



To: LSC WP Steering Committee

From: LSC WP A1 Subcommittee – Jay Riggs, David Tollberg, Lance Petersen, Aidan Read, Craig Mell, Joel Larson, Georgia Eilertson, Kyle Axtell, and Barbara Heitkamp.

Re: LSC FY23 WBIF A5 Agronomy Outreach Specialist

The LSC WP A1 Subcommittee (SBC) met on Monday, March 11th to review and discuss the list of applicants provided by the University of Minnesota Extension for the vacant LSC WP Agronomy Outreach Specialist. After reviewing the application, the SBC determined that none of the applicants met the minimum requirements of job announcement. The SBC discussed the future of the LSC WP Agronomy Outreach Specialist and offers the following recommendation.

LSC WP A1 SBC recommendation: Continue with the LSC WP Agronomy Outreach Specialist position and approve the changes to the Lower St. Croix 2023 Watershed Based Implementation Funding Work Plan as listed below.

Activity 5: Agronomy Outreach Specialist

eLINK Activity Category: Project Development

Grant: ~~\$225,000~~ **\$125,000**

Co-Lead Agency: Washington Conservation District, Jay Riggs (~~partnership with UMN Extension~~), **Chisago Soil and Water Conservation District, Craig Mell**

Co-lead Agency: ~~Chisago SWCD, Craig Mell~~

Priority areas: Agronomy outreach specialist will focus on priority areas described in Structural Ag BMP Implementation and Non-Structural Ag/Urban Implementation

CWMP Reference: Page 61

Activity Description: Agronomy outreach specialist. (A) Shared Services: Work with an agricultural conservationist (~~one individual~~) for basin wide assistance with agronomy, outreach, and technical assistance to agricultural producers including conservation planning and nutrient management plans. Approximately 80% of this position's time will be directly working with agricultural producers in the LSC Watershed to identify economical farming practices with water quality benefits to make them a routine part of farm operations. See Attachment A – Agronomy Outreach Specialist Details & Milestones for more information.

This would allow for ~~1 full time~~ **the** agronomy outreach specialist to work basin-wide. Staff will work basin-wide and may have more than one office space. LSC partners will ensure duties assigned to this staff member will be in alignment with WBIF funding intent and requirements.

~~Costs billed to this item for the embedded Extension Agent~~ will include the following: Staff salary, supervisory time ~~(by University of MN)~~, benefits, travel expenses, training expenses, and office supplies. As with all grant activities, LSC partners will ensure program expenses are eligible before billing to the grant/match. All costs will primarily benefit water quality in a priority resource as identified in the LSC CWMP. In addition to direct landowner outreach and technical assistance, as described above, staff time will also include program and work plan coordination: annual partner coordination meetings, updates to partners, interfacing with the shared services educator, coordinated planning efforts, regular basin-scale coordination meetings with LSC partners and other agencies as appropriate.

Subcommittee: A subcommittee composed of LSC partners will meet on an as-needed basis in order to review projects and assist with project planning. Subcommittees may be grouped by implementation category.

Implications of Action: LSC WP Steering Committee recommended approval will mean this request along with an amended FY23 WBIF budget would be sent to the LSC WP Policy Committee for consideration at their upcoming April 22nd meeting. If the LSC WP Policy Committee recommends approval to the local governing boards, a vote of 2/3^{rds} of the members present of the Policy Committee is necessary to move a recommendation onto the governing boards, the local governing boards must act on Policy Committee recommendations within 60 days after the day in which the Policy Committee formally adopted such recommendation. The decisions of the various governing boards of the Parties will be deemed approved for purposes of this Agreement when 2/3^{rds} of the governing bodies have adopted formal action on the respective recommendation. The Chisago SWCD would then submit a work plan revision request to the Board of Water and Soil Resources for consideration and approval.