



# MN CREP Training

February 27, 2020\*

\*This PowerPoint contains edits made after the 2/27/2020 WebEx to reflect revisions on whom to contact with additional questions and/or training needs.

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# Agenda

- MN CREP Summary
- Guidance Document Updates
  - Waiver Requests
  - RIM-Only Lands
  - Buffer Law
- 2020 Signup
- Application Workbook (v08)
- CP-23 and CP-23a Implementation
- CP-23 and CP-23a Scoring and Applications
- Cost-Share Voucher Form



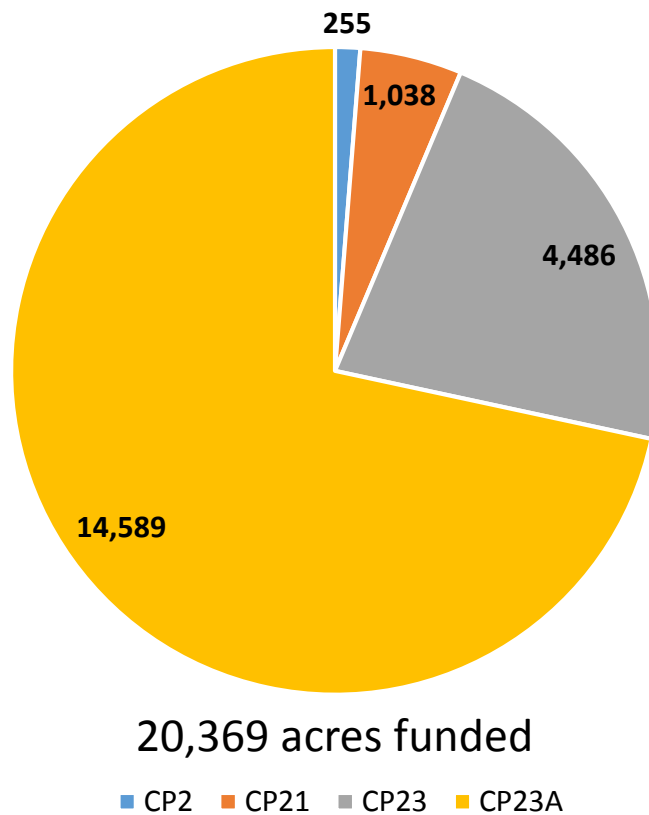
# MN CREP Update Summary To-Date (CRP Acres)

CP	Applications Received	Applications Funded	CRP Acres Submitted	CRP Acres Funded
CP-2	7	4	614	255
CP-21	139	117	1,299	1,038
CP-23	128	115	4,966	4,486
CP23a	294	216	18,318	14,589
<b>Total</b>	<b>568</b>	<b>452</b>	<b>25,197</b>	<b>20,368</b>



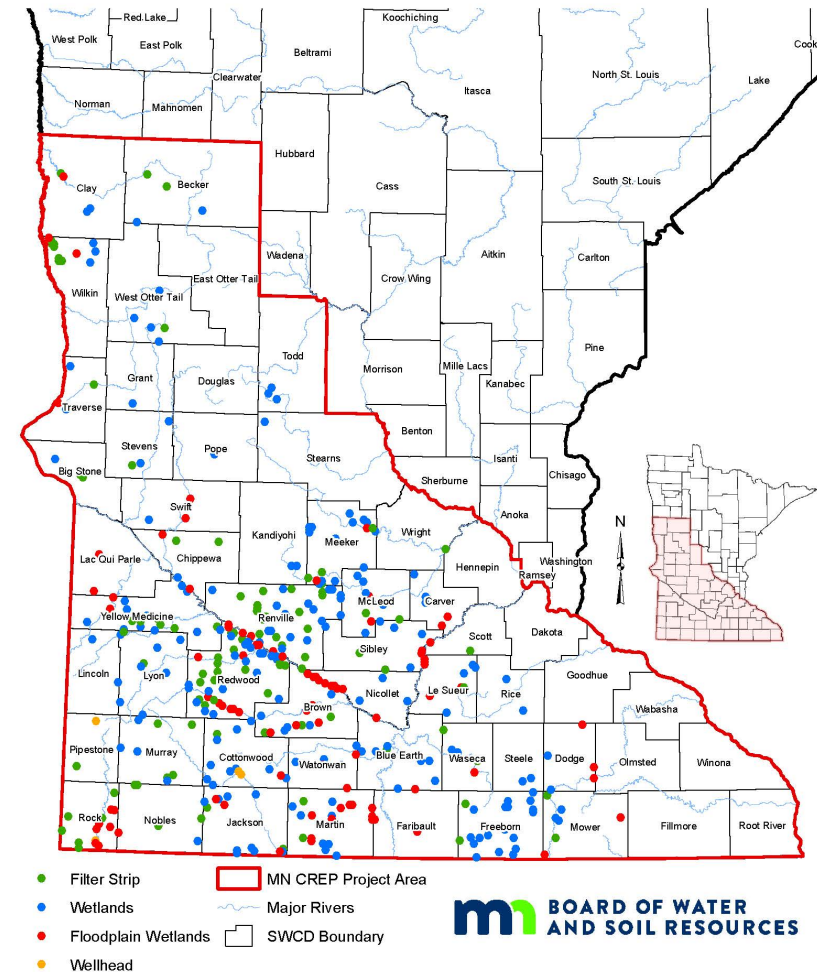
# MN CREP Summary To-Date

CREP Acres Funded (CRP Acres Only)



452 applications funded  
~24,000 acres funded

Minnesota Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (MN CREP)  
Conservation Easements  
Applications Funded Through February 13th 2020





# Updated MN CREP Program Guidance Document

## MN CREP for SWCDs



Minnesota CREP Guidance Materials



**MN Conservation Reserve  
Enhancement Program (CREP)  
Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM)  
General Program Guidance Document  
February 2020**



- [Cultural Resource Process for CP-23 and CP-23a Wetland Practices \(pdf\)](#)
- [CP-2 & CP-21 Scoresheet Instructions \(pdf\)](#)
- [CP-23 & CP-23a Scoresheet Instructions \(pdf\)](#)
- [Questions & Answers \(pdf\)](#)
- [GIS Tips for Mapping Easement Polygons \(pdf\)](#)
- [Payment Estimate Guide \(pdf\)](#)
- [MN Department of Agriculture Corporate Farm Law Webpage](#)
- [MN CREP Easement Application Module Login](#)



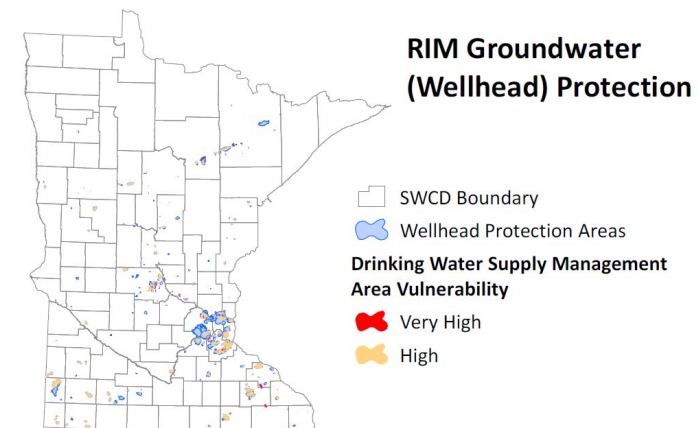
# MN CREP Guidance Clarifications

- Joint Applications:

