

**Lower Platte North
Natural Resources District**

**Soil & Water Conservation Program
(SWCP)**

(LPNNRD Board Approved 4/8/13)

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**LOWER PLATTE NORTH NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT POLICY
SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION PROGRAM (SWCP)
(LPNNRD Board Approved 4/8/13)**

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this program is to provide guidance for administering state and local cost-share assistance as an incentive to landowners for the construction and application of soil and water conservation practices.

II. ELIGIBILITY, DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS

- A. Any landowner within the Lower Platte North NRD (LPNNRD), individual, partnership, corporation or other legal entity is eligible to apply for SWCP funds.
- B. Cost-share program funds will be approved and distributed based on the number of high priority applications received each fiscal year (July 1 - June 30).
- C. Funds may be reserved and targeted toward high priority watersheds and projects as determined and approved by the LPNNRD Projects Committee and Board.
- D. Unobligated or unused SWCP funds in priority watersheds may be redistributed to other areas if not used in a timely manner.
- E. The LPNNRD may supplement the Nebraska Soil and Water Conservation Program (NSWCP) state funds with local funds. The amount of local funds budgeted and available will be decided each year based on the need and available LPNNRD local funds.
- F. Landowners will be expected to apply for available federal cost-share funding when applicable and available, before state and local cost share funding is approved. It is also generally expected to approve available state funding before local funds are considered.

III. APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

- A. Eligible SWCP applicants are to apply at their local NRCS Service Office (also the LPNNRD office if for tree planting or windbreak renovations). Applications with appropriate NRCS comments/recommendations are to be forwarded to the NRD for consideration.
- B. Applications will contain sufficient information to include:

1. Date construction (summer or fall) is expected to be completed.
2. Type of Project to be installed.
3. Whether the proposed project is located in a priority watershed area or if other special conditions exist.
4. An aerial photograph showing the project location.
5. Total estimated cost-share needed for the project.
6. When applying for a small dam or grade stabilization structure, the estimated percent of land treatment draining to the proposed site (Attachment C).

IV. ELIGIBLE HIGH PRIORITY PRACTICES

A. **Establishment of warm and cool season grass on crop land**

B. ***Construction of new terrace systems** (includes replacement of functionally obsolete terrace systems in excess of 20-years old).

C. **Construction of sediment & water control basins when part of a new terrace system** (see attachment A)

D. **Construction of Diversions when part of a new terrace system or dam** (Attachments A & C)

E. **Planned Grazing Management Systems** (Attachment B)

F. *** Installation of Tiled Outlets into Existing Terraces** (includes the storage portion of the terrace).

G. **Water Impoundment and Grade Stabilization Structures** (Attachment C)

H. **Irrigation Water Management** (Attachment D)

I. **Tree/Shrub Planting** (Only when NRD stock is provided and planted by the District) for riparian buffer strips, field, acreage and farmstead windbreaks and for wildlife habitat 200- tree/shrub minimum is required for riparian buffer strips, and for field and farmstead windbreaks. A 300-tree/shrub minimum is required for wildlife habitat.

J. **Windbreak Renovation** (Attachment E)

K. **Supplement Approved EQIP Contracts in Priority Areas**

When federal EQIP funds are approved in LPNNRD priority areas, the District may approve additional local and/or state cost share not to exceed the established maximum cost share percentage approved for a practice or the specific area.

L. **New Grass Waterways** (when part of an approved terrace system)

M. **Replacement of Grass Waterways** (will be considered on a case-by-case basis, if over 10-years old and part of an approved terrace system)

N. **Waterways on 100% No-tilled Fields**

O. **Emergency Repair of Conservation Practices** (Attachment F)

***NOTE:** Cost share only applies toward the tile outlet portion of approved terrace systems to establish a stable outlet. A stable outlet is considered to be on land that has a 2% grade or less. A landowner may choose to install a portion of the outlet without cost share assistance provided that it meets NRCS design standards and specifications.

