



**GROUNDWATER NITRATE WORK GROUP  
TUESDAY OCTOBER 27, 2020 @ 8:00 A.M  
CALL: 1-312-626-6799  
MEETING ID: 897 0799 4604**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89707994604?pwd=dTNmVjhQT2hlM25mcDZzZjYV2xiZz09>

Meeting ID: 897 0799 4604

Passcode: 578605

One tap mobile

+13017158592,,84872543373#,,,,,0#,,907185# US (Germantown)

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### Dial by your location

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If you are interested in providing public comments on items on this agenda, you must submit your comments by noon on Friday October 23rd, 2020. To submit a public comment use the following email: [baker@co.rock.wi.us](mailto:baker@co.rock.wi.us).

### Join from a telephone:

- On your phone, dial the phone number provided above
  - Enter the meeting ID number when prompted, using your dial-pad.
  - Please note that long-distance charges may apply. This is not a toll-free number.
- 
- Supervisors: Please identify yourself by name
  - Please mute your phone when you are not speaking to minimize background noises
  - We are new at holding meetings this way, so please be patient

Instructions for the hearing impaired –

<https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/207279736-Getting-started-with-closed-captioning>

**GROUNDWATER NITRATE WORK GROUP  
TUESDAY OCTOBER 27, 2020 @ 8:00 am**

**AGENDA**

1. Call Meeting to Order
2. Approval of Agenda
3. Approval of Minutes – September 1, 2020 Meeting
4. Communications and Announcements
5. Well Sampling – Update
  - a. Possible site for well sampling on irrigated crop land
6. Status of 9KE Plan Development.
7. Producer Led Watershed Group Development - Update
8. NR 151 Groundwater Nitrate Standard Technical Advisory Committee - Update
9. **Possible Action Item.** Consideration of development of an application for the NRCS Regional Conservation Partnership Program - Alternative Funding Arrangement (RCPA-AFA) for conservation practice implementation.  
(Fact sheet and two FY2020 project summaries are attached)
10. Next Meeting Date, Time, and Location (Avoid Second and Fourth Tuesday Mornings)
11. Adjourn

The County of Rock will provide reasonable accommodations to people with disabilities. Please contact us at 608-757-5510 or e-mail [countyadmin@co.rock.wi.us](mailto:countyadmin@co.rock.wi.us) at least 48 hours prior to a public meeting to discuss any accommodations that may be necessary.



**GROUNDWATER NITRATE WORK GROUP  
TUESDAY September 1, 2020 @ 8:00 AM  
ZOOM MEETING**

**Minutes**

- 1. Call Meeting to Order.** Chair Sweeney called the meeting to order at 8:00 am.  
**Members present:** Wes Davis, Pat Mullooly, Dave Rebout, Lou Peer, Rich Bostwick, Rick Richard and Al Sweeney.  
**Members Excused:** Nick Baker  
**Others present:** Andrew Baker, Dave Gundlach, Rick Wietersen, and Chris Newberry
- 2. Approval of Agenda.** Wes Davis moved the agenda as presented, seconded by Rich Bostwick. **Motion Carried.**
- 3. Approval of Minutes from June 23, 2020 meeting.** Lou Peer moved the minutes for the June 23, 2020 meeting as presented, seconded by Rick Weiterson. **Motion Carried.**
- 4. Communications, Announcements.** None at this time.
- 5. Monitoring Well Sampling Updates/County Wide Trends.** Rick Wietersen presented for the monitoring wells sampling being conducted at the County Farm and the non-community wells in the study area. Weiterson informed the group that the wells were sampled yesterday. Wietersen noted the groundwater level in the observation wells dropped slightly but, remain high and steady. Wietersen also noted the groundwater flow was high. The amount of nitrate in the Compeer and park wells continues to drop faster than the others. Wietersen noted again that the lower levels of nitrate could be from dilution from more water being in the aquifer.
- 6. Status of 9KE Plan.** Chris Newberry gave an update to the timetable of the plan. Newberry indicated that the livestock inventory was completed. Newberry noted that he has started to work on models STEPL, EVAAL, and ACPF.
- 7. Producer Led Watershed Group Development - Update.** Chris Newberry informed the committee of the last two meetings of the group. Newberry indicated the group formed a five member board and had 14 members. Doug Rebout was chairman but, he will step down due to the conflict of interest being on the DATCP Board. The name of the group is Farmers on the Rock. The group has decided to go ahead and submit an application for cost-share money for DATCP.
- 8. Action Item.** Approval of a Letter of Support for the creation of "Farmers on the Rock" producer led watershed group. Wes Davis moved the action item to approve and send the letter as presented, seconded by Pat Mullooly. **Motion Carried.**