- When more than one MN CREP application is needed to successfully restore a drained wetland or complex of wetlands
- Limited to:
  - adjoining, already funded and new MN CREP applications where combined enrollment is necessary for restoration

- CP-2 Wellhead Applications:

- 100% of the cropland offered for CRP must be physically located within an approved wellhead protection area
- Only the land within the wellhead protection area is CRP eligible and paid at the MN CREP Cropland rate





# MN CREP Guidance Clarifications

- Enrolling RIM-Only Lands:
  - Appropriate documentation must be completed in the workbook and/or maps provided
  - Total acreage will be verified to ensure acreage is within thresholds listed in the Program Guidance
  - BWSR reserves the right to not approve RIM-Only acres
- RIM-Only Crop and RIM-Only Non-Crop Allowable Categories:
  - Existing CRP Land
  - Other Lands
  - CP-23a Habitat Improvement
  - MN Buffer Law and Lands with Crop History



# MN CREP 8 Acre Waivers

The CRP offer must be greater than or equal to 8 acres in size. If the CRP offer is under 8 acres, it must meet one of the following waiver criteria:

1. Socially Disadvantaged, Limited Resource, or Beginning Farmer or Rancher

At least one person or legal entity on the offer is a socially disadvantaged, limited resource, or beginning farmer or rancher as determined by USDA. The determination will be provided by FSA to the local SWCD.

2. CP-2 offers

The majority (>50%) of the land in the CREP application is physically located within a Wellhead Protection Area (WHPA) identified by the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) AND mapped as very high and/or high vulnerability.

3. CP-21 offers

The CP-21 must be immediately adjacent to a Public Water included on the buffer protection map. The CP-21 will be adjacent to a CREP eligible offer or approved contract. The CP-21 will, at a minimum, meet the required width for filtering sediment, soluble materials and pathogens according to NRCS CP21 Filter Strip Documentation of Suitability and Feasibility Worksheet and the MN NRCS Filter Strip (393) Conservation Practice Standard.

4. CP-23 and CP-23a offers

The CP-23 or CP-23a will be immediately adjacent to already permanently protected land (fee title or easement) or another MN CREP application.





# Additional Waiver Requests

- Waiver requests are available for exceeding RIM-Only percentages and CRP payment limitations.
- Requests for waivers should be discussed in advance with the Private Lands Specialist and must be approved by the Easement Section Manager **prior** to submittal of the MN CREP application.
- For CRP annual payment limitations, the current application must exceed \$50,000 to be eligible for a waiver.
- In the absence of an approved waiver, the enrollment of acres exceeding the limits must be treated as donated lands.



## RIM-Only: Existing CRP

- Enrollment of existing CRP acres is limited to no more than 50% of the acres being enrolled as MN CREP Cropland.
- CRP contracts approved after May 2017 do not qualify as existing CRP for this section.



# RIM-Only: Other Lands

**The total acreage of land categorized as Other Lands is limited to no more than 20% of the acres being enrolled as MN CREP Cropland.**

\*2.1 - Landlocked Areas

2.2 - Minnesota Biological Survey Areas of Biodiversity Significance or the Minnesota Wildlife Action Plan

\*2.3 - Areas Needed to Provide Manageable Easement Boundaries

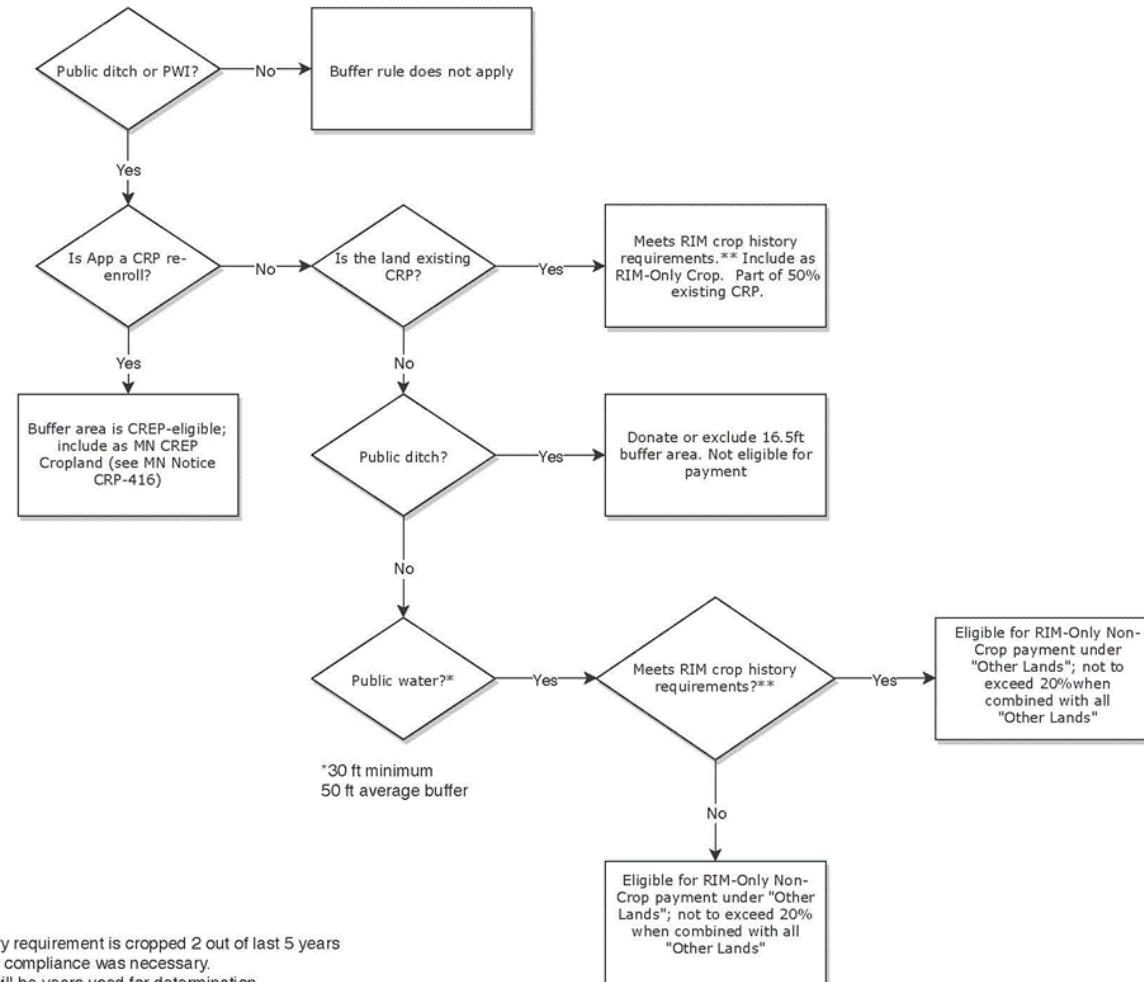
2.4 - Non-Cropped Lands Needed to Enable Wetland Restoration

2.5 - Lands Meeting Crop History within Buffers of Public Waters

\*This does not include large non-crop areas adjacent to a public water



# Buffer Law MN Statute 103F.48 and CREP Eligibility



\*\*Crop history requirement is cropped 2 out of last 5 years before buffer compliance was necessary. 2013-2017 will be years used for determination.