V. INELIGIBLE PRACTICES

A. Any application that would allow the installation of terraces on land that has established

- grass will not be approved.
- B. The LPNNRD will not approve any conservation practice that will encourage the conversion of grassland, including CRP land, to crop land. This includes CRP land in the last year of the contract.
 - C. Rebuilding grassed waterways or tile outlets if under 10-years old. Note: Cost share for replacing grass waterways will be considered on a case-by-case basis when over ten (10) years old and part of an approved terrace system (see IV. M.).
 - D. Work that is considered normal maintenance of existing conservation practices.
 - E. Rebuilding terraces on existing terrace lines.
 - F. Terraces systems on Class VI land or greater.
 - G. Sediment removal from small dams or other impoundments and/or from adjacent lands of said structures.
 - H. Work already started or constructed (prior to approval).
 - I. Livestock Waste Pits.
 - J. The District will not provide cost share for practices on farmland that does not have a certified Nitrogen operator or on irrigated land where the irrigated acres are not certified by LPNNRD.
 - K. Any practice on fields that are determined sod-busted by the NRCS.
 - L. Repair of damage to conservation practices that is determined to be landowner negligence in performing normal maintenance as outlined in NRCS specifications.

VI. APPLICATION SUBMITTAL, APPROVAL & PROJECT COMPLETION PERIODS

A. Summer Construction Applications (For June, July, August project completion):

To insure LPNNRD consideration, **applications for summer construction must be submitted by March 1.** Most generally, the Projects Committee will review, rank and recommend summer application approvals at the March/April Projects Meetings. However, consideration and approval of summer applications received after March 1 may occur depending on available funds. All **summer construction projects are to be completed by August 31 and final paperwork submitted to the LPNNRD office by September 30.** The Projects Committee will review all uncompleted or unpaid applications at the end of each period to determine application extensions and/or cancellations are warranted. Work not started or substantial completed before August 31 may be canceled and/or receive reduced cost share as determined by the Committee/Board.

B. Fall Construction Applications (September through December project completion):

To insure LPNNRD consideration, applications for fall construction must also be received **by July 1.** Most generally, the Projects Committee will review, rank and recommend fall construction application approvals at the **July/August** Projects Meeting. However, additional approvals for fall work may occur after July/August as funds are available. **Approved fall applications will be given until December 31 to complete the work.** The Committee will review all unpaid applications at the end of each year to determine application extensions and cancellations.

C. Grass, Tree Planting, Windbreak Renovation Applications:

Application periods for grass establishment will be approved based on NRCS seed and

seeding specifications. Applications for trees are generally considered for approval just before the spring planting season. For approved Windbreak Renovation applications, tree removal will normally be completed in the summer or fall so the site will be ready before spring tree planting.

D. Small Dam Application (Attachment C):

To ensure consideration for approval, the **District will need NRCS/NRD technician recommended applications by December 15.** The Projects Committee will review and prioritize and submit a recommendation for approval at the January Board Meeting.

E. LPNNRD Signatures on Approved Applications & Related Documents:

The Manager, Assistant Manager and Projects Coordinator are authorized to sign Board approved SWCP applications, Completion and Document Certifications and other related documents on behalf of the LPNNRD._

VII. 2013 PRIORITY AREAS & ELIGIBLE COST-SHARE PERCENTAGES

Priority areas for 2013 listed below are given first consideration for District cost share assistance. Each year, high priority practice applications located in priority areas are reviewed and approved by the Projects Committee and Board for the upcoming program year. The cost-share assistance payment may not exceed a total of the eligible percent for an area when combining all sources of federal, state and local assistance.

A. LPNNRD Lands North of the Platte River (Platte, Boone, Madison, Colfax & Dodge Counties): 75% - 90% (Shell Creek is also in EPA 319 grant area - actual percent depends on priority area and practice as defined in approved grant application)

B. Lake Wanahoo (Sand/Duck Creek) Watershed: 75% – 90% (Also EPA 319 grant area - actual percent depends on approved practice as defined in approved grant application)

C. Czechland Lake watershed: 75% (Also EQIP WQI & EPA 319 grant areas)

D. Homestead Lake Watershed: 75%

E. Cottonwood Creek Watershed: 75% (Also EQIP WQI & EPA 319 grant areas - SWCP & 319 Grant Supplements WQI EQIP contracts with additional 25% for 2012 -2014 up to \$47,000 per year)

F. Wahoo Creek watershed: 75%

G. Skull Creek Watershed: 75% (It is anticipated to alternate this watershed with the Bone Creek Watershed every two years)