9. **Action Item.** Recommendation to the Land Conservation Committee: Approval of Memorandum of Understanding with “Farmers on the Rock” producer led watershed group for grant application and program administration. Rich Richard moved the recommendation to approve and sign the memorandum as presented, seconded by Dave Rebut. **Motion Carried.**
10. **Next Meeting Date, Time, and Location.** Date and time were set for October 27<sup>th</sup>, at 8:00am, which would be following post-harvest well sampling. Place is to be determined by Covid-19 restrictions.
11. **Adjourn.** Pat Mullooly moved to adjourn the September 1, 2020 meeting of the Groundwater Nitrate Workgroup at 8:28 am, seconded by Dave Rebut. **Motion Carried.**

Respectively Submitted,

Chris Newberry  
Senior Conservation Specialist

**Minutes are not official until adopted by the Groundwater Nitrate Workgroup.**

G:/soil/office/groundwater nitrate/2020/GW09012020MI

# Regional Conservation Partnership Program

Natural Resources Conservation Service



*USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service offers voluntary Farm Bill programs that benefit both agricultural producers and the environment.*

## Overview

The Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) promotes coordination of NRCS conservation activities with partners that offer value-added contributions to expand our collective ability to address on-farm, watershed, and regional natural resource concerns. Through RCPP, NRCS seeks to co-invest with partners to implement projects that demonstrate innovative solutions to conservation challenges and provide measurable improvements and outcomes tied to the resource concerns they seek to address.

## Benefits

RCPP makes available a variety of NRCS conservation activities to help partners, ag producers, and private landowners address local and regional natural resource challenges.

## How It Works

Partners apply to NRCS for RCPP project awards. Once projects are selected, NRCS works with partners to set aside a certain pool of funding for an awarded project. Producers, landowners, and partners then enter into producer contracts and supplemental agreements with NRCS to carry out agreed-to conservation activities.

## Who is Eligible?

Only eligible organizations interested in partnering with NRCS on conservation projects can develop applications for the RCPP competition. The lead partner for an RCPP

project is the entity that submits an application, and if selected for an award is ultimately responsible for collaborating with NRCS to successfully complete an RCPP project.

See the RCPP funding announcement for details about what types of organizations are eligible to apply.

RCPP projects must be carried out on agricultural or nonindustrial private forest land or associated land on which NRCS determines an eligible activity would help achieve conservation benefits.

## Conservation Activities

RCPP projects may include any combination of authorized, on-the-ground conservation activities implemented by farmers, ranchers, and forest landowners. These activities include:

- Land management/land improvement/restoration practices
- Land rentals
- Entity-held easements
- United States-held easements
- Public works/watersheds.

## How to Apply

Interested partners must apply through the RCPP portal ([nrcs.my.salesforce.com](https://nrcs.my.salesforce.com)). Applications are being accepted through December 3, 2019.

Once RCPP projects are selected, producers and landowners can apply to participate in projects that cover their geographic area. Interested producers should visit their local USDA Service Center to see if their land is included in the scope of any existing RCPP projects.

## What's New in the 2018 Farm Bill

RCPP is now a standalone program with its own funding—\$300 million annually.

NRCS may award up to 15 Alternative Funding Arrangement projects, which are more grant-like and rely more on partner capacity to implement conservation activities.

RCPP now has two funding pools—Critical Conservation Areas and a State/Multistate pool.

RCPP partners must develop and report on environmental outcomes.

## More Information

For more information, visit [nrcs.usda.gov/farmbill](https://nrcs.usda.gov/farmbill) or [farmers.gov](https://farmers.gov).

Find your local USDA Service Center at [farmers.gov/service-locator](https://farmers.gov/service-locator).

# Natural Resources Conservation Service





## Soil and Water Outcomes Fund

**Lead Partner: Ag Technology and Environmental Stewardship Foundation**

Lead State: IA

Partner States: IL, OH

NRCS Funding: 7,307,000

Partner Contribution: 3,740,000

The Agriculture Technology and Environmental Stewardship Foundation will incorporate an innovative pay-for-performance approach to compensate producers for water quality and soil health improvements using independently verified environmental outcomes. RCPP funding and partner contributions will create a pool of pay-for-performance funds used to pay for the verified nitrogen and phosphorus reductions and verified emissions reductions resulting from practice implementation. The project aims to support the implementation of conservation practices on 180,000 cropland acres in Illinois, Iowa and Ohio.

## Vermont Pay-for-Phosphorus Program

**Lead Partner: Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets**

Lead State: VT

Partner States:

NRCS Funding: 7,000,000

Partner Contribution: 11,941,050

This project will use a pay-for-performance approach to pay farmers statewide for voluntary phosphorus load reductions that exceed average reductions required for nonpoint source agriculture in the Lake Champlain Basin. The VPPF Program will reduce phosphorus loading by an estimated 40,000 total pounds over the course of four years, with an estimated 150 enrolled farms. Shifting the focus from payment for practices to payment for performance will make the value of phosphorus reductions tangible to farmers, empower farms in their conservation efforts and improve the quality of Vermont's water resources.

*Examples of  
RCPP-AFA Projects*