# Scoring Thresholds

- Scoring thresholds from the last Batching Period (8/27/2019) can be used as a guide for new sign-ups

Practice	Minimum Score
CP-2	60
CP-21	27
CP-23	12
CP-23a	40



# Rates and Payment Calculations

- 2018 MN CREP Landowner Payment Rates
- Sent via email on June 28<sup>th</sup>, 2018
- Use these rates for the 2020 sign-ups

<b>2018 MN CREP Landowner Payment Rates</b> <i>June 2018</i> <i>MN Land Economics website data released Jan 2018</i> <i>Metro counties located at the end of this document</i>		<b>2018 MN CREP Cropland Rate</b>	<b>2018 RIM-only CREP Crop Rate</b>	<b>2018 RIM-only CREP Noncrop Rate</b>
<b>County</b>	<b>Township/City</b>			
Clay	Glyndon city	\$ 4,244.85	\$ 3,784.17	\$ 2,193.72
Clay	Glyndon twp	\$ 4,913.35	\$ 4,380.12	\$ 2,539.20
Clay	Goose Prairie twp	\$ 4,161.02	\$ 3,709.44	\$ 2,150.40



# MN CREP Batching Periods

- Batching Period 1
  - March 2 – March 30
- Batching Period 2
  - Beginning sometime in April
- Future batching periods will be announced at a later date





# MNCREP Application Workbook



**v08:** REQUIRED for new 2020 applications (sign-up 53)



**v05 – v07:** accepted ONLY for revisions to 2019 applications  
(sign-up 52)





# MNCREP Application Workbook

How do you know which version you have?

**m**  
BOARD OF WATER  
AND SOIL RESOURCES

**RIM MN-CREP Workbook**  
**Application Documents File**

**EasApp\_v08**

**Instructions:**  
1. If document opens in Protected View, click on Enable Editing button

**PROTECTED VIEW** **Enable Editing**

[Instructions - Menu](#)

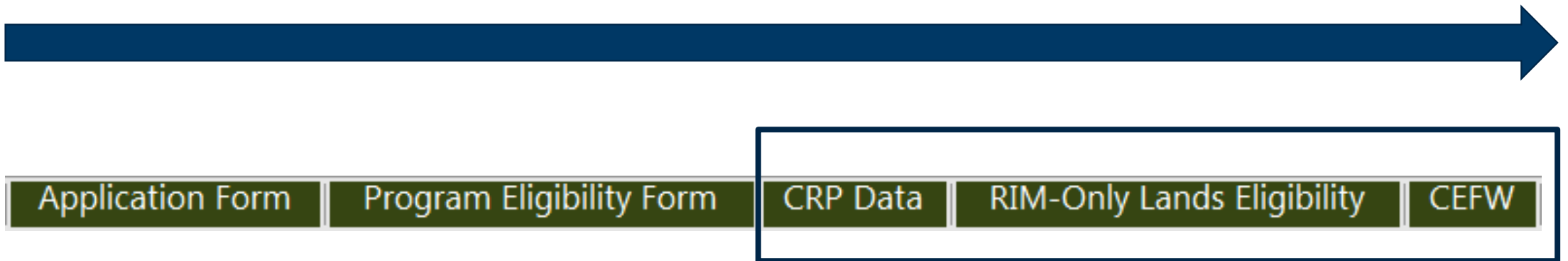
[App Checklist](#)

[Application Form](#)



# MNCREP Application Workbook

## Order for filling out the workbook





# MNCREP Application Workbook

## RIM-Only Lands Eligibility Worksheet

CP29, CP30 and marginal pastureland portions of CP22, CP22B and CP22S are paid at the non-crop rate.

	RIM-Only Crop Acres	RIM-Only Non-Crop Acres	Total	% of MNCREP Cropland acres
<b>1. Existing CRP Land</b>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Was the CRP contract for existing CRP acres approved prior to May 2017?			
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Are any of the existing CRP acres Marginal Pastureland?			



# MNCREP Application Workbook

## RIM-Only Lands Eligibility Worksheet

	RIM-Only Crop Acres	RIM-Only Non-Crop Acres	Total	% of MNCREP Cropland acres	
<b>1. Existing CRP Land</b>	5.00	1.00	6.00	60.00%	<b>Waiver Required</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Was the CRP contract for existing CRP acres approved prior to May 2017?				
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Are any of the existing CRP acres Marginal Pastureland? <b>Enter acres under RIM-Only Non-Crop above</b>				
<b>Easement boundary map must show Existing CRP acres separately from CREP acres. Include CRP expiration date, label acres and identify CRP practice if marginal pastureland.</b>					



# MNCREP Application Workbook

## RIM-Only Lands Eligibility Worksheet

2. Other Lands	RIM-Only Crop Acres	RIM-Only Non-Crop Acres	
2.1. Landlocked Areas	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<p><b>Easement boundary map must show Other Lands separately from CREP area. Label acres and identify Other Lands category.</b></p>
2.2. Biological Significance	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	
2.3. Manageable Boundaries	<input type="text"/>	2.10	
2.4. Needed for Wetland Restoration	<input type="text"/>		
2.5. Cropped Lands within Buffers of Public Waters	<input type="text"/>		
			<p><b>Total</b></p> <p><b>% of MNCREP Cropland acres</b></p>
		2.10	<p><b>2.10</b></p> <p><b>21.00%</b></p>

limited to 20% of MNCREP Cropland Acres

Waiver Required



# MNCREP Application Workbook

## RIM-Only Lands Eligibility Worksheet

	RIM-Only Crop Acres	
<b>3. CP23A Habitat Improvement</b>	<input type="text" value="2.00"/>	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		Has the upland to wetland acre ratio been maximized at 4:1 within the CRP offer?
		<b>Upload CRP CP23A Suitability and Feasibility Worksheet and map displaying upland and wetland portions of CRP offer with acres labeled</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		When these RIM-Only Crop acres are combined with acres in the CRP offer, is the new upland to wetland ratio within the 8:1 limit?
		<b>Upload map displaying revised upland and wetland area that includes RIM-Only Crop acres in this section. Label acres and list ratio.</b>



# MNCREP Application Workbook

## RIM-Only Lands Eligibility Worksheet

### 3. CP23A Habitat Improvement

RIM-Only  
Crop Acres

2.00

Yes  No Has the upland to wetland acre ratio been maximized at 4:1 within the CRP offer?

Yes  No When these RIM-Only Crop acres are combined with acres in the CRP offer, is the new upland to wetland ratio within the 8:1 limit?