H. Watersheds Above All Existing and Planned LPNNRD Flood Control Structures (non-public structures that are or will be operated and maintained by the District): 75% - 90% (actual percent depends on priority area and practice as defined in approved grant application)

I. Watershed above proposed flood control dam Skull Creek site #31: 75%

J. Watersheds Above Proposed or Completed Landowner SWCP Cost Share Dams (that will or have received LPNNRD assistance): 75% - 90% (actual percent depends on priority area and practice as defined in approved grant application)

K. Voluntary Compliance of Verified Erosion & Sediment Complaints District-wide: 75%

- L. **All High Priority Practice Summer Applications District-wide (June, July and August): 75%** (possibly up to 90% if in designated in specific high priority areas)
Note: High priority summer work not completed by August 31 will need to be re-approved for fall construction.
- M. **Irrigation Water Management (Flow Meters) District-wide Priority: 50%**
- N. **Tree/Shrub Planting District-wide: 75%**
- O. **Windbreak Renovation - District-wide: 50%**
- P. **Emergency Repair of Conservation Practices District-wide: 50%**
- Q. **Voluntary Compliance of Verified Erosion & Sediment Complaints District-wide: 75%**

VIII. COST SHARE PERCENTAGE - PRACTICE EXCEPTIONS

The maximum cost share percentages for most high priority conservation practices will be 75% - 90%, depending on the where the practice is located (**Refer to VII. above**). The exception to this is for the following high priority practices:

- A. **Water Impoundment Dams and Grade Stabilization Structures: 65% - 75%**
 (Attachment C)
- B. **Irrigation Water Management (Flow Meters): 50%** (Attachment D)
- C. **Windbreak Renovation Practice: 50%** (Attachment E)
- D. **Emergency Repair of Conservation Practices: 50%** (Attachment F)

IX. MAXIMUM COST SHARE LIMITS

A. **General Maximum Limit:**

A cooperator may receive up to \$12,500 SWCP funds within any program year (July 1 - June 30) for most high priority practices unless otherwise specified below.

B. **Priority Areas with Federal or State Grant Funding:**

Within priority areas that are receiving reimbursable federal or state grant funding, the maximum limits may be exceeded to expedite use of those special funds within the specified grant period time line.

C. **Planned Grazing Systems – Livestock Well Pumping Plants:**

The maximum limit for planned grazing systems is \$12,500, however a maximum cost share limit of \$5,000 will also apply toward the livestock well and well pumping plant components (combined) when part of the approved system (Attachment B).

D. **Water Impoundment & Grade Stabilization Structures:**

The maximum limit for water impoundment dams and grade stabilization structures is \$15,000 upon NRCS recommendation and Projects Committee/Board approval on a case-by-case basis (Attachment C).

E. **Irrigation Management Practices (Flow Meters):**

The maximum limit for irrigation management practices is \$1,500 per landowner per year (Attachment D).

F. **Windbreak Renovation:**

The maximum limit for windbreak renovation is \$1,000 per landowner per year (Attachment E).

G. Emergency repair of conservation practices:

The maximum limit for emergency repair of conservation practices is \$1,000 per landowner per year (Attachment F).

X. AMENDMENTS FOR ADDITIONAL COST SHARE

When applications are approved under the maximum limit, additional funds, up to the limit, may be approved if notified by the landowner or technician before construction. LPNNRD staff is authorized to approve an additional \$1,000 above the original approval (up to the maximum limit) if the request is received from the landowner and/or technician prior to construction. Staff will notify the Projects Committee of any staff authorized changes.

XI. APPLICATION EXTENSIONS

Extensions may be granted for inclement weather or for other conditions beyond the landowner's control. All extension requests will be considered by the Projects Committee and Board on a case-by-case basis. No more than one 6-month extension can be approved for the same application.

XII. CONSERVATION PRACTICE DESIGN, STAKING & PERMITS

- A. All conservation measures must be designed and staked by Natural Resources Conservation Service personnel (NRCS), NRD technicians or other NRCS approved technical service providers. All completed conservation work must be according to the NRCS design standards and specifications as outlined in the NRCS Procedures Handbook for LPNNRD.
- B. The landowner is responsible for contacting the NRCS office to secure funds and schedule the layout (design and staking) of the approved work
- C. The landowner is responsible for obtaining all required local, state and federal permits.

