

Agricultural Wetland Banking Scoping Document Contents

MN Board of Water and Soil Resources, 9-29-11 Draft

The information below should be submitted to the Wetland Conservation Act Local Government Unit (LGU) to begin the wetland bank site review process. Contact the LGU office or your local SWCD/NRCS office for assistance assembling the information.

Contact Information

- ✓ Name, address, phone number, and e-mail address for the project sponsor.
- ✓ Contact information for any consultants involved.

Property Location, Ownership, and Encumbrances

- ✓ A site locator map and the location of the site by township, range, section, and quarter section.
- ✓ Current property ownership and, if different, the bank sponsor's legal interest in the property (easement, contract for deed, renter, possible agreement with landowner, etc.).
- ✓ Describe known legal encumbrances on the property (e.g. utility, drainage, road, or conservation easements; mineral rights; public drainage systems; purchase agreements; etc.).
- ✓ Identify whether any portion of the site has been previously restored via financial assistance from a public conservation program and/or if it is currently enrolled in a conservation program. If so, describe the type of program, the activities completed under the program, the start and end dates of the contract, etc.

Basic Maps and Inventories

- ✓ Current aerial photos, including a site-specific photo and a photo of broader perspective that includes adjacent land areas. For actions dependent on cropping history, all relevant annual photos should be provided.
- ✓ County soil survey map and descriptions for the site, including the identification of hydric soils.
- ✓ The best existing topography map of the site and surrounding area (detailed topographic land survey, LiDAR, or general USGS topographic survey map).
- ✓ Attach recent or past wetland delineations or determinations (if any).

Land Use and Site Description

- ✓ Describe the current, past, and potential future land-use history of the site and surrounding area (e.g. row crops, pasture, forestry/logging, residential, etc.). For agricultural sites, include information on cropping history for the previous 20 years.
- ✓ Identify and describe any features in and around the site that may influence water flow or storage. Include drain tiles, ditches, dams, pumps, bridges, culverts, etc. If possible, identify all features on an air photo. If subsurface drainage tiles are present, attach tile drainage map including size, characteristics (clay, pvc, perforated, non-perforated, etc.), inlets, outlets, and flow directions. Include known establishment and maintenance history for drainage systems.

Restoration Potential

- ✓ Describe the actions that can be taken to establish a wetland bank. (e.g. breaking tile lines, plugging ditches, raising outlets, converting farmland to wetland, removal of sediment, berm construction, restoring vegetation, etc.). Identify on air photo or topographic map.
- ✓ Describe the primary functional benefits that will result. These benefits may be related to wildlife habitat, water quality, water storage, etc.

Note: BWSR is currently developing the forms and procedures for ag wetland banking. Check the BWSR website at www.bwsr.state.mn.us later this fall for updated forms, including scoping document contents.