Agreement Information Form  
Air Photo and Map  
Application-signed copy  
CRP-1  
Deed  
Minimum Size Waiver  
**Ownership and Eligibility**  
Shapefile  
W-9 IRS Form

**Upload CRP CP23A Suitability and Feasibility Worksheet and map displaying upland and wetland portions of CRP offer with acres labeled**

**Upload map displaying revised upland and wetland area that includes RIM-Only Crop acres in this section. Label acres and list ratio.**



# MNCREP Application Workbook

## RIM-Only Lands Eligibility Worksheet

	RIM-Only Crop Acres	RIM-Only Non-Crop Acres	Total	% of CRP CP2 acres	
CP2 Wellhead	9.00	1.00	10.00	100.00%	Waiver Required
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No   Does the additional RIM-Only acreage abut or adjoin the CRP offer and is it within the same parcel or field as the CRP offer?					
				<b>Upload map displaying RIM-Only area separately from CREP area. Label acres and include parcel/field boundaries.</b>	
<b>Totals for CEFW</b>	<b>11.00</b>	<b>3.10</b>			





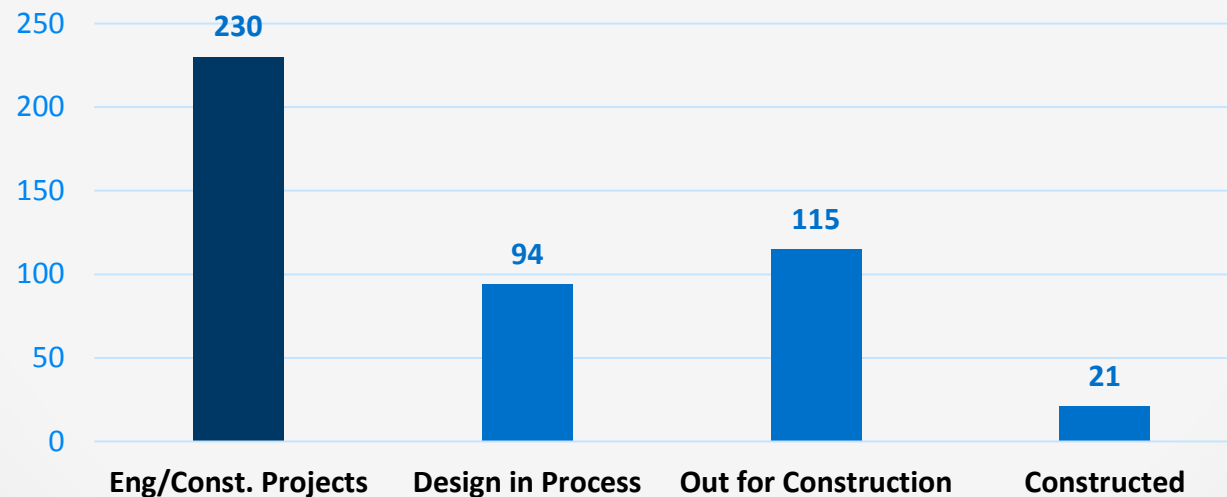
## CP23 and CP23a Practice Implementation Status



## CREP CP23/23A Enrollment/Project Status

Sign-Up Year	Crop Cessation/ Unrestorable	Engineering/ Construction*	Design in Process	Out for Construction	Constructed
2017	5	27	1	17	9
2018	41	93	22	59	12
2019	50	110	71	39	0
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>230</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>21</b>

**\*Single or Multiple Easement Construction Projects**





## Acquisition



*Application* → *Easement*

## Vegetation Establishment

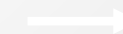


*Planning* → *Site Preparation* → *Seeding* → *Weed Management*

## Engineering/ Construction



*Site Inv. / Planning* → *Design* → *Construction*





## Overcoming Barriers to Successful Practice Implementation



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**Generally Speaking – CRP allows producers 36 months from start of CRP contract to complete approved practices.**

**Likely occurring in 12 month intervals so it is critical to stay on top of this and work with local NRCS and FSA staff to request extensions (FSA approved revised plans), when needed.**

**Meritorious requests for additional time being discussed with state FSA staff.**





## Things That Will Help

Prepare Program Conservation Plans – ASAP





## Practice (Construction) Funds

### CRP – Cost-Share (NTE 50%)

- **Level 1 – \$350 per acre**  
*Where Minimal Construction Work is Needed*
- **Level 2 – \$700 per acre**  
*Where More Complex (costly) Work is Needed*
- **Will want to recommend Level 2 most of the time.**
- **Do not have NRCS indicate that “cessation of cropping is sufficient” on CPA-6 from when construction is needed/desired. Results in \$0 CRP funds for restoration.**



## Practice (Construction) Funds

### RIM – Practice Payment (Reimbursement)

- \$600 per acre – (RR-8 Wetland Restoration Areas)
- This max may be exceeded – To be determined on a case by case basis in consultation with BWSR engineering and RIM program staff







## Practice (Construction) Funds

### RIM – Practice Payment (Reimbursement)

- All drained and altered wetland areas should be claimed as RR-8 practice (see Appendix 1 of RIM General Program Guidance document)
- RR-8's should have RR-2a supporting practice if vegetative work is planned within any part of defined wetland area (most always)



#### CONSERVATION PRACTICE CODES AND DESCRIPTIONS

RR-1a	Introduced Grasses/Legumes To Be Established	RR-5	Diversion
RR-1b	Introduced Grasses/Legumes Already Established	RR-6	Erosion Control Structure
RR-2a	Native Grasses To Be Established	RR-7	Grass Waterway
RR-2b	Native Grasses Already Established	RR-8	Wetland Restoration
RR-3a	Tree and/or Shrub Planting To Be Established	RR-11	Highway Windbreak
RR-3b	Tree and/or Shrub Planting Already Established	RR-12	Wetland Creation
RR-4a	Field Windbreak To Be Established	RR-13	Existing Wetland
RR-4b	Field Windbreak Already Established	RR-14	Existing Watercourse/Ditch
		RR-FP	Wildlife Food Plot



## Things That Will Help

- **Work with landowners to get contractors hired as soon as information (approved construction plans) are prepared/ provided (even if easement is not yet recorded)**
- **6 Contractor Workshops Recently Conducted**





## Preparing and Scoring MN CREP CP23 and CP23a Applications



## Section A. Restoration Benefits – Maximum Score 50 points

### *Factors Affecting Section Scoring*

- Landscape (Type of Wetlands Being Restored)
- Number and Size of Restorable Wetlands
- Functional Gain from Identified Restorations
- Extent of Upland Buffer Included

### *Two Parts of the Section (can only score in one area)*

- Depressional Wetland Landscape Setting
- Non-Depressional Wetland Landscape Setting



# Scoring CP23 and CP23a Applications

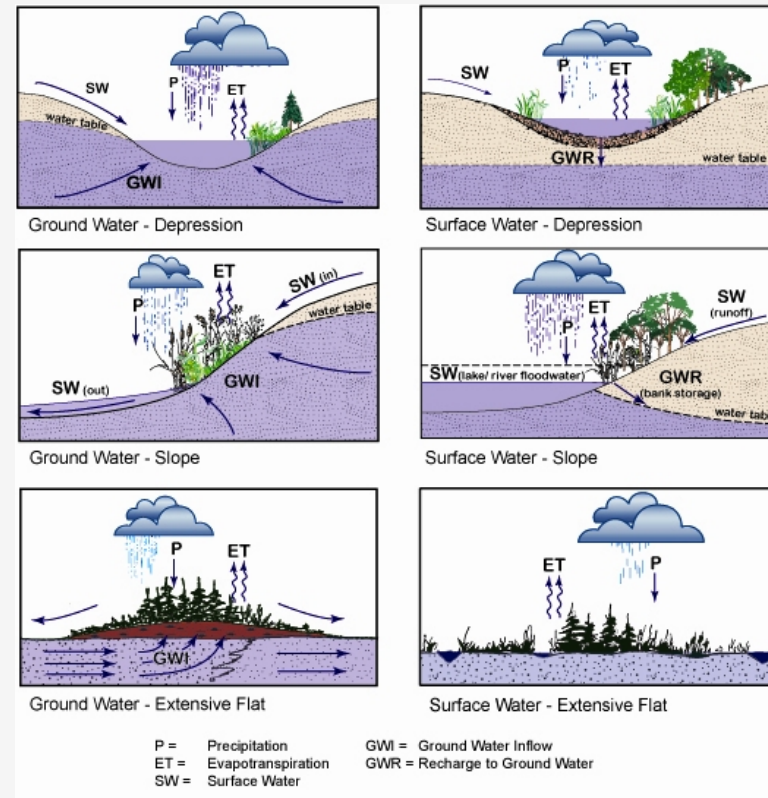
**A. RESTORATION BENEFITS** (maximum score capped at 50)