XIII. SUBMITTING BILLS & PAPERWORK ON COMPLETED WORK

- A. The landowner is responsible for submitting all bills to the NRCS office. The NRCS will calculate the eligible cost share payment (on NSWCP form # 3) and submit completed and properly signed paperwork to the LPNNRD.
- B. Drawings of the completed practices to be provided by the NRCS/NRD technician on an aerial photo and submitted with the payment request.

XIV. COST SHARE PAYMENTS

- A. SWCP contract payments will be based on the cost-share practice payment schedule rates in force at the time the application was approved. The cost-share percent may be lowered if summer work is extended into fall.
- B. The LPNNRD calculates and pays cost-share on terraces only by the linear foot, not by the cubic yard.
- C. The cost-share percentages are calculated by multiplying the eligible cost share percentage by the approved cost share practice payment schedule rate or actual cost whichever is less. The cost-share assistance payment may not exceed a total of the eligible percent for an area when combining all sources of federal, state and local

assistance.

D. Splitting Cost-Share Percentages: When a field splits two cost-share priority areas, the corresponding eligible cost share percentage will be applied to each portion of the field being treated. When a field splits into a non-priority area, that area will be allowed up to 50% cost share assistance, if the non-priority area is 50% or less of the entire field being treated.

XV. PAYMENT OVERRUNS AND LANDOWNER REQUESTED REFUNDS

A. Payment Overruns:

Overruns of up to 10 % above the approved project amount may be approved by staff. Overruns above 10% will need Board approval. Payments are not to exceed the maximum cost share limits set for the various practices. Exception to this is when payments are combined with grant funds in priority areas.

B. Landowner Refunds:

If an SWCP practice is purposely damaged, removed or destroyed within ten years after completion (25 years for a small dam), the cooperators who received cost share, will be requested to reimburse the District, all or a portion of the SWCP cost share funds, as determined by the Projects Completion (25 years for a small dam), the cooperators who received cost share will be required to reimburse the District all or a prorated portion of the funding assistance, as determined by the Projects Committee and Board.

SWCP ATTACHMENT A
SEDIMENT & WATER CONTROL BASINS AND DIVERSIONS

This attachment is to help clarify the use of sediment & water control basins and diversions as an eligible cost-share practice. Basins and diversions are to be used as a part of an approved conservation system according to the NRCS technical guides and field manual.

- A. Sediment & water control basins and diversions may be approved as a high priority practice when in conjunction with terraces or dams.

- B. Basins and diversions will be considered a high priority practice when a part of a terrace system or in conjunction with a 100% no-till system. A 100% no-till system must have the goal of controlling soil erosion to soil replacement levels (“T”). A 100% no-till system is accepted land treatment when ephemeral and gully erosion is controlled or “T” is met. Basins and/or diversions built separately on a terraced field are not considered a part of the terrace system.

- C. Basins and diversions not part of a terrace system, may be considered as a high priority practice on fields where the NRCS or NRD technician determines terraces are not feasible and/or they offer the most practical solution to a problem. This will be determined by the Projects Committee on a case-by-case basis.

**LOWER PLATTE NORTH NRDSWCP ATTACHMENT B
PLANNED GRAZING SYSTEM PRACTICE**

I. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

- A. An applicant must have at least 40 acres of connecting grassland to be developed into at least two grazing cells with planned rest periods in accordance with Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) recommendations.
- B. Applicants must complete a minimum 10-year planned grazing system developed by the NRCS prior to submitting an application.
- C. Applicants are required to sign a 10-year cost-share agreement with the LPNNRD. (Form NSWCP-10)
- D. All approved cost-share items must meet NRCS Standards and Specifications.
- E. Funds for approved practices may be used on CRP lands if such lands are in the last year of the CRP contract.
- F. The amount and type of eligible practices approved for each application will be determined by the overall grazing system plan and the most cost effective alternative available.
- G. Cost-share on eligible practices will be based on the approved cost-share percentage times the approved practice payment schedule cost share rate or 75 percent of the actual cost, whichever is less.

