

2317 - Cass County Cover Crop Project

Application Details

Funding Opportunity:	1307-Outdoor Heritage Fund March 2020 - Round 16	Initial Submit Date:	Feb 27, 2020 10:41 AM
Funding Opportunity Due Date:	Mar 16, 2020 3:00 PM	Initially Submitted By:	Eric Dahl
Program Area:	Outdoor Heritage Fund	Last Submit Date:	
Status:	Under Review	Last Submitted By:	
Stage:	Final Application		

Contact Information

Primary Contact Information

Active User*: Yes

Type: External User

Name*: Mr. Eric Middle Name
Salutation First Name

Dahl
Last Name

Title: Soil & Water Resources Manager

Email*: eric.dahl@nd.nacdnet.net

Address*: 1665 43rd St S, Suite 103

Fargo North Dakota
City State/Province

58103
Postal Code/Zip

Phone*: 701-282-2157 3
Phone Ext.
####

Fax: ### ### ####

Comments:

Organization Information

Status*: Approved

Name*: Cass County Soil Conservation District

Organization Type*: County Government

Tax Id:

Organization Website:

Address*: 1665 43rd St S, Suite 103

Fargo North Dakota
City State/Province

58103
Postal Code/Zip

Phone*: 701-282-2157 3
Ext.

Fax: ### ### ####

PeopleSoft Supplier ID:

Budget

Objective of Grant

Objective of Grant:

Project will provide cost share to willing participants at 60% for the cost of the seed only, with 40% producer match. By providing financial assistance for the planting of cover crops, local producers will have an incentive to try conservation covers to improve soil health and prevent erosion.

Summary

Grant Request: \$60,000.00
Matching Funds: \$40,000.00
Total Project Costs: \$100,000.00
 You must have at least **25% match**
Percentage of Match: 40.0%

Project Expenses

Project Expense Description	OHF Request	Match Share (Cash)	Match		Other Project Sponsor's Share	Total Each Project Expense
			Share (In-Kind)	Match Share (Indirect)		
Cover Crop Cost Share	\$60,000.00	\$40,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$100,000.00
	\$60,000.00	\$40,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$100,000.00

Budget Narrative

Budget Narrative:

The Cass County Cover Crop Project will provide financial assistance to producers who would like to plant cover crops. The program will contribute 60% cost share for the cost of the seed only, and participant will provide their 40% matching funds. \$60,000 of OHF dollars will be used to implement a projected 5,000 acres of cover crop over the course of the 2 year project. Cass County Soil Conservation District will incur all staffing and administrative costs associated with implementation of the project.

Bid Attachments

Description	File Name	Type	Size	Upload Date
No files attached.				

Match Funding

Match Amount	Funding Source	Match Type
\$40,000.00	Producer Match	Cash
\$40,000.00		

In-Kind

In-Kind Total:

Description

Directives

- Major Directive*:** Directive B
Choose One
- Additional Directive:** Directive C
Choose All That Apply
- Type of Agency*:** Political Subdivision
Choose One

Abstract/Executive Summary

Abstract/Executive Summary*:

The Cass County Cover Crop Project is intended to provide financial and technical assistance for establishing conservation cover crops in Cass County. Cover crops are beneficial in reducing erosion, enhancing soil health, decreasing soil compaction, improving water quality, and providing food and cover for wildlife. The project will be beneficial in providing financial incentive for local producers to get started growing cover crops. Providing financial assistance for planting cover crops is a great way to get people involved in soil health and can be a gateway to other conservation enhancements.

Land use within Cass County is dominated by intensive row crop agriculture, with corn, soybeans and spring wheat being the primary crops. Extensive tillage and flat, open terrain gives way to wind erosion of our soils. Planting cover crops is a great way to reduce erosion and utilize excess moisture in the soil. With excessively wet soil conditions becoming the norm, cover crops can be a great tool to incorporate into the cash crop rotation to reduce soil moisture and make successful planting of cash crops possible. This program is designed to help promote conservation cover crops and provide cost share to willing participants.

Cover crops are still a relatively new concept in Cass County. Some local growers are utilizing cover crops and noticing their benefits. Others, although somewhat skeptical, are also joining the conversation. By providing a cost share incentive to give cover crops a try, the Cass County Cover Crop Project will help producers get started using cover crops and enhancing soil health.

Project Duration

Project Duration*:

Project duration will be 2 years. The project will run through the 2020 and 2021 growing seasons.

Narrative

Narrative

Briefly summarize your organization's history, mission, current programs and activities. Include an overview of your organizational structure, including board, staff and volunteer involvement.

Organization Information*:

The Cass County Soil Conservation District is a governmental subdivision of the State of North Dakota organized under law to exercise public powers in the conservation of soil and water resources. This provides a means for all interested parties to work together in the conservation of natural resources.

Originally formed in 1937 as four separate Districts, they were combined over the ensuing years until 1974, when the present day District was formed to cover the entire county. It is governed by a 5 member Board that control and supervise the activities of the District. Board members include Curt Knutson, Warren Solberg, Brad Kellerman, Terry Hoffmann, and Brooks Whitmore. The District board and employees develop a plan of work to ensure district organization has a well-developed plan to carry out local projects for improvement of soil and water resources.

