**RFA 0181 - SOURCE WATER BUFFER PROGRAM**

**APPLICATION FORM**

*(Revised July 2019)*

**Part A: Applicant Information**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Applicant Soil & Water Conservation District:** | |
| **If Joint Application, list participating Counties:** Click or tap here to enter text. | |
| **Contact Person:** Click or tap here to enter text. | **NYS Vendor ID #:** Click or tap here to enter text. |
| **Address:** Click or tap here to enter text. | **Federal ID #:** Click or tap here to enter text. |
| **E-mail:** Click or tap here to enter text. | **Phone Number:** Click or tap here to enter text. |
|  | **Fax Number:** Click or tap here to enter text. |

**PART B: PROJECT TIMING AND SPECIFIC PROJECT INFORMATION**

**Project Name:** Click or tap here to enter text.

**Number of Participating Farms:** Click or tap here to enter text.

**Project Start Date:** Click or tap to enter a date.

**Anticipated Completion Date:** Click or tap to enter a date.

**1. Water Resource Information**

* 1. **Watershed Name:** Click or tap here to enter text.
  2. **12-digit Hydrologic Unit Code (HUC):** Click or tap here to enter text.
  3. **Name of the water source to be addressed by the project:** Click or tap here to enter text.
  4. **Is the water source identified in question 1c, a designated public drinking water source?**

Yes (If yes, please proceed to question 1e)

No (If no, please proceed to question 1f)

* 1. **If a designated public drinking water source, please select the option below that best characterizes the water source. Please attach a copy of the DOH SWAP map showing the location of the easement.**

Surface water (e.g., stream, river, lake, reservoir, ground water source under the direct influence of surface water)

Ground water (e.g., public water system groundwater wellheld, aquifer sinkhole)

NA

* 1. **If water source is not a designated drinking water source, please select the option below that best characterizes the water source.**

Tributary that drains to a designated drinking water source (e.g., stream, river, lake, reservoir)

Wetland area with a connection to a designated drinking water source

NA

* 1. **Please provide a brief narrative description of the water source to be addressed by the conservation easement(s) included in this project. (Please include details regarding the population served by the water supply. If the water source is not a designated water source, please describe the connection to designated water source).**

Click or tap here to enter text.

* 1. **Does the application address a waterbody with an active TMDL, a waterbody included on the most recent NYS 303(d) List of Impaired Waters requiring a TMDL, or address objectives outlined in a watershed based management plan? (If yes, please include the most recent summary page of the report or plan for the impacted waterbody.)**

Yes

No

NA

* 1. **Does the application address a local priority area that has been identified in a Source Water Protection Plan or has been identified by USDA NRCS? (If yes, please include the summary page from the plan or list of priority areas.)**

Yes

No

NA

1. **Easement Area Description**
   1. **The land that will be encumbered by the conservation easement(s) is owned by the participating farm(s) or is owned by a private owner and rented to an eligible farm operation.**

Yes

No (If No, the application is not eligible to be funded)

* 1. **What is the current land use of the proposed easement area(s)? (Check all that apply) Provide the acreage for each land use type in the easement. *If additional space is needed please copy and paste the table onto a separate sheet and attach to the application.***

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Landowner Name** | **Land Use Type** | **Acreage** |
| 1. | Riparian Lands | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| Cropland | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| Pastureland | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| Agricultural Woodlots | Click or tap here to enter text. |
|  | **Total Easement Area** | **Click or tap here to enter text.** |
| 2. | Riparian Lands | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| Cropland | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| Pastureland | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| Agricultural Woodlots | Click or tap here to enter text. |
|  | **Total Easement Area** | **Click or tap here to enter text.** |
| 3. | Riparian Lands | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| Cropland | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| Pastureland | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| Agricultural Woodlots | Click or tap here to enter text. |
|  | **Total Easement Area** | **Click or tap here to enter text.** |

* 1. **For public water system groundwater wellhead protection areas and aquifer sinkholes, what is the proposed average width of the easement area? (For surface water sources or ground water source under the direct influence of surface water, please respond NA).**

Click or tap here to enter text.

