

BWSR 2012 FLOOD RELIEF COST SHARE DISASTER RECOVERY PROGRAM POLICY

Pertaining to FEMA, DR-4069: Erosion, Sediment, Water Quality and Watershed Protection Projects

1. Projects are eligible for up to 100% state and federal cost share using existing State Cost Share or 2012 Flood Relief funds for practice repair or new construction on flood impacted sites. At the discretion of the SWCD Board of Supervisors or other applicable local government unit governing body, landowners may be required to contribute cost-share to help manage project costs and provide consistency for conservation program incentives.
2. All existing BWSR grant agreements in the disaster area may be extended for up to two years.
3. SWCDs or LGUs may extend the completion dates of conservation practices for existing grant or easement agreements to December 31, 2014 and extend the two-year construction completion date for FY2011, FY2012 and FY2013 contracts to three years to allow conservation practice implementation when technical assistance and construction contractors are available and field conditions are suitable.
4. For State Cost Share and Flood Relief funds, up to 20% of project costs may be used for technical and administrative costs, with request for exception for specific projects subject to delegated BWSR staff approval. The actual percentage will be approved by BWSR staff based on the amount and availability of non-state funds for the same purpose and the complexity of the authorized project.
5. At the discretion of the SWCD Board of Supervisors or local unit of government governing body, landowners may be reimbursed for practice costs incurred after June 14, 2012, based on adequate and verifiable documentation.

The District or local unit of government should make a technical assessment with the available information; make a decision on what damage was a result of the June 2012 storm event(s), whether applicable standards and specifications were used, and whether the bills submitted are accurate and reasonable.

For repair needs that have not been started, the District or local unit of government should conduct a site assessment, document repair needs, applicable design standards and estimated costs. Upon completion of the repair, a site visit should be conducted to document the satisfactory completion of the repair.

6. The State Cost Share Program approved practice list may be modified as needed and appropriate to respond to flood relief needs, with BWSR staff approval.

The NRCS Field Office Technical Guide (FOTG) or other generally accepted standards and specifications are to be used for practice implementation when possible. Federal program policies and standards must be followed when state funds are used to match these federal funds, e.g. EWP, ECP and EQIP. Atypical practices and other flood damaged practices not originally installed with cost-share funds may be repaired to pre-flood conditions (or to modern specifications, with associated landowner share) at the discretion of the District Board or local unit of government's governing body.

7. As flood relief costs are expected to exceed available funds, the SWCD Board of Supervisors or local unit of government's governing body will determine local project funding priorities.

8. Funding Priorities:
 - A. Landowners and LGUs must first pursue insurance funds, and federal program funding.
 - B. State funds should be used when possible for federal funding match requirements including, but not limited to, the following programs:
 1. Emergency Watershed Program (NRCS)
 2. Emergency Conservation Program (FSA)
 3. Environmental Quality Incentives Program (NRCS)
 4. Wetland Reserve Program (NRCS)
 5. Conservation Reserve Program (FSA)
 - C. 2012 Flood Relief
 - D. Other state or local funds