**Score**

Wetland Condition →		<i>Effectively Drained</i>	<i>Partially Drained</i>	<i>Farmed Only</i>	Size of Largest Basin (acres)	Total Upland : Wetland Ratio
Restorable Depressional Wetlands (Basins)	No. of Basins	Check one (if applicable)	Check one (if applicable)	Check one (if applicable)	Check one (if applicable)	Check one (if applicable)
	1	<input type="checkbox"/> 10	<input type="checkbox"/> 6	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	< 6 <input type="checkbox"/> 0	< 1:1 <input type="checkbox"/> 0
	2	<input type="checkbox"/> 15	<input type="checkbox"/> 10	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	6-10 <input type="checkbox"/> 7	≥ 1:1 <input type="checkbox"/> 2
	3	<input type="checkbox"/> 20	<input type="checkbox"/> 14	<input type="checkbox"/> 7	11-20 <input type="checkbox"/> 15	≥ 2:1 <input type="checkbox"/> 6
	4	<input type="checkbox"/> 25	<input type="checkbox"/> 17	<input type="checkbox"/> 9	21-30 <input type="checkbox"/> 20	≥ 3:1 <input type="checkbox"/> 8
	5	<input type="checkbox"/> 30	<input type="checkbox"/> 21	<input type="checkbox"/> 11	31-40 <input type="checkbox"/> 25	≥ 4:1 <input type="checkbox"/> 10
	6	<input type="checkbox"/> 35	<input type="checkbox"/> 24	<input type="checkbox"/> 13	> 40 <input type="checkbox"/> 30	
≥ 7	<input type="checkbox"/> 40	<input type="checkbox"/> 28	<input type="checkbox"/> 15			
<b>OR</b>						
Wetland Condition →		<i>Effectively Drained</i>	<i>Partially Drained</i>	<i>Farmed Only</i>		Total Upland : Wetland Ratio
Restorable Non-Depressional Wetlands	Wetland Acres	Check one (if applicable)	Check one (if applicable)	Check one (if applicable)		Check one (if applicable)
	< 10	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 1		< 1:1 <input type="checkbox"/> 0
	10 - 40	<input type="checkbox"/> 9	<input type="checkbox"/> 6	<input type="checkbox"/> 2		≥ 1:1 <input type="checkbox"/> 2
	41 - 80	<input type="checkbox"/> 12	<input type="checkbox"/> 8	<input type="checkbox"/> 4		≥ 2:1 <input type="checkbox"/> 6
	81 - 120	<input type="checkbox"/> 16	<input type="checkbox"/> 11	<input type="checkbox"/> 6		≥ 3:1 <input type="checkbox"/> 8
≥ 121	<input type="checkbox"/> 20	<input type="checkbox"/> 14	<input type="checkbox"/> 8		≥ 4:1 <input type="checkbox"/> 10	

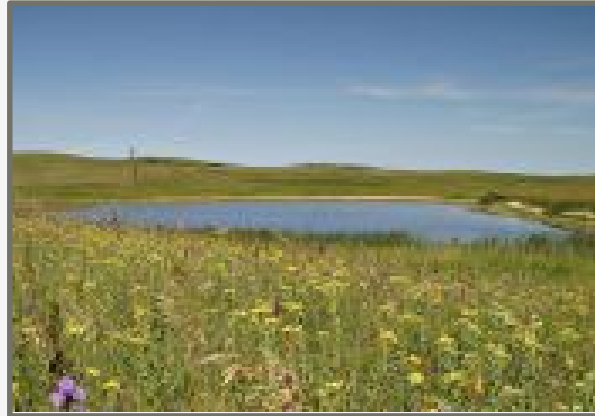
## Definitions

- ★ • Depressional Wetlands
  - Non-Depressional Wetlands
- ★ • Farmed Only Wetlands
  - Drained Wetlands
    - Effectively Drained
    - Partially Drained
- ★ • Basin
- ★ • Size of Largest Basin
- Total Upland to Wetland Ratio



