

ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT
Award #: A-6114-16-951

PROJECT NAME: Upper Cedar Watershed Urban-Rural Partnership
GRANT RECIPIENT: City of Charles City

Report to: Martin.Adkins@ia.usda.gov

Report from: Jake@cityofcharlescity.org; steven.diers@cityofcharlescity.org

2017 Fiscal Year

(NOTE: NRCS Fiscal Year runs from October 1 to September 30)

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CONTRACT EFFECTIVE DATES: August 15, 2016 – August 14, 2021

Annual REPORTING PERIOD: November 1, 2016 – October 31, 2017

I certify the, to the best of my knowledge, this progress report has not been previously submitted and that the program accomplishments will meet planned activities under this agreement.

Steven T. Diers/ City Administrator, City of Charles City

Date

Agreement Objectives, Tasks, and Deliverables

Objective 1: Implement BMPs through financial and technical assistance to reduce nutrient loads, improve soil health, and reduce peak flows in the Upper Cedar River:

TASK:

1. Install BMPs, including:
 - Nutrient Management
 - Denitrifying Bioreactors
 - Saturated Buffers
 - No-till / Strip-till
 - Cover Crops
2. Conduct water monitoring activities, including:
 - Biological monitoring of fish and invertebrates at three reference sites once during project period (Deer Creek, Rock Creek, Little Cedar)
 - Monthly water quality monitoring from April – October on the Cedar River at Janesville during each year of the project period
 - Water monitoring at 13 sites from April – October during each year of the project period
 - Tile outflow sampling at approximately 16 sites in the Rock Creek Watershed
 - Maintain and collect data from the University of Iowa network of stream gage sensors, rain gages, and soil moisture probes in the Upper Cedar Watershed

Deliverables Required to Document Task Completion:

1. Number of practices implemented. (Two reports: **Annual summary report, due November 30** and **Mid-year status report, due April 30**)
 - -0- practices implemented
 - Although three owners/operators assisted on applying 160 acres of cover crop, 3.1 acres of grassed waterway and 15 acres of timber stand improvement
 - 4,228.4 acres are contracted by 22 producers, with an obligation of \$583,542.00.
 - 2 bioreactors and 4 saturated buffers have been constructed in the Rock Creek Watershed (not using RCPP funding)
 - 57+ water samples have been collected to evaluate practice effectiveness of saturated buffers and bioreactors.
 - Engineering and construction support has been provided to design bioreactors and saturated buffers.
 - ACPF maps have been developed showing implementation opportunities in the RCPP area.

2. Estimated load reductions achieved through practice implementation. (Two reports: **Annual summary report, due November 30** and Mid-year status report, due April 30)
 - o No practices implement to date, establishing baseline data.
3. Documentation of water quality monitoring activities to track changes in nutrient concentrations and other parameters. (Two reports: **Annual summary report, due November 30** and Mid-year status report, due April 30)

Site	2016 average NO3-N concentration (mg/L)	2017 average NO3-N concentration (mg/L)	2017 NO3-N loads (lbs)	2017 NO3-N Yield (lbs/ac)
Slough Cr Inlet	12.5	9.0	---	---
Slough Cr Outlet	9.1	5.0	---	---
Beaver Creek	11.0	8.6	---	---
Miller Creek	11.5	8.9	---	---
Lime Creek	12.7	9.3	---	---
Cedar R. Palo	8.8	6.5	---	---
Cedar R. Conesville	7.6	6.0	---	---

A. Comparison of actual accomplishments to the objectives planned for the period:

- a. No accomplishments to date. Objectives planned for this period included 400 acres of No Till/Strip Till as well as 500 acres of cover crops to be completed by FY16.

B. Reasons why established objectives were not met:

- a. Project just getting started and establishing baseline data. Meeting with landowners and operators didn't begin until fall of 2016. In reality the FY17 is our "Year 1" for the project.

C. Problems, delays or adverse conditions, which will affect the attainment of overall project objectives, prevent meeting time schedules or objectives, or preclude attainment of particular project work elements during established time period:

- a. Completion of MOU on the project and coordination of partner entities did not occur until August 2016, after the growing season was all but complete.