* 1. **For surface water sources (streams, rivers, lakes, reservoirs, ground water source under the direct influence of surface water), what is the proposed average width of the easement area? (For public water system groundwater wellheads and aquifer sinkholes, please respond NA).**

Click or tap here to enter text.

* 1. **Please list the total farm operating acreage (rented and owned) for each participating landowner. *Insert more lines if necessary.***

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Landowner Name** | **Total Acreage** |
| 1. |  |
| 2. |  |
| 3. |  |

* 1. **Will the easement area include a designated Farm Area? *Insert more lines if necessary.***

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Landowner Name** | **YES** | **NO** |
| 1. |  |  |
| 2. |  |  |
| 3. |  |  |

* 1. **If yes, please identify the size, in acres, of each use area below for each easement area that will include a farm area. Please indicate if this will maintain the viability of the participating farm operation or the farm operation currently renting the land to be encumbered (the farm area may not encompass more than 50% of the total operated acreage). *If additional space is needed please copy and paste the table onto a separate sheet and attach to the application.***

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Landowner Name** |  | **Acreage** | **Farm Viability** | |
| 1. | **Farm Area** | Click or tap here to enter text. | Yes | No |
| **Buffer Area** | Click or tap here to enter text. | Yes | No |
| 2. | **Farm Area** | Click or tap here to enter text. | Yes | No |
| **Buffer Area** | Click or tap here to enter text. | Yes | No |
| 3. | **Farm Area** | Click or tap here to enter text. | Yes | No |
| **Buffer Area** | Click or tap here to enter text. | Yes | No |

1. **Water Quality Information**
   1. **Describe the overall water quality condition, at each easement site, of the water resource to be addressed. Describe existing site conditions and any potential sources of nutrients and/or sediment.**

Click or tap here to enter text.

* 1. **Describe the riparian area (at least 35 feet from the streambank or shoreline) or area surrounding the wellhead area or wetland at each easement site. Please include the percent natural vegetation and/or forest.**

Click or tap here to enter text.

* 1. **Do livestock have access to the proposed easement area? *If additional space is needed please copy and paste the table onto a separate sheet and attach to the application.***

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Landowner Name** | **Livestock Access** | | |
| 1. | Yes | No | NA |
| 2. | Yes | No | NA |
| 3. | Yes | No | NA |

* 1. **If yes, are livestock currently fenced out of the water resource? *If additional space is needed please copy and paste the table onto a separate sheet and attach to the application.***

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Landowner Name** | **Livestock Exclusion** | | |
| 1. | Yes | No | NA |
| 2. | Yes | No | NA |
| 3. | Yes | No | NA |

1. **General Project Details**
2. **Explain how this project addresses the program goal of source water protection and describe how the proposed easement will have an impact on water quality of the associated public drinking water source.**

Click or tap here to enter text.

1. **For each landowner, identify the type of buffer to be included in the easement, if it is pre-existing or proposed, if pre-existing: provide size of buffer and description of vegetation and indicate if it meets NRCS standards. *Insert more lines as necessary.***

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | | | If Pre-Existing: | | |
| Landowner Name | Type of Buffer (Herbaceous or Forested) | Pre-Existing or Proposed | Size of buffer (acres) | Type of vegetation present | Does the buffer meet NRCS Standards? (Yes/No) |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |

1. If a buffer (forested or herbaceous) is proposed, will the average width be 35ft or greater?

Yes

No

NA

1. If yes, please provide the average width of proposed buffer.

Click or tap here to enter text.

1. **Will a land trust, municipality, or non-profit organization be involved in the project?**

Yes

No

1. **Identify the roles of each participating agency involved in the project. *Insert more lines as necessary.***

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Participating Agency** | **Project Role** |
| *EXAMPLE: Land Trust* | *Easement Development, Hold Conservation Easement* |
| *EXAMPLE: Soil and Water Conservation District* | *Contract Administration, Technical Services* |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |

**PART C: SWCD RESOLUTION AND CERTIFICATION**

SWCD Resolution authorizing this project application to the Source Water Buffer Program is attached. (Please see sample resolution for preferred format and language. The sample may be used but it is not required.)