II. ELIGIBLE PRACTICES

- A. **Cross Fencing:** Only fencing designed to facilitate cell division is eligible for cost-share (Standard 382 specifications). Boundary fences are not eligible for cost-share.
- B. **Livestock Water Dugouts:** Dugouts will be sized by daily animal needs and Nebraska Engineering Handbook Standards.
- C. **Livestock Well Installation:** Livestock wells will be sized to provide a maximum of 15 gallons of water per animal-unit per day within each cell. No cost-share will be available for domestic or irrigation wells. Well test holes are not eligible for cost-share.
- D. **Pumping Plants for Livestock Wells** (As outlined by State NSWCP Guidelines): While a cooperator may receive up to \$12,500 SWCP funds toward completing a Planned Grazing System, a maximum cost share limit of \$5,000 will apply toward the livestock well and well pumping plant component (combined) if part of the approved system.
- E. **Livestock Water Tanks:** Tanks sized according to standard storage requirements in the NRCS Technical Guide, Standard 614, are eligible.
- F. **Livestock Water Pipeline Installation**

**LOWER PLATTE NORTH NRD
SWCP ATTACHMENT C
GUIDELINES FOR WATER IMPOUNDMENT (SMALL DAMS) &
GRADE STABILIZATION STRUCTURES**

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this program is to assist landowners with the construction of water impoundment and grade stabilization structures on their property.

II ELIGIBLE PROJECT ITEMS

A. Eligible Project Costs Include:

1. Construction (Not to include site preparation)
2. Seeding (Structure and emergency spillway)
3. Fencing when required by the NRCS

III. LAND TREATMENT REQUIREMENT

To be eligible for cost-share assistance, a minimum of 75% land treatment is required within the watershed above each proposed structure site. To calculate this percentage, non-highly erodible land is considered treated.

Land Treatment Definition:

Land treatment is defined as any practice or combination of practices (i.e. terraces, no-till etc.), that control soil erosion rates on highly erodible soils to soil replacement levels or less (Soil replacement level or “T” = 5 tons/acre in the LPNNRD). Any approved NRCS farm plan that treats land to “T” qualifies under this definition (8/2/00 Projects Committee).

IV. COST-SHARE PERCENTAGE AND MAXIMUM ASSISTANCE

The cost-share percent for approved applications outside selected priority areas is up to a maximum of 65%. For small dams approved within selected LPNNRD priority areas, the cost-share rate is up to a maximum of 75%. Eligible assistance will be based on the eligible cost-share percent times the county average costs or 75% of actual costs whichever is less. The maximum cost-share limit will be \$15,000 upon NRCS recommendation and Projects Committee approval on a case-by-case basis (see Special conditions below).

Special conditions: The Board may approve a higher cost-share percentage and increase the maximum assistance if an application site is above an LPNNRD recreation area, within a targeted watershed or when other special conditions exist. The Board may also approve a lower cost-share percent and decrease the maximum assistance for structure sites of lower priority. **Special** conditions will be evaluated by the Board on a case-by-case basis.

V. PRIORITY AREAS

Priority-areas for small dams and grade stabilization structures include the following watersheds:

- A. Sand & Duck Creek

- B. Wahoo Creek
- C. Skull Creek
- D. Shell Creek
- E. Bone Creek
- F. Watersheds above Public Recreation Structures (i.e. Czechland Lake, Homestead Lake, Lake Wanahoo)
- G. Above all existing LPNNRD Operated and Maintained Watershed Structures.

VI. APPLICATION ELIGIBILITY AND SIGN-UP

- A. Any landowner within the Lower Platte North NRD who is an individual, a partnership, a corporation or other legal entity.
- B. Applications may be submitted any time during the year; however, only NRCS inspected and recommended applications received by December 15, will ensure consideration for the following construction year. Unapproved applications will expire on May 1 of each year, requiring a new landowner application for future consideration. The Projects Committee will review, prioritize and submit a recommendation for approval at the January Board Meeting.
- C. The applicant shall apply at the county NRCS office on forms provided by the LPNNRD. An aerial photo showing the proposed project location must accompany the application. The application must be signed by the applicant and sent to the LPNNRD before December 15 of each year to insure consideration for the immediate year's construction.
- D. At the time of application, the NRCS will be requested to provide an estimate of drainage acres, percentage of land treatment present, quantities and costs for the project.

