

Mississippi River Basin Healthy Watersheds Initiative



Kickapoo River Watershed

Known as “America’s River,” the Mississippi River is North America’s largest river, flowing over 2,300 miles through America’s heartland to the Gulf of Mexico. Through the Mississippi River Basin Healthy Watersheds Initiative (MRBI), NRCS and partners work with producers and landowners to implement voluntary conservation practices that improve water quality, restore wetlands, enhance wildlife habitat and sustain agricultural profitability in the Mississippi River basin.

NRCS has identified the Mississippi River basin as a top priority due to water quality concerns, primarily related to the effects of nutrient loading on the health of local water bodies and, eventually, the Gulf of Mexico.

Conservation practices installed by producers will serve to avoid, control and trap nutrient runoff, prevent erosion and provide essential wildlife habitat. These practices benefit the natural resources of the Mississippi Basin and enhance agricultural profitability through reduced input and enhanced soil health, which results in higher soil organic matter, increased infiltration and water-holding capacity and nutrient cycling.

Kickapoo River Watershed agricultural producers and landowners have been selected for this funding opportunity. Special funding under the Environmental Quality Incentives Program, MRBI, will be available specifically in selected subwatersheds including West Fork Kickapoo, Tainter Creek, Trout Creek-Kickapoo River, Caswell Hollow-Kickapoo River, Halls Branch, Goose Creek-Kickapoo River, Otter Creek, Plum Run-Kickapoo River, Wester Creek and Knapp Creek-West Fork Kickapoo River of the Kickapoo River in addressing nutrient and sediment losses from cropland and degraded pastures. Applications are due to Vernon, Crawford, Richland, and Monroe County NRCS Service Center offices June 10, 2016, to be considered for funding. NRCS plans to invest \$847,000 in fiscal year 2016 as part of a \$5.3 million commitment in the watershed over three years.



Landowners interested in applying should contact their local NRCS service center in Crawford, Vernon, Richland, or Monroe County. For more information, visit www.wi.nrcs.usda.gov.

Crawford County (608) 326-7179
 USDA–NRCS Prairie du Chien Service Center
 37500 US Hwy. 18
 Prairie du Chien, WI 53821-8110

Vernon County (608) 637-2183
 USDA–NRCS Viroqua Service Center
 Ag. Service Center, 220 Airport Road
 Viroqua, WI 54665-1157

Richland County (608) 647-8874
 USDA–NRCS Richland Center Service Center
 26136 Executive Lane, Suite C
 Richland Center, WI 53581

Monroe County (608) 325-4195
 USDA–NRCS Monroe Service Center
 1627 4th Avenue West
 Monroe, WI 53566