



Initiative Name: 2011 MRBI Technical Assistance Funds

Initiative Type: Technical and Engineering

Year: 2011

Description

Hiring of a District Technician to assist with the Education & Implementation of the MRBI Initiative. This position will be shared between the Cottonwood & Brown SWCD's. Assist with the installation of conservation practices that are emphasized in the Little Cottonwood-Mississippi River Basin initiative that may include, but not limited to: Water & Sediment Control Basins, Diversions, Grassed Waterways, Pasture Mgmt. Tree & grass plantings & other conservation practices as dictated through EQIP & the Conservation Stewardship Program. All projects will follow the standards set forth in the NRCS Field Office Technical Guide. Administration, coordination & reporting will be completed through the Cottonwood SWCD.

Actual Results

DECEMBER 2010:

After discussion with NRCS and BWSR Representatives the Cottonwood and Brown SWCDs will be hiring the MRBI Technician beginning in late Spring of 2011. When completing the application we intended to start with a small number of applications, in this way we would be able to work more closely with the watershed landowners, and we thought with the low funding our office staff could handle the workload and hire when the workload was going to be more intense. The start of FY12 will bring a large amount of EQIP funding into the watershed and we will have someone on board to educate the watershed landowners and operators.

JANUARY 2011:

An Open House was held on Wednesday, January 19th in Jeffers, MN with the Little Cottonwood River Watershed landowners invited. NRCS and SWCD staff were on hand to inform the participants of available conservation programs. Also the bi-weekly USDA Radio Update has been used to highlight the CSP and EQIP funding opportunities for the watershed.

Comments

FUNDS(s)	Budgeted	Approved	Spent	First	Last
				Spend Date	Spend Date
1. 2011 - MRBI - Cottonwood (SWCD)	75,000.00	0.00	0.00		
2. 2011 MRBI Landowner Match	18,750.00	0.00	0.00		
3. 2011 MRBI Federal Funds	12,000.00	0.00	0.00		
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>105,750.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>		

Program Specific Workplan Items

Sponsoring LGU:

Cottonwood SWCD

Project Partner List:

Cottonwood Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD), Brown SWCD, Cottonwood County, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Board of Soil & Water Resources (BWSR), MN Dept of Ag, MN DNR, Farm Service Agency (FSA), U.S. Fish & Wildlife, Cottonwood Co. Game & Fish, Cottonwood County Pheasants Forever & MN Deer Hunters Association - Des Moines Valley Chapter.

Project Description:

To assist with the implementation of the Little Cottonwood MRBI project a District Technician will be hired. The collaborating conservation organizations will talk with watershed landowners & operators to update them on conservation programs & practices being offered. A variety of Conservation practices, conservation activity plans, conservation enhancements & partner activities will be implemented according to NRCS standards & specifications. While the Mn Dept of Ag has committed to offer guidance through data analysis, interpretation & reporting and/or developing sampling protocol. Efforts will be made to implement all the proposed projects in the time specified. The hiring of a technician will be delayed until more funds are made available in FY 2012 through federal resources such as EQIP.