VII. APPLICATION EVALUATION AND TENTATIVE APPROVAL

- A. Application sites will be inspected by LPNNRD and NRCS representatives to evaluate feasibility, benefits and cost. Benefits to be evaluated will include but not be limited to: flood control, grade control, erosion and sediment control, wildlife habitat enhancement, livestock water, and protection to public roads and property.
- B. The Projects Committee will most generally review, prioritize, and make recommendations on applications at their January meeting.
- C. The NRD Board of Directors will generally approve, reject, or table each request at the January Board Meeting.
- D. After receiving LPNNRD approval, the applicant will be required to submit a \$500 deposit to the NRD before a survey or design is started. The deposit will be returned to the applicant after project completion. If the deposit is not received by February 1, the application will be canceled. If the applicant withdraws from the project after the design has been complete, the deposit will be retained by the LPNNRD unless conditions in XII. B. apply.
- E. In February of each year, the Natural Resources Conservation Service will be requested to proceed with survey and design of approved projects.
- F. After receiving LPNNRD approval, the applicant will be given two years to obtain

necessary permits, complete the structure and submit all required paperwork. If the project is delayed due to adverse weather conditions, or other conditions beyond the applicant's control, an extension may be granted by the LPNNRD Board of Directors. Extensions will be considered by the LPNNRD Board on a case-by-case basis.

VIII. LAND RIGHTS, AGREEMENTS AND PERMITS

- A. The applicant is responsible for obtaining any required easements and any required federal, state

and local (i.e. NDNR, Army COE, County Zoning) permits.

- B. The applicant is responsible for the relocation or modification of water lines, power lines and telephone lines and pay the costs involved.
- C. The applicant will be required to enter into a 25-year cost-share agreement with the LPNNRD. This agreement states that the applicant will refund cost-share funds if the project is removed, altered, or modified without the consent of the LPNNRD.

IX. STRUCTURE DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION

- A. The NRCS will be requested to survey, design, and supervise all structures approved by the LPNNRD Board.
- B. Construction will not commence until formal notice to proceed is given by the LPNNRD. This notice will be given after NRD Board approval, and after receiving the applicant's deposit and signed cost-share agreement.

X. FINAL APPROVAL AND PAYMENT

- A. Final Approval and Payment will occur when:
 - 1. The project is completed and certified by the NRCS/NRD technician to meet all NRCS standards and specifications.
 - 2. The completed application form NSWCP-3 is signed and returned to the LPNNRD with a copy of all project bills.

XI. OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

The landowner is responsible for all operation and maintenance after project construction.

XII. SMALL DAM DEPOSIT REQUIREMENT & REIMBURSEMENT

- A. The applicant will be required to submit a \$500 deposit to the NRD before a survey or design is started. The deposit will be returned to the applicant after NRCS approves the completed project and all paperwork is submitted and approved by the District. If the deposit is not received by February 1, the application will be canceled. If the applicant withdraws from the project after the design has been complete, the deposit will be retained by the LPNNRD unless conditions in B. apply.
- B. If a landowner does not proceed with the small dam project because the final cost estimate is 40% or more over the original project estimate, the LPNNRD will return the \$500 deposit based on financial hardship. All other conditions will be reviewed by the Projects Committee on a case-by-case basis.

**LOWER PLATTE NORTH NRD
SWCP ATTACHMENT D
IRRIGATION MANAGEMENT PRACTICES**

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of these practices is to conserve groundwater by improving water use efficiency on irrigated lands.

II. IRRIGATION PLAN REQUIREMENT

An irrigation water management plan will be required for the field where eligible practices are used. The plan is to identify the best management practices needed to improve water use efficiency, control erosion and runoff, and prevent deep percolation. **The irrigation water management plan must be completed prior to LPNNRD's consideration for approval.** Standards and specification will be based on the NRCS Irrigation Guide and the Field Office Technical Guide. Operators will agree in writing to utilize the irrigation water management practice for ten years.

III. ELIGIBLE IRRIGATION PRACTICE COMPONENTS

A. **Flow meters** - are eligible for cost share as a separate practice (Refer to Flow Meter Cost-Share Process under V. below). Cost share does not apply toward flow meter installation.

IV. COST-SHARE ASSISTANCE

A. Each budget year, the Board will determine the total funds available for Irrigation Practices.

B. **Cost-share Percentage:** The cost-share percent will be 50% of county average costs or actual costs, whichever is less.

