

United States Department of Agriculture



Natural Resources Conservation Service
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To Be Sent Via Electronic Mail

April 15, 2004

MINNESOTA BULLETIN NO. 300-04-17

SUBJECT: LTP – EQIP – GSWC Funds

Purpose. To provide the process for use of Ground and Surface Water EQIP funds in 2004.

Expiration Date. September 31, 2004

This bulletin transmits the 2004 MN process for approving Ground and Surface Water Conservation (GSWC) EQIP funds. MN received \$204,900 of GSWC funds for 2004. The purpose of these funds is to promote ground and surface water conservation by providing cost-share and incentive payments to improve irrigation systems, enhance irrigation efficiencies, convert to less water-intensive agriculture, improve water storage through groundwater recharge, mitigate drought effects, or other water conservation methods.

A participant receives GSWC funds only if it facilitates a net savings in water resources for the producer. Participants must meet the requirement of the land being irrigated 2 out of the last 5 years.

Because of the limited funding, MN will set a highest priority threshold for applications using the Practice Standard 442-Irrigation System, Sprinkler.

For the 1st scoring cut-off (March 22) offices should take applications of Practice Standard 442 with Practice Standard 449-Irrigation Water Management as separate applications and enter into Protracts, attaching these applications to Fund Code EQIP GSWC FA, 78F. Enter the base score from the scoring worksheet (Factors A-J, without the local weighting) in the Protracts application block. For these applications the minimum base application score of 7 points will not apply.

On Tuesday, March 23 the State Office will review all of these applications. The State Office will respond to the field on which applications will receive funding from the GSWC.

Those applications not funded through the GSWC fund would be eligible for regular EQIP funding and should be scored and ranked with all the other regular applications.

It is anticipated that all the GSWC funds will be expended by the 1st cut-off and that separating applications and fund codes will not be necessary for the 2nd or 3rd scoring.

Questions should be directed to your ASTC(FO) or from the Area to Tim Koehler, Assistant State Conservationist.

WILLIAM HUNT
State Conservationist

DIST: ASTC
FO
ARC
ENG(A)
EQIP State Office Team