

**CHIPPEWA SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT (SWCD)
2023 GUIDELINES ON USE OF SWCD AID PAYMENTS**

Minn. Stat. § 477A.23, subd. 4(b)

(effective July 20, 2023)

State SWCD Aid payments may be used by the district board and staff to carry out the following duties as outlined in Minn. Stat. § 103C.332, subd. 1:

- (1) respond to and provide technical and financial assistance to landowners to maintain and improve the quality, quantity, distribution, and sustainability of natural resources, including surface water, groundwater, soil, and ecological resources;
- (2) provide technical assistance in implementing the soil erosion law under sections [103F.401](#) to [103F.48](#);
- (3) arrange for employees to serve on technical evaluation panels to implement the wetland laws as required under section [103G.2242](#);
- (4) locally administer the reinvest in Minnesota reserve program under section [103F.515](#) and rules adopted thereunder, using knowledge of local resources to manage each easement to maximize environmental benefits;
- (5) participate in administering the Wetland Conservation Act as provided under sections [103G.221](#) to [103G.2375](#), either in an advisory capacity or as the designated local government unit administering the program;
- (6) participate in the local water management program under chapter 103B, either in an advisory capacity or as the designated local government unit administering the program;
- (7) participate, as appropriate, in the comprehensive watershed management planning program under section [103B.801](#);
- (8) participate in disaster response efforts as provided in chapter 12A;
- (9) provide technical recommendations to the Department of Natural Resources on general permit applications under section [103G.301](#);
- (10) provide technical assistance and local administration of the agricultural water quality certification program under sections [17.9891](#) to [17.993](#);
- (11) provide technical assistance for the agricultural land preservation program under chapter 40A, where applicable;
- (12) maintain compliance with section [15.99](#) for deadlines for agency action;
- (13) coordinate with appropriate county officials on matters related to electing soil and water conservation district supervisors; and
- (14) cooperate to the extent possible with federal, state, and local agencies and with private organizations to avoid duplicating and to enhance implementing public and private conservation initiatives within the jurisdiction of the district.

In carrying out the above duties, the district board and staff may use state aid payments to deliver the following services as outlined in Minn. Stat. § 103C.332, subd. 2:

(1) performing administrative services, including comprehensive and annual work planning, administering grants, leveraging outside funding, establishing fiscal accountability measures, reporting accomplishments, human resources management, and staff and supervisor development;

(2) providing technical expertise, including knowledge of local resources, performing technical evaluations and certifications, assessing concerns, and providing oversight in surveying, designing, and constructing conservation practices with the help;

(3) providing information and education outreach, including increasing landowner awareness and knowledge of soil and water conservation program opportunities to protect soil and water resources, and publicizing the benefits of soil and water conservation to the general public;

(4) facilitating regulatory processes for impacted landowners and providing technical review and comment on regulatory permits and development plans for regulations relating to soil and water conservation;

(5) administering projects and programs, including but not limited to the reinvest in Minnesota reserve conservation easements program; disaster response; local water management and comprehensive watershed management planning programs; and projects related to floodplains, lakes, streams and ditches, wetlands, upland resources, and groundwater resources, to maintain and improve the quality, quantity, distribution, and sustainability of natural resources, including surface water, groundwater, soil, and ecological resources;

(6) maintaining a modern technology infrastructure that facilitates planning and projects, including geographic information systems, mobile workstations, survey equipment, and other technology for linking landowners with conservation plans; and

(7) providing tree sales, planting, seed sales, seeding, and other land preparation services to the general public for conservation practice programs and activities.



Calin Eisenlohr, Vice Chair
Chippewa Soil and Water Conservation District

7-10-23

Date