice standards as described for each agreement in Attachment 5 (and or valuation methods attached to individual deliverables). Where partners will not complete entity of a plan or design (e.g. partner will provide a range heath assessment in support of a grazing plan to be prepared by NRCS planner), Attachment 5 must also identify specific requirements of items partner will complete to earn payment.
RTIP003 – TA-I, Negotiated Design	Steps 5, 6, 8 (Design)
RTIP004 – TA-I, Negotiated Installation	Step 8 (Installation)
RTIP005 – TA-I, Negotiated Checkout	Step 8 (Checkout) Note: TA-I Checkout, requires NRCS job approval authority as checkout determines eligibility of completed work for FA payment. Not generally delegated to partners.
RTIP006 – TA-I, Negotiated Post-Application	For post-application assistance Note: Post application assistance is not outcome assessment or monitoring (which are TA-E/Contribution tasks); RTIP006 should be used only where NRCS FA policy requires follow-up e.g. easement monitoring, 5% spot checks (with appropriate separate of duties)





# TA Responsibilities



- **TA-I Partner (14%)**

- RTIP001 - TA-I, Negotiated Pre-Application
  - This service including travel and staff time is being conducted by the lead partner and supporting partners to follow up on TA-E outreach activities. Pre-Application activities includes meeting and discussing with producers their ag operation goals, if they are located in the geographic scope of the project, if their goals fit RCPP project #2365, and to help establish FSA records, eligibility and/or screening. The goal of pre-application is to receive from an eligible producer a signed NRCS-CPA-1200 RCPP Application. The partner will be able to provide the NRCS a list of producer names and addresses that they have worked one-on-one with to determine if they fit the project and when a NRCS-CPA-1200 is signed, tie an application number to the producer name and address.
- RTIP002 - TA-I, Negotiated Planning
  - Conservation Planning steps are described in the National Planning Procedures Handbook (NPPH) linked above.
  - Conservation planning Steps 1 - 7 will be tied back to an NRCS-CPA-1200 RCPP application number with an eligible project participant.
  - Negotiated Planning is a service that is being provided by the lead partner through their supporting partners' certified conservation planners to coordinate conservation planning with eligible project producers.
  - The final product will include an assessment of the benchmark conditions, natural resource assessments and models, conservation notes, final conservation plan and map, or other NRCS approved products that lead to a conservation plan identified in the NPPH.
  - The District Conservationist will review and concur with conservation planning products.





# TA Responsibilities



- **TA-I Partner (14%)**

- RTIP003 - TA-I, Negotiated Design
  - Conservation Planning Steps 5, 6, and 8 conservation practice designs and Implementation Requirements (IR) will be tied back to a project eligible NRCS-CPA-1200 RCPP application number.
  - Practice Designs/IRs will meet NRCS Standards and Specs found in the Minnesota eFOTG linked above.
  - Designs will be completed by TSPs or SWCD planners with job approval authority, or designs/IRs and will be reviewed for technical adequacy and approved by NRCS field staff with job approval authority.
- RTIP004 - TA-I, Negotiated Installation
  - Conservation Planning Step 8 practice installation will be tied back to an active NRCS-CPA-1202 RCPP contract number.
  - Oversight of practice installation will be conducted by SWCD staff with the skills and abilities to perform the task.
  - Implementation will follow the approved practice design/IR and meet conservation practice standards as described in the Minnesota eFOTG linked above.





# TA Responsibilities



- **TA-I Partner (14%)**

- RTIP005 - TA-I, Negotiated Checkout
  - Conservation Planning Step 8 Conservation Practice Checkout will be tied back to an NRCS-CPA-1202 RCPP contract number.
  - Practice checkout will be conducted on-site by SWCD planning staff with appropriate job approval authority. If SWCD does not have job approval authority, NRCS will conduct checkout responsibilities. NRCS negotiated additional TA-I as a result.
  - NRCS General Manual 450, Party 407, Subpart B policy ([NRCS eDirectives - Part 407 - Documentation, Certification, and Spot Checking \(usda.gov\)](#)) will be followed to red-line final implemented designs/IR and will be reviewed by the District Conservationist prior to the NRCS applying technical adequacy to the NRCS-CPA-1245 Payment Application. Incomplete red-line checkouts will be returned to the SWCD staff before payment will be made to the producer.



# TA Responsibilities



- **TA-I NRCS (9%)**

- Collaborate with lead partner and supporting partners
- Manage PPA and SA
- Project-related communications and coordination activities
- HEL/WC, FTE, AGI, and NEPA-related compliance activities
- Eligibility determinations and other producer contract activities ie contract management
- May be asked where SWCD doesn't have JAA to complete Steps 1-8
- May need to track completed work per application/contract