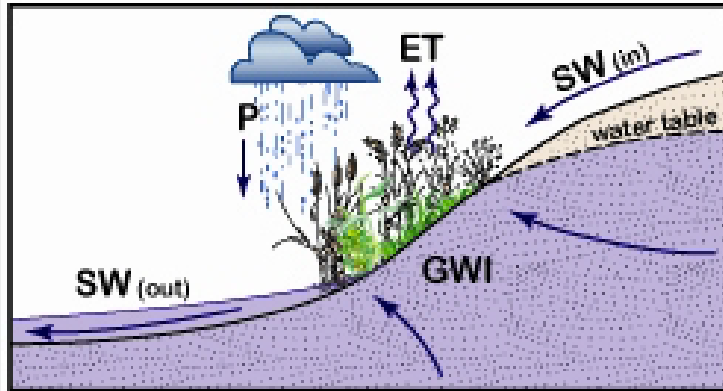


## Depressional Wetlands - Basins





## Non-Depressional Wetlands (Not Basins)







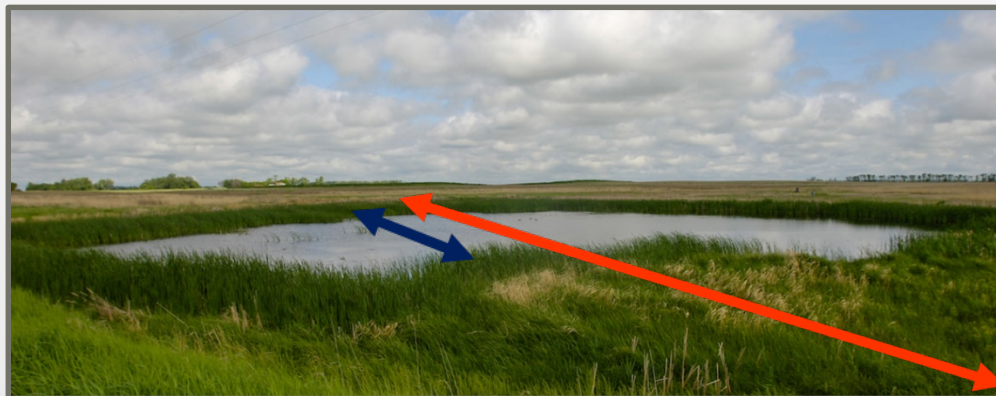
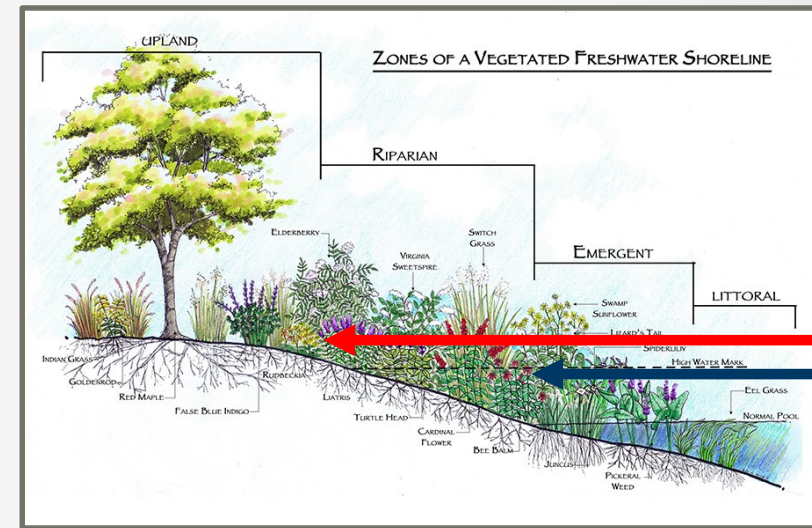
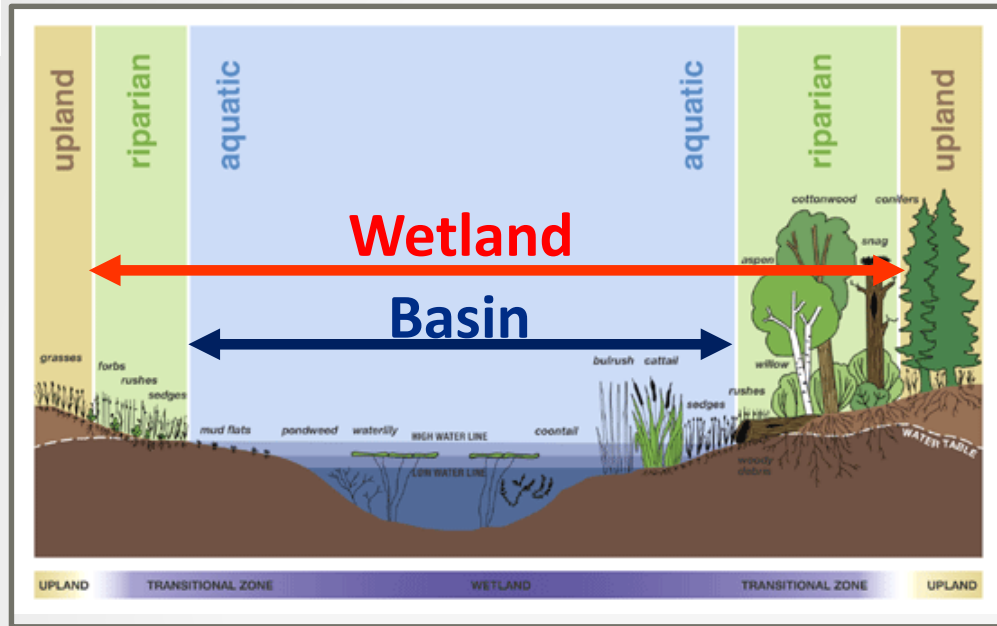
## Definitions

**Basin** - The basin shall be determined as the area of restored **ponded** water (temporary or permanent) under normal conditions of a **depressional wetland**.

**To claim for scoring** - Clear evidence of a basins presence on LiDAR or other supporting documents/resources is needed



# Identifying Restorable Wetland Areas





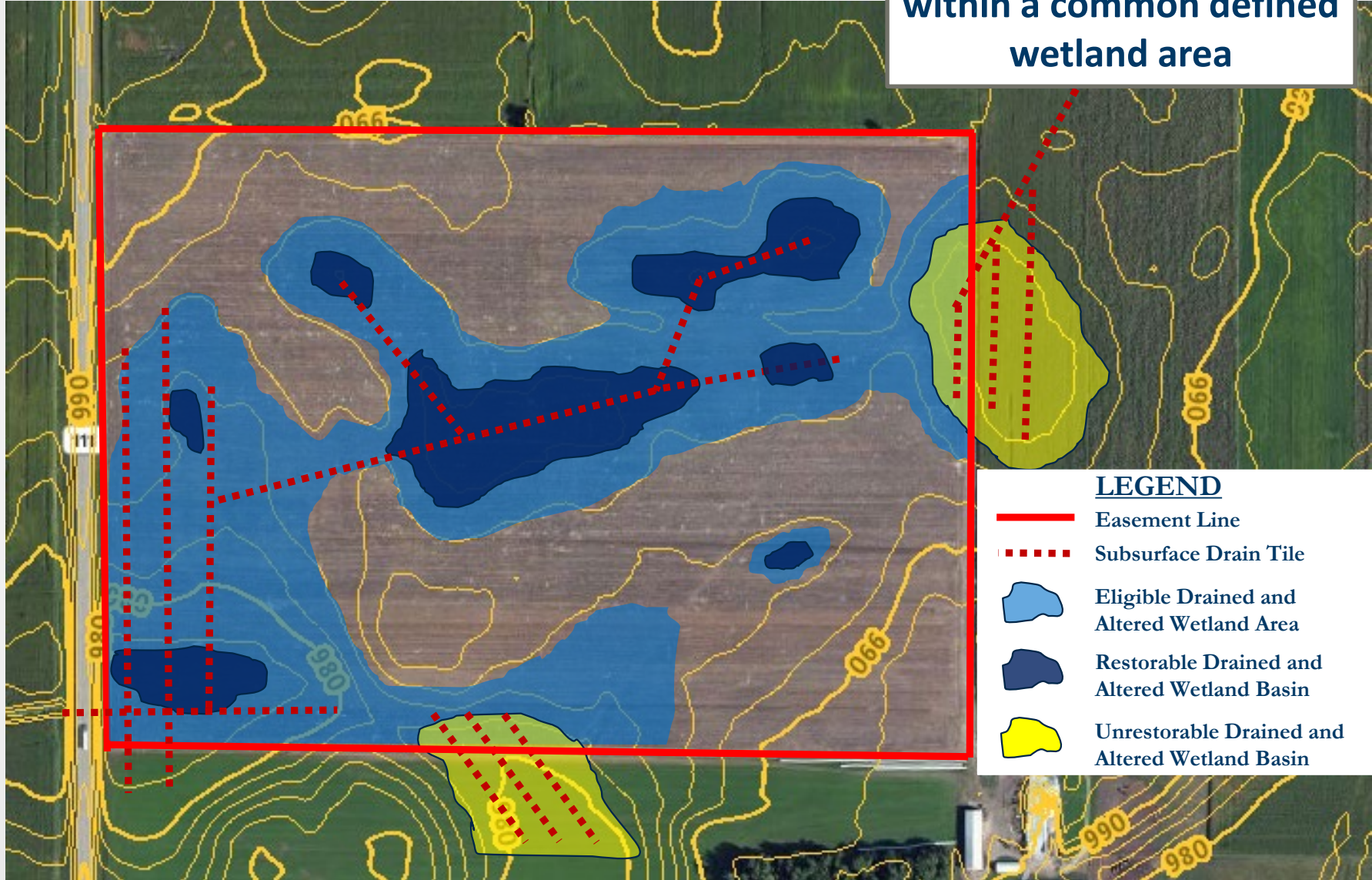
## Definitions

*Size of Largest Basin* – Refers to the **size of the largest** depressional wetland **basin** than **can be restored** as part of the application (see basin definition).

