

Draft NPS Task Force March 4, 2015 Conference Call Minutes

Called to order by Karl Rockeman at 10:05 am.

Roll call for participants on the call was taken. See attendees list

Scott Elstad made a motion to approve the December 17, 2014 meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Jerry Sauter. The minutes were approved as written.

Greg Sandness provided an overview of the final project plan development process. He stated that several changes had been made to each project plan to address Task Force and Department comments. All the budgets were also revised to adjust to changes in the project plans and stay within the anticipated Section 319 budget for locally sponsored projects (approx. \$2.87 million). When applicable, the projects were also encouraged to apply for Outdoor Heritage Funding to offset the reduction in Section 319 funding. Major revisions in each project plan are as follows:

Antelope Creek Watershed and Riparian Corridor of the Wild Rice River – Phase III

- 1) Clarified project area and 303(d) listed reaches.
- 2) Omitted the Sheyenne River from the project area.
- 3) Cut the 319 budget for BMP implementation.
- 4) Will seek Outdoor Heritage Funding (OHF) to replace the 319 funding cut from the BMP budget.
- 5) Cut the 319 budget for administration and SCD staffing support.

Livestock Pollution Prevention Program

- 1) Narrowed the scope of the project area to focus on the Lower Missouri River Basin.
- 2) Reduced 319 funding for personnel to account for state funding to be used to support program staff.
- 3) Reduced the 319 budget for BMP implementation.
- 4) The USDA and/or OHF will be solicited to supplement the reduced 319 budget for BMP.

North Dakota Water Wisdom

- 1) Reduced the 319 budget and limited project activities to major workshops and local educational events.
- 2) Omitted the Objectives and Tasks focused on the development of resource management training modules.
- 3) Limited the “training” objectives to the evaluation of partnership options and needs for resource management training.
- 3) Added an Objective and Tasks to reflect the support services provided by the project sponsors.
- 4) Reduced the number of regional workshops and limited them to the Dakota Prairies and Dakota West RC&D areas.

Menoken Farm Soil Foodweb – Phase II

- 1) Cut the 319 budget for all cost categories.
- 2) Reduced the number of events to adjust to the revised 319 budget.

ND Discovery Farms – Phase II

- 1) Will discontinue data collection at two Discovery Farm sites to cut costs.
- 2) Clarified final reporting commitments.
- 3) Limited the project period to two years.

Prairie Waters Education and Research Center

- 1) Reduced the project period to 17 months to stay within the required 319 budget.

Spring Creek Watershed – Phase II

- 1) Clarified the priority areas within the watershed.
- 2) Reduced staffing costs
- 3) Reduced the 319 budget for BMP implementation.
- 4) Will pursue OHF and USDA cost share to supplement the BMP budget.

Project WET

- 1) Reduced the 319 budget for staffing.
- 2) Cut 319 funding commitments for most of the project tasks.

Upper Reaches of Turtle River - North & South Branch Watersheds

- 1) Reduced the size of the project area. The project area will only include the watersheds for the North and South Branches of the Turtle River.
- 2) Revised most sections of the project plan to adjust to the reduced project area.
- 3) Cut the 319 budget for BMP implementation to adjust to the reduced project area.
- 4) Support through the USDA and/or OHF will be solicited, as needed, to supplement the BMP budget.
- 5) Clarified the costs associated with the workshops and tours.

Eastern ND Soil Salinity Demonstration Network

- 1) Eliminated two demonstration sites to reduce costs.
- 2) With less demonstration sites, the 319 budget was also reduced for seasonal assistance, travel, supplies and tours.

ND Envirothon

- 1) Reduced the 319 budget for the project coordinator position
- 2) The 319 budgets for some of the program delivery tasks were also reduced.

Timber Coulee Watershed

- 1) Reduced the project area to only include the Timber Coulee Watershed rather than the entire Sheyenne River watershed in Ransom County.
- 2) Limited staff time to a part time position and reduced the 319 budget accordingly.
- 3) Reduced the project period to 3 ½ years.
- 4) Reduced the 319 budget for BMP implementation to align with the reduced project area and needs within that watershed.
- 5) Omitted cropland BMP from the budget to maintain focus on addressing E. coli bacteria concentrations.

Projects that were not funded

- 1) Jamestown Reservoir Watershed - Outdoor Heritage Funds were secured for the project and the proposal was withdrawn by the sponsors.
- 2) Valley City Bank Stability Project - Project was denied funding due to uncertainty of matching fund sources and overall project cost.

At the conclusion of the discussions, Greg Sandness indicated the final project plans will be forwarded to US EPA Region VIII in March for final review and approval.

Meeting adjourned at 10:37 a.m.

Attendees

Name	Agency/Organization	Email
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