

Conservation Reserve Program Waterway Process

There are now flat rates for waterway components, not percentages. If you are interested in a CRP grassed waterway, here are the steps to follow:

- Contact either NRCS, SWCD or FSA with location to determine eligibility for the water pattern of concern. If eligible on the FSA maps, sign paperwork at the FSA office stating interest.
- FSA will bring your request to the SWCD office for SWCD/NRCS staff to visit the site to verify erosion in the field. If there is no erosion present, a waterway can't move forward at this time.
- CRP is funded in batches. FSA will notify you when cost-share is available for your project.
- Once erosion is verified and funding is available, SWCD staff will survey and start design on the waterway. (If you are not approved for funding, but still want to construct a waterway, SWCD can still design a plan. Let SWCD know if you are interested.)
- FSA will request an archeological study which takes 30 days. Typically this involves looking at a map that shows historical archeological findings. If the work area is near such an area, it may need a visual, more detailed inspection.
- Upon finishing the waterway design plan, SWCD will send two copies to the landowner to start the bid process if needed. Additional copies may be purchased. SWCD will give NRCS a list of components designed for the waterway so that NRCS can begin writing the conservation plan/contract.
- NRCS will give FSA the written contract and conservation plan.
- FSA will contact the landowner to schedule an appointment to have it signed.
- Once the contract is signed, construction can begin. SWCD can meet with the contractor/landowner to review the plan.
- Contractor or landowner will need to contact SWCD a few days prior to construction to request layout. SWCD will stake/flag what is needed.
- SWCD will follow construction through and approve the waterway to be seeded when all specs. have been met from the as-built. After completion, the appropriate NRCS or SWCD engineer or technician will sign off on construction.
- Landowner submits bills to FSA and signs request for payment.
- FSA and SWCD review bills.
- SWCD submits list of approved components installed to NRCS and FSA for final payment.
- FSA makes payment.
- Landowner maintains the waterway for the contracted life of 10 years with the potential to renew at expiration depending on program changes and the waterway condition.

Seeding dates are March 15 to May 31 and August 1 to September 15. If seeding is completed outside of these dates (unless there was an extension by USDA), payment will be held until the next seeding date opening. If grass is established at that time, payment can be made. If not, the waterway will need to be reseeded.

Contacts:

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NRCS – (740) 653-5320 Dave Libben or Brice Shaw

FSA – (740) 653-4012 Michelle Smith or Tina Karr