D. Additional pertinent information: none

E. Percent complete: 0%

Objective 2: Conduct conservation planning activities to support BMP implementation

TASK:

1. Develop Conservation Plans.

2. Conservation practice design and layout.

Deliverables Required to Document Task Completion:

1. List of completed plans certified as complete by the NRCS District Conservationist
 - o -0- Completed plans certified as completed by Annual report
2. List of completed conservation practice designs and layouts.
 - o -0- Completed Conservation practice designs and layouts completed by Annual report

**A. Comparison of actual Accomplishments to the objectives planned for the period:
(Insert accomplishments):**

Projects completed:

- Assisted three landowner/operators assisted in planning and implementation
 - o Dollars assisted on applying 160 acres cover crops, 3.1 acres of grassland waterway and 15 acres of timber stand improvement
 - o \$6,767.25 total dollars expended
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Projects Planned

- 4,228.4 acres obligating \$583,542 has been contracted by 22 producers
- 11,913.7 acres of cover crops cost share were obligated.
 - o Most committing to three year continuous cover crop – some five year
- 2,174.9 acres of no-till/strip till cost share obligated – all three years

B. Reasons why established objectives were not met:

a.

C. Problems, delays or adverse conditions, which will affect the attainment of overall project objectives, prevent meeting time schedules or objectives, or preclude attainment of particular project work elements during established time period:

D. Additional Pertinent Information

E. Percent complete:

Objective 3 (Annual Summary Report): Conduct outreach activities with landowners/producers in the five HUC-12 watersheds:

TASK:

1. On-farm contacts with individual farmers and landowners. ?

2. On-farm field days. [One –See attached](#)
3. Client focused social media posts or blog.
4. Client focused direct mailings.
5. Media releases on project activities and outreach topics that support project goals.
6. Watershed tours for stakeholders, local leaders and media.
7. Project administration and reporting.

Deliverables Required to Document Task Completion:

1. Report that lists and categorizes contacts by outcome (Required quarterly).
2. Copy of agenda, sign-in sheets and an evaluation summary.
3. Copy of agenda, participation list and an evaluation summary.
4. Copy of posts/blogs.
5. Copy of mailing piece.
6. Copy of media release.
7. Copy of agenda, sign-in Sheets and an evaluation summary.
8. Narrative progress reports with cumulative notations for each action item in Attachment C of the agreement. (Completing the semi-annual progress reports in this format meets this requirement)

**A. Comparison of actual Accomplishments to the objectives planned for the period:
(Insert accomplishments):**

B. Reasons why established objectives were not met:

C. Problems, delays or adverse conditions, which will affect the attainment of overall project objectives, prevent meeting time schedules or objectives, or preclude attainment of particular project work elements during established time period:

D. Additional Pertinent Information:

E. Percent complete:

ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORTING

Please provide the following information as it relates to this reporting period.

Education and Outreach

1. Number of events: farm days, workshops, fairs or shows, and presentations;

One (1) field day was held on September 21st , Topics covered during the field day were; Grazing cover crops, Managing cover crops, Cost Share Opportunities and Cover Crop Field Plots.

2. Outreach materials created: brochures or pamphlets, fliers, handbooks, and Web site development;

Floyd County host and maintains a webpage on Floyd County's website. The website garners information on the creation of the authority, the authority's duties, and a map of the watershed area, management plans, projects and minutes from meetings.

3. Number of media outlets reached: radio, social media, blogs, Web sites, and television;

Radio show discussions by the City Administrator on three different occasions over the year.

4. The success of those selected media outlets; **unknown**

5. Number of people reached by demographic: beginning farmers and ranchers, historically underserved farmers and ranchers, veteran farmers and ranchers, and new clients that have not worked with NRCS in the past;

6. Success stories; and **In the first full year of the project a substantial amount of funding dedicated to projects (\$583.542)**

7. Lessons learned: How can education and outreach be improved? What could be done differently to engage participants?

Partnerships

1. Overall success of partner relationship during the planning process; **Overall outreach has been very successful with the number of producers already on board.**
2. Overall success of partner relations during the implementation process; and
3. Engagement of new partners.

Implementation

1. If Adjustment of Terms were granted, provide explanation of those adjustments;
2. The effects of the Adjustment of Terms;

3. Number of Contracts and Easements, reported in ProTracts and NEST, respectively; 0
4. Easements: Number of long-term agreements and conservation restoration being completed;
5. Number of conservation practices implemented;
6. List of the conservation practices by resource concern;
7. Acres impacted; and
8. If new practice standards resulted from the project.

Financial and Technical Assistance

1. Was the project successful in expenditure;
2. What was accomplished with the financial and technical assistance, broken down; and
3. How technical assistance was used in relation to:
 - Conservation Planning;
 - Engineering; and
 - Other uses.

Details about the following:

1. How funds are being administered under Alternative Funding Arrangement, if applicable;
2. Oversight mechanisms implemented;
3. Monitoring results;
4. Description of the overall environmental impact of RCPP to the immediate and surrounding project area;
5. Partners' suggestions to NRCS, and if and how the suggestions were utilized; and
6. Lessons learned from the Innovation criteria.