



Sedgwick County
Conservation District

Agreement with Cost-Share Applicants

Sedgwick County Conservation District goal:

Accountability for State funds used for State **Water Resource** Cost-Share Program (SWRCSP), Fiscal Year 2023 (funding available beginning July 1, 2022)

1. **Most Cost-Effective Alternative:**

When two practices will provide the same level of soil and water conservation benefits, all cost-share will be based on the most cost-effective practice. If a landowner chooses to install concrete structures rather than a grassed waterway, cost share will be based on the treatment which costs less.

Exceptions: restoration practice where it is determined that the existing practices can be feasibly restored.

2. **Cost Share Limitations/Rates:**

Cost-share rates will be 65% of the County Average Cost for most practices and cost-share payment limitations will be a maximum of \$4,500.00 (depending on the practice) per landowner per year.

3. **Expiration Date:**

The Conservation District (CD) and the Division of Conservation, KDA will determine the time frame for completion of cost-share work, with a minimum time of not less than three months and not more than nine months. There will be no extension of time without request to the Conservation District. Extensions will be allowed in cases of extenuating circumstances.

4. **Loss of Funds:**

If the applicant fails to complete installation of the practice in the time frame indicated on the cost-share application, and if payment is lost because of fiscal year encumbrance policies, the owner will not be eligible for cost-share assistance under the SWRCSP for three years.

Exceptions: Severe, extenuating weather conditions, traumatic personal disaster. Permit and design delays are exempt.

5. **Earnest Money:**

To declare sincerity of intent to complete the conservation work to be cost shared on, after the application is approved by Division of Conservation-KDA **and before the applicant starts work on the conservation practice**, the applicant is required to place a deposit of 10% of the amount allocated by DOC for the practice with the Conservation District. **This earnest money must be paid within 3 months of the approval of the application.** Upon completion of the approved practice, the District will refund the deposit. If the conservation work is not completed, the deposit becomes the property of the Conservation District to cover administrative and technical fees. In the event that the practice(s) is/are not installed due to natural or personal disaster, the deposit will be returned to applicant.

6. **Priorities:**

Priorities for cost-share applications will be based on soil loss.

Highest priority will be given to applications with erodible soil or soils with a potential loss greater than 10 tons per acre per year or an index of 8. All applications will be prioritized by NRCS staff.

7. **Restoration of Terraces and Grassed Waterways:**

The District will cost share on restoration if the deterioration is due to normal wear over time or the system is technically antiquated (20 years or older), or at the District Board's discretion.

Exceptions: The District will not cost share if reasonable efforts have not been made to maintain the waterway or terraces. If the unit ownership changes, the operator changes, or some other major change in the farming operation occurs, the District will consider cost share.

8. Broken Sod:

The CD will not cost share on any unit where conservation practices are needed due to conversion of native sod to cropland and/or on highly erodible-CRP Land to cropland unless the CRP contract has expired.

9. Irrigation:

Sedgwick County Conservation District no longer cost shares on irrigation practices.

10. Tile Outlets:

The CD will cost share on tile outlet terrace systems only when a grass filter system is provided to filter out chemicals before they enter the mainstream. If the site is suitable and feasible for a waterway, the Conservation District will pay 65% of the County Average Cost of a waterway up to \$4,500. If a waterway is not a feasible option and the landowner chooses to install a tile outlet, the CD will pay 65% of the county average cost or 65% of the landowners cost whichever is less up to \$4,500.0.

11. General Practice Maintenance:

The applicant must verify in writing that any other conservation practices implemented with SWRCSP funds within the last ten years are being maintained. Spot checks may be made.

12. Terrace Maintenance:

Applicants for construction or restoration of terraces per this application are obligated to maintain the terraces and will be eligible for 65% cost share up to \$4,500.00 per landowner per year.

Landowner's Name _____ Date _____

Operator's Name _____ Date _____

13. Terrace Outlets:

The applicant must verify that any previous waterways constructed using cost-share funds have the terrace systems completed. If not, the applicant is ineligible for more waterway cost share until the terracing is complete for existing waterway and within the three-year timeframe. If all terracing is completed for previous waterway work, or if this application is for a new first-time waterway using cost share, the applicant must agree to construct a terrace system for this cost-share application for a waterway within three years after the waterway is completed.

I agree to construct terraces within three years of waterway completion.

Landowner's Name _____ Date _____

Operator's Name _____ Date _____

NRCS will sign CS-4 Certification/Request for Payment documents for WR.

The above policies were approved and adopted by the Sedgwick County Conservation District Board of Supervisors on October 13, 2015 and revised in 2022.

I hereby indicate that I have been apprised of all policies listed above and agree to them where appropriate.

Applicant _____

Date _____