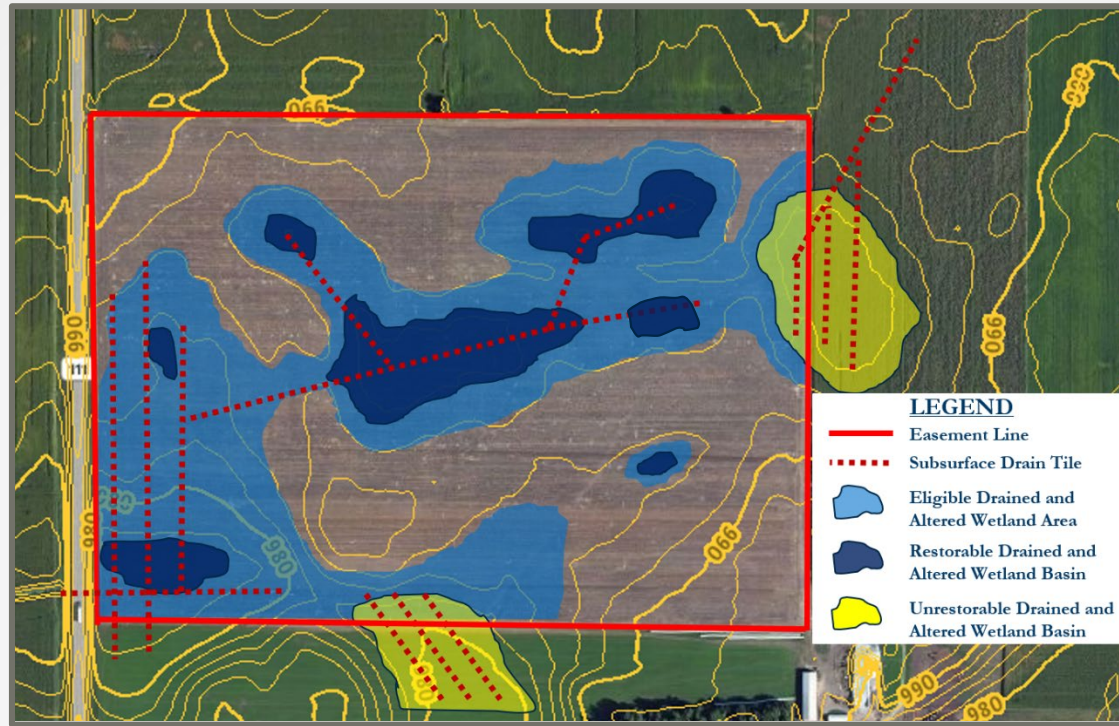




**Note - multiple basins  
within a common defined  
wetland area**



- LEGEND**
- Easement Line
  - Subsurface Drain Tile
  - Eligible Drained and Altered Wetland Area
  - Restorable Drained and Altered Wetland Basin
  - Unrestorable Drained and Altered Wetland Basin



**LEGEND**

- Easement Line
- - - Subsurface Drain Tile
- Eligible Drained and Altered Wetland Area
- Restorable Drained and Altered Wetland Basin
- Unrestorable Drained and Altered Wetland Basin

**A. RESTORATION BENEFITS** (maximum score capped at 50)

Score 47

Wetland Condition →		Effectively Drained	Partially Drained	Farmed Only	Size of Largest Basin (acres)	Total Upland : Wetland Ratio
	No. of Basins	Check one (if applicable)	Check one (if applicable)	Check one (if applicable)	Check one (if applicable)	Check one (if applicable)
Restorable Depressional Wetlands (Basins)	1	<input type="checkbox"/> 10	<input type="checkbox"/> 6	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 0	<input type="checkbox"/> 0
	2	<input type="checkbox"/> 15	<input type="checkbox"/> 10	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 7	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 2
	3	<input type="checkbox"/> 20	<input type="checkbox"/> 14	<input type="checkbox"/> 7	<input type="checkbox"/> 15	<input type="checkbox"/> 6
	4	<input type="checkbox"/> 25	<input type="checkbox"/> 17	<input type="checkbox"/> 9	<input type="checkbox"/> 20	<input type="checkbox"/> 8
	5	<input type="checkbox"/> 30	<input type="checkbox"/> 21	<input type="checkbox"/> 11	<input type="checkbox"/> 25	<input type="checkbox"/> 10
	6	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 35	<input type="checkbox"/> 24	<input type="checkbox"/> 13	<input type="checkbox"/> 30	
	≥ 7	<input type="checkbox"/> 40	<input type="checkbox"/> 28	<input type="checkbox"/> 15		
					AND	AND
					< 6	< 1:1
					6-10	≥ 1:1
					11-20	≥ 2:1
					21-30	≥ 3:1
					31-40	≥ 4:1
					> 40	



### Application Checklist

#### APPLICATIONS WITH CP-23 AND/OR CP-23a—additional documentation:

##### *Map 3*

- Documentation identifying any drainage components (tile, ditches, pumps, etc.)
- Types and locations of basic wetland restoration strategies that are anticipated such as tile blocks, tile outlets, tile reroutes, pump removal, ditch plugs, embankments, scrapes, etc.
- Location of all program eligible drained/altered wetland areas. If the application contains eligible drained/altered wetlands that are unsuitable for scoring, identify them separately from scored wetland areas. If depressional (ponded) areas exist within wetland areas and are used in scoring, indicate them as well.

