



Memo

To: SADC Partners
From: David Clapp, Resource Conservationist
Date: 9/18/2017
Re: Update on Soil and Water Conservation Cost-Share Grants

Recently, the SADC's FY17 appropriations request was signed by Governor Christie. Three percent of the funding requested by SADC, approximately \$1.5 million dollars, was set aside for stewardship activities, including but not limited to Soil and Water Cost Share Grants (S&W Grants) as codified at N.J.A.C. 2:90-2, 3, and 2:76-5. SADC is making at least \$500,000 available to eligible farmers and landowners for S&W Grants.

SADC Policy P-48 (attached) sets the cost share rate for the program and prioritizes applications. Under P-48, S&W Grants are awarded for 50% of the actual cost of installing a conservation project, not to exceed the estimated cost of the project at the time of application. Applications will be funded until available funds are expended. Should it become necessary to prioritize applications due to a shortage of funding, first priority will be given to farms that are permanently preserved through the SADC, through a TDR program, or 8-year preserved properties in the Pinelands if PDCs have been severed and deed restrictions recorded pursuant to N.J.A.C. 7:50-5.47. Farms enrolled in the 8-year program will be second priority. Should additional prioritization be required, the following application approval dates will be utilized to determine priority:

- Date of State Soil Conservation Committee (SSCC) approval;
- Date SSCC received the application;
- Date of local Soil Conservation District (SCD) approval; and
- Date of local United States Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service approval.

In order to meet the anticipated demand for S&W Grants, SADC entered into an agreement with the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to offer technical assistance to farmers and landowners. NRCS will develop conservation plans, complete S&W Grant applications, design projects, and verify conservation practices are installed to

NRCS standard before SADC approves payment. Farmers and landowners interested in S&W Grants should contact their local NRCS office to apply.

The following practices are eligible for cost-share through S&W Grants:

Terrace systems	Sediment retention, erosion, or water control structures
Diversions	Permanent open drainage systems
Contour farming	Underground drainage systems
Strip-cropping systems	Developing facilities for livestock water
Sod waterways	Forest tree stand improvement
Windbreak restoration or establishment	Forest tree plantations
Stream protection	Site preparation for natural regeneration
Permanent vegetative cover on critical areas	Animal waste control facilities
Land shaping or grading	Agrichemical handling facility
Water impoundment reservoirs	
Irrigation systems	

If you have any questions regarding the S&W Grant program, please contact Dave Clapp at (609) 984-2504 or david.clapp@ag.state.nj.us.

Distribution list:

State Agriculture Development Committee – Members
State Board of Agriculture – Members
County Boards of Agriculture – Presidents
County Agriculture Development Boards – Administrators
New Jersey Department of Agriculture – Division Directors
Rutgers Cooperative Extension
New Jersey Farm Bureau
Northeast Organic Farming Association of New Jersey
USDA Farm Service Agency
USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
USDA Rural Development
Soil Conservation Districts
North Jersey Resource Conservation & Development
South Jersey Resource Conservation & Development
Farm Credit East
Municipal PIG Program Contacts
Land Trusts

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Policy: P-48

Effective Date: May 25, 2006

STATE AGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

POLICY

SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION COST SHARE PROGRAM STATE COST SHARE FUNDING AND APPLICATION PRIORITIZATION

I. PURPOSE

In order to respond to declining short-term funding availability and increasing program demand, the State Agriculture Development Committee (SADC) finds it necessary to change the percentage of state cost share funding provided for approved soil and water conservation projects to no greater than 50% under the Soil and Water Conservation Cost Share Program. Further, given the increased competition for funds, it is necessary to clarify how soil and water program applications are prioritized for funding by the SADC in any given month.

II. AUTHORITY

N.J.S.A. 4:1C-24

N.J.A.C. 2:76-5.7

N.J.S.A. 40:55D-128

III. POLICY

1. At the current time, the SADC shall provide cost-share grants not to exceed 50% of the actual cost for a project approved by the New Jersey Department of Agriculture State Soil Conservation Committee pursuant to N.J.A.C. 2:90-2 and 3, subject to available funds.
2. The SADC shall prioritize applications for soil and water conservation grants for the receipt of limited funding by granting priority as follows:
 - a. **First priority (Priority 1)** shall be given to farms that are permanently preserved through enrollment in one of the following programs:
 - (1) The SADC's farmland preservation programs (SADC fee simple, county easement purchase, direct easement purchase, or planning incentive grant);
 - (2) The Transfer of Development Rights (TDR) program pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40:55D-128;

- (3) The eight-year farmland preservation programs (N.J.A.C. 2:76-3 and 4), if Pinelands Development Credits allocated to the property have been severed and deed restrictions recorded pursuant to N.J.A.C. 7:50-5.47.
 - b. **Second priority (Priority 2)** shall be given to farms that are preserved through enrollment in the eight-year farmland preservation programs (N.J.A.C. 2:76-3 and 4).
 - c. Enrollment in the programs listed in a and b above shall be deemed valid and complete upon the following:
 - (1) For the SADC fee simple program, the SADC has acquired fee simple title;
 - (2) For the county easement purchase and planning incentive grant program, the SADC has issued a grant and the deed of easement or cost-sharing grant agreement has been recorded;
 - (3) For the direct easement purchase program, the SADC has acquired and recorded a deed of easement;
 - (4) For the TDR program, the SADC has approved the instrument of transfer pursuant to N.J.A.C. 2:77 and the instrument of transfer has been recorded; and
 - (5) For the eight-year program, all requirements in N.J.A.C. 2:76-3 or 4 have been met, including recording of an agreement.
3. Within both Priority 1 and Priority 2 categories, individual project applications may be further prioritized should program demand be greater than available funding. In such cases, the SADC shall further prioritize projects according to the following operative dates:
 - a. Date of State Soil Conservation Committee (SSCC) approval;
 - b. Date SSCC received the application;
 - c. Date of local Soil Conservation District (SCD) approval; and
 - d. Date of local United States Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service approval.