C. **Cost-share Limits:** The NRD will cost-share on irrigation management practices, up to \$1,500 per landowner per program year. Depending on the number of applications and/or the availability of funds, the District may impose further restrictions as determined necessary.

V. LPNNRD FLOW METER COST-SHARE PROCESS FOR SWCP

1. Cooperator will complete NSWCP-14 & Regular NSWCP Form @ NRCS office.
2. NRCS will forward application forms to NRD for Projects Committee & Board Approval.
3. Once Approved NRD will contact cooperator and NRCS.
4. Cooperator will need to contact NRCS for Guidelines and NE-ENG-83 form (Up and Downstream Pipe Diameters) and (Irrigation Management practices for 10 years).
5. Cooperator may purchase and have meter installed with guidelines (NRCS/Manufacturer).
6. Cooperator must return completed NE-ENG-83 form W-9 form and bill/invoice to NRCS.
7. NRCS checks installation and then forwards approved forms and bills to NRD for Projects Committee and Board approval of payment. Payment must first be approved by both the Projects Committee and Board. Then application of payment is forwarded to the State of

Nebraska. Payment comes from State of Nebraska or LPNNRD.

Installation and Reporting Requirements

Flow meters are required to be installed to manufacturer's specifications. Reporting annual meter readings to the LPNNRD by January 31 of each year is required.

**LOWER PLATTE NORTH NRD
SWCP ATTACHMENT E
WINDBREAK RENOVATION PRACTICE**

I. PURPOSE

To provide for the restoration of farmstead, acreage or field windbreaks that have been rendered substantially ineffective due to the death of trees or other windbreak plantings as a result of weather, disease, or other natural causes.

II. PLAN REQUIREMENT

A windbreak renovation plan is to be based on a plan reviewed and approved by a forester of the Nebraska Forest Service. The forester is to certify that the windbreak has lost its effectiveness, should be renovated and that they approve the plan of renovation.

III. SITE PREPARATION

Tree removal off the site is required to be accomplished in late fall/early winter at least before the planting occurs the following spring. The only area that is replanted with a new windbreak receives cost share for removal costs. Tree removal work should not be initiated until the application is approved by the Lower Platte North NRD and the landowner agrees to replant the windbreak in the same area.

IV. COST SHARE RATE AND MAXIMUM ASSISTANCE

The windbreak renovation cost-share payment will not be based on a cost greater than the county average unit cost adopted by the USDA-FSA. The renovation practice is not to include the replanting of the windbreak because of different cost-share percentage rates. The windbreak planting cost-share will be separate. The Lower Platte North NRD will cost share at a 50% rate, up to \$1,000.

Tree planting cost-share is eligible for riparian buffers, farmsteads, acreages, field and livestock protection windbreaks. Windbreaks must contain 200 or more trees and shrubs which are purchased through and planted by the NRD. When the planting is strictly for wildlife habitat, a minimum of 300 trees/shrubs purchased and planted by the NRD is required.

**LOWER PLATTE NORTH NRD
SWCP ATTACHMENT F
FOR EMERGENCY REPAIR OF CONSERVATION PRACTICES**

I. PURPOSE

On occasion, the LPNNRD Board of Directors may approve local SWCP funds for the Repair of conservation practices damaged from intense rainstorms. The decision for approving emergency repair funds will be considered annually, with the location and total amount of available funds dependent on the severity of storm damage to conservation practices in designated areas in the District. When approved by the Board, Emergency repair funds will be allocated in the following manner:

- A. The LPNNRD Board will consider approval of the amount and eligible area for emergency repair funds, with a recommendation from the Projects Committee. Typically, this will occur on or prior to the LPNNRD September Board Meeting.
- B. Only eligible Conservation Practices, two years old and newer that were originally built to NRCS design specifications, will be eligible for cost-share assistance.
- C. The committee will consider approval of emergency repair assistance only when it is determined by an NRCS technician that the damage was not due to landowner negligence in performing normal maintenance as outlined in NRCS O&M specifications.
- D. To be eligible for emergency repair funds, the landowner must be following an approved NRCS farm plan.
- E. Prior to LPNNRD approval, applications will receive recommendations from LPNNRD and NRCS staff. The LPNNRD Projects Committee will prioritize application practices and areas.
- F. Eligible assistance will be 50% of the approved amount up to a maximum of \$1,000 per landowner per program period.