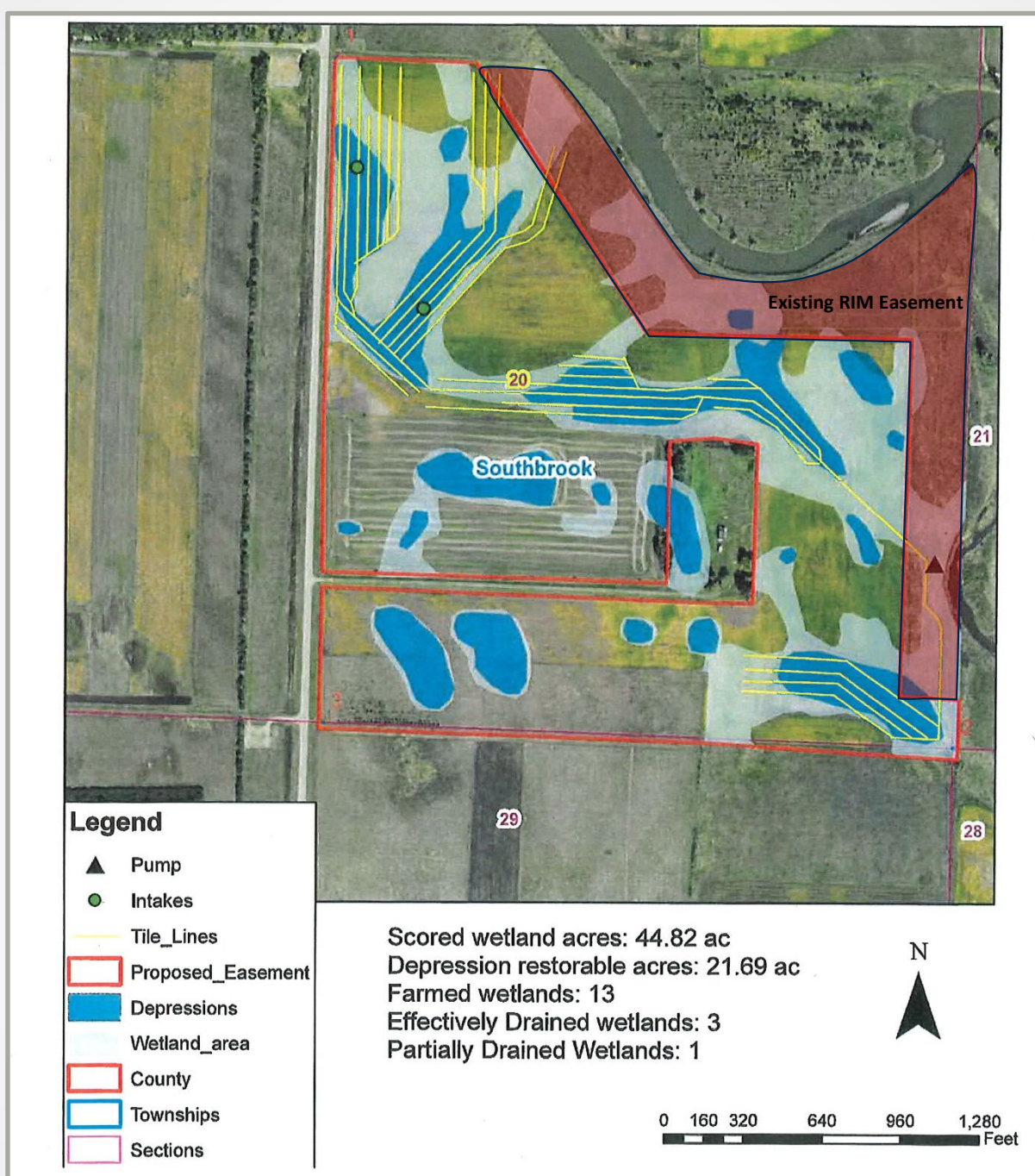
##### *Map 4*

- LiDAR information for application area

- **Think about scoring and how this information supports it**
- **Some flexibility allowed depending on site**



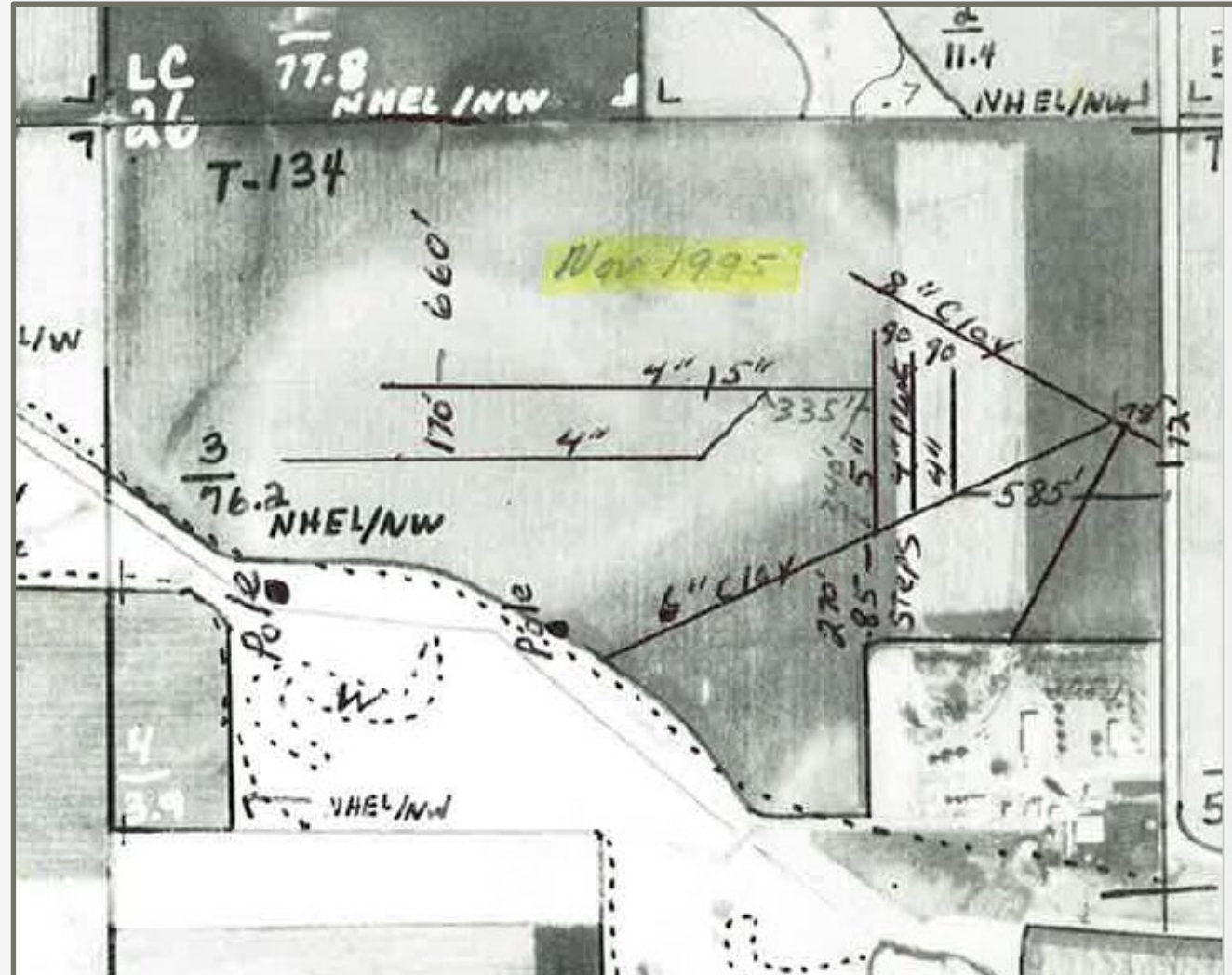
# Good Example





## Keys to Preparing a Successful Application

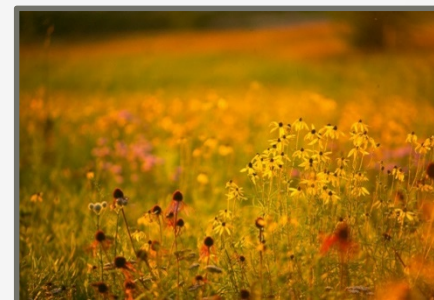
**Provide copies of actual tile maps when available**







# Questions?







# Thank You!

*If you have additional questions or training needs, contact  
Dusty Van Thuyne or Sharon Doucette.*

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