

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) – Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)

The Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) is a new program developed by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and authorized under the 2014 Farm Bill. Its intention is to partner on conservation projects where federal financial resources can be leveraged with other partner resources. Federal financial resources are allocated through four already existing NRCS programs (EQIP, CSP, ACEP, and HFRP). Roughly \$400 million was available in 2014/2015. Dane County partnered with the Madison Metropolitan Sewage District, NRCS, Clean Lakes Alliance, Sand County Foundation, and UW-Madison in submitting a project proposal. Our RCPP project is entitled *Reducing Total Phosphorus and Sediment Loads in the Yahara Watershed Through Wisconsin's Adaptive Management Option*. The project has six primary objectives:

1. Continued implementation of NRCS conservation practices
2. Test four innovative practices
 - a. Harvestable Buffers
 - b. Legacy sediment removal
 - c. Regional manure storage
 - d. Yet to be determined (VMI, continuous no-till, etc...)
3. Implement a comprehensive water quality monitoring program
4. Quantify phosphorus reductions
5. Develop an EPA 9-step watershed plan
6. Conduct outreach and education

Dane County and partners were notified in January that we were one of four projects in Wisconsin that was selected for funding. The time frame for the project is five years with a total budget of approximately \$5,400,000. The NRCS will provide \$1.3 million in funding with partners providing roughly \$4.1 million over five years. A detailed breakdown of all funding sources is provided below.

| Year | Dane County | MMSD | CLA | SC | UW | NRCS | Total |
|-------|-------------|-----------|-----------|----------|-----------|-------------|-------------|
| 2015 | \$623,500 | \$111,000 | \$50,000 | \$60,000 | \$24,000 | \$255,000 | \$1,123,500 |
| 2016 | \$603,500 | \$111,000 | \$50,000 | \$0 | \$24,000 | \$280,000 | \$1,068,500 |
| 2017 | \$588,500 | \$191,000 | \$50,000 | \$0 | \$24,000 | \$255,000 | \$1,108,500 |
| 2018 | \$588,500 | \$126,000 | \$50,000 | \$0 | \$24,000 | \$255,000 | \$1,043,500 |
| 2019 | \$588,500 | \$126,000 | \$50,000 | \$0 | \$24,000 | \$255,000 | \$1,043,500 |
| Total | \$2,992,500 | \$665,000 | \$250,000 | \$60,000 | \$120,000 | \$1,300,000 | \$5,387,500 |