I hereby affirm under penalty of perjury that information provided on this form and attached statements and exhibits is true to the best of my knowledge and belief. False statements made herein are punishable as a Class A misdemeanor pursuant to Section 210.45 of the Penal Law.

Title: Click or tap here to enter text. Entity: Click or tap here to enter text.

Date: Click or tap to enter a date. Name: Click or tap here to enter text.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Grantee Signature

NOTE: If the project application includes eligible participating landowner(s) that are either SWCD Board Members or Employees, please attach a copy of the official Board Meeting minutes that reflect the process for the selection of the farm(s), disclosure of interests, and necessary recusals from the authorizing resolution.

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**Checklist for Application Completeness**

*(Revised July 2019)*

*A checklist must be included with each application and must be completed and signed by the SWCD Manager.*

**Applicant SWCD:** Click or tap here to enter text. **Project Name:** Click or tap here to enter text.

**ELIGIBILITY:**

Application submitted to the NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets on the NYS Soil Water Conservation Committee Sharepoint site.

Application submitted by a Soil and Water Conservation District or group of Districts.

State funds requested are less than or equal to 75% of the total project cost.

Sponsor and/or Landowner contributions are 25% or greater of the total project cost.

Easement Stewardship Fee does not exceed 50% of the total project cost.

Proposed project timeline does not exceed the standard contract term of 5 years.

All participating landowners own the land to be encumbered by the easement.

All participating landowners have completed, at a minimum, an AEM Tier 1 Inventory and AEM Tier 2 Assessment. If the participating landowner rents the land to be encumbered to an eligible farm operation, that farm operation must have completed at least an AEM Tier 1 inventory and AEM Tier 2 Assessment.

Project is located directly adjacent to one of the following:

* Surface Water designated as a public drinking water source or public Ground Water Source under the direct influence of surface water;
* Tributary that drains into a surface water designated as a public drinking water source;
* Wetland areas directly adjacent to surface waters designated as a public drinking water source;
* Within a public water system groundwater wellhead protection area designated by the NYS Department of Health;
* Within the contributing area directly adjacent to an aquifer sinkhole.

Proposed easement area meets all applicable size requirements identified in the RFA, Section 2.2 – Eligible Projects

Project proposes to encumber a pre-existing riparian buffer/buffer or proposes to establish a riparian buffer/buffer

The Farm Area cannot be more than 90% of the total easement area

If a Farm Area is included in the conservation easement, the Farm Area will not encompass more than 50% of the total acreage operated (owned and rented) by the eligible farm operation

Applicant clearly identifies participating agencies and associated project roles

**APPLICATION COMPONENTS – All components must be submitted to be considered for funding:**

Application form (all questions answered or marked with N/A)

☐ SW 1

☐ SW 2

☐ SW 3

☐ SW 4

☐ SW 5

☐ SWCD Resolution

☐ Potential Conflict of Interest Form

☐ Letters of Commitment from the Employer(s) of all Key Personnel

☐ Letters of Commitment of all participating landowners indicating amount of commitment and source (Cash or In Kind), a commitment of match for contingency funds, and landowner name printed and signed

☐ Easement Stewardship Fee documentation and copy of the adopted Easement Stewardship Policy

☐ Completed Conservation Easement Cost Calculator for each landowner

☐ 8 ½ x 11 Watershed Map(s) including: watershed boundary, location of impacted waterbody, location of farm(s), names of townships within watershed boundary

☐ For each landowner - 8 ½ x 11 map that shows the proposed project area and includes: aerial image, parcel boundary, water resource to be protected, outline of conservation easement area, outline of buffer area, outline of farm area (if applicable)

☐ If implementing a Riparian Forest Buffer, Cultural Resources (SHPO) map that shows the location of the proposed project

☐ If a designated public drinking water source, Source Water Assessment Protection map or similar map with project location

☐ If a waterbody has an active TMDL/ 303(d) listing, addresses objectives in a watershed based management plan, is included in a Source Water Protection Plan, or is defined as a priority area by USDA NRCS the most recent summary page of the report plan or list indicating the impacted waterbody.

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SWCD Manager Signature