The staff of the SCD consists of: Jeffrey Miller ? Director, Eric Dahl ? Soil & Water Resources Manager, Tony Peterson - District Technician, Amy Cole -Office Manager, The staff is well versed in cover crop planning and implementation. The District operates 2 No-Till grass drills and has substantial experience in seeding cover crops. The staff is also experienced in grant administration.

In addition to full time staff, the District hires 2-4 seasonal employees for tree planting and fabric application.

Describe the proposed project identifying how the project will meet the specific directive(s) of the Outdoor Heritage Fund Program.

Identify project goals, strategies and benefits and your timetable for implementation. Include information about the need for the project and whether there is urgency for funding. Indicate if this is a new project or if it is replacing funding that is no longer available to your organization. Identify any innovative features or processes of your project.

Note: if your proposal provides funding to an individual, the names of the recipients must be reported to the Industrial Commission/Outdoor Heritage Fund. These names will be disclosed upon request.

If your project involves an extenuating circumstance to exempted activities please explain.

Purpose of Grant*:

The Cass County Cover Crop Project will provide financial assistance to producers who would like to plant cover crops. The program will contribute 60% cost share for the cost of the seed only, and participant will provide their 40% matching funds. By providing financial assistance for the planting of cover crops, local producers will have an incentive to try conservation covers as a way to improve soil health and prevent erosion. In the past, the Cass County Soil Conservation District has had success working with farmers and ranchers planting cover crops, specifically through section 319 watershed projects. Currently our watershed project only covers a small portion of the county, making it more difficult for farmers and ranchers to find cost share opportunities. USDA funding through NRCS can fill a portion of the void, but due to lengthy applications and multi-year contracts, finding cost-share on short notice for planting cover crops is extremely difficult. The Cass County Cover Crop Project would be designed to fill the holes in cover crop cost share to make funding readily available to all producers in Cass County. As a requirement to those receiving cost share, cover crop must include multiple crop species, and must be left standing through the winter. By doing this, the cover crops will keep the ground covered through the winter months to reduce erosion and provide a winter food source for wildlife. Planting of cover crops will follow the NRCS standards and specs for Conservation Practice 340 (Cover Crops) to ensure the highest degree of success.

Please list the counties that would be impacted by this project:

Counties*: Cass

Is This Project Part of a Comprehensive Conservation Plan?* No

Does Your Project Involve an Extenuating Circumstance?* No

Provide a description of how you will manage and oversee the project to ensure it is carried out on schedule and in a manner that best ensures its objectives will be met. Include a brief background and work experience for those managing the project.

Management of Project*:

Project will be carried out and managed by District staff, specifically the Soil & Water Resources Manager. This position works with promotion of best management practices and is familiar with the planning and implementation of cover crops. This employee also holds educational events to promote cropland BMPs including cover crops and has the resources to promote and educate local producers about new projects. Notice of available funding will be advertised on our website and our quarterly newsletter.

Indicate how the project will be funded or sustained in future years. Include information on the sustainability of this project after OHF funds have been expended and whether the sustainability will be in the form of ongoing management or additional funding from a different source.

Sustainability*:

This project is an extension of what other projects and programs offer within our district. This project is designed to fill holes within our county where watershed project funds cannot be spent. This program will continue to run as long as we are able to secure funds. If OHF no longer provides funds, other avenues of funding will be explored.

Indicate how the project will be affected if less funding is available than that requested.

Partial Funding*:

Partial funding of this project would result in a reduction in the acreage goal as well as additional funding sources being explored.

If you are a successful recipient of Outdoor Heritage Fund dollars, how would you recognize the Outdoor Heritage Fund partnership? * There must be signage at the location of the project acknowledging OHF funding when appropriate. If there are provisions in that contract that your organization is unable to meet, please indicate below what those provisions would be.

Partnership Recognition*:

Recognition of the OHF grant would be multi-faceted. The local newspaper, the SCD quarterly newsletter, and SCD website would all have information about the partnership. In addition, at highly visible locations seeded in cover crops, signage would advertise the partnership to the public.

Do you have any supporting documents, such as maps or letters of support that you would like to provide? If so, please provide them in a single file.

Supporting Documents*: No

Awarding of Grants - Review the appropriate sample contract for your organization. Sample Contract

Can You Meet All the Provisions of the Sample Contract?* Yes

Tasks

Tasks

Task	Start Date	Completion Date
2020 Implementation	06/01/2020	11/30/2020
2021 Implementation	06/01/2021	11/30/2021

Description of Tasks**Please Describe Tasks:**

The task goals are to implement 2,500 acres of cover crop annually for 2020 & 2021.

Site visits to fields seeded in cover crops will ensure the planting was carried out in accordance with the contract.

In addition, a yearly report will be submitted to the Cass County SCD Board and regular reporting, final evaluation, and expenditure reports will be submitted to the Outdoor Heritage Fund Program.

Deliverables**Deliverables**

Deliverable	Quantity	Unit of Measurement, if applicable
2020 implementation	2500.000	acres
2021 Implementation	2500.000	acres

Certification**Certification**

Certification: Yes

Name: Eric Dahl
First Name Last Name

Title: Soil & Water Resources Manager
Title

Date: 02/27/2020

Internal Application Number

#/ID: 16-02
