

Attachment A – Notice of Priority Watershed Selection to determine each State’s intent to offer edge-of-field water quality monitoring activities in FY 2023. Submit one request for each watershed area in the State. The following guidance will determine whether a submitted watershed is eligible for national monitoring funds.

Priority Monitoring Data Needs:

- Edge-of-field monitoring systems that evaluate water quality benefits of a conservation system installed over tile drainage and monitor those benefits at the tile outlet.
- Edge-of-field monitoring systems that evaluate water quality benefits from a drainage water management system.
- Edge-of-field monitoring systems that evaluate surface water quality benefits of conservation practices installed on fields of less than 2% slope.
- Edge-of-field monitoring systems that evaluate water quality benefits of a below-field conservation practice (e.g., bioreactor, riparian buffer or cover, wetlands).
- Edge-of-field monitoring systems that evaluate water quality benefits of irrigation water management systems.
- Edge-of-field monitoring systems that investigate matching buffer or filter width needs with slopes, erodibility, tillage, and crop rotations.
- Edge-of-field monitoring systems that characterize the water quality benefits of cover crops, species selection, and purpose (nutrient capture, erosion protection, and/or soil health).
- Edge-of-field monitoring systems that evaluate the water quality benefits of improving pasture management systems as a result of implementing Prescribed Grazing.
- Edge-of-field monitoring systems that evaluate the water quality benefits of improved nutrient management, including injecting or incorporating nutrient amendments, as a result of implementing Nutrient Management.

National Funding to Support the Monitoring Opportunity:

To be considered eligible for national EQIP funds for monitoring, the State must demonstrate the conditions below are met for each proposed watershed:

- 1) There are sufficient partners or vendors available to assist producers with implementing the criteria outlined in Conservation Activities 201 and 202, **AND** have experience with edge-of-field and in-stream monitoring using a paired watershed or “above/below” study design.
- 2) The planned monitoring activity will collect information addressing one or more of the “Priority Monitoring Data Needs” listed above.

State Funding to Support the Monitoring Opportunity:

States may be considered eligible to offer funding for monitoring using the State’s general EQIP allocation; however, the State must demonstrate that the conditions below are met for each proposed watershed:

- 1) There are sufficient partners or vendors available to assist producers with implementing the criteria outlined in Conservation Activities 201 and 202, **AND** have experience with edge-of-field and in-stream monitoring using a paired watershed or “above/below” study design.
- 2) The planned monitoring activity will collect information addressing one or more of the “Priority Monitoring Data Needs” listed above.
- 3) The planned monitoring activity will utilize Conservation Activities 201 and 202, and be coordinated with the Water Quality Monitoring Team (WQMT).

State:		NRCS State POC:	
Check the box next to the applicable watersheds in the State and list the 12-digit hydrologic unit code(s) for each watershed that will be offered for the monitoring opportunity.			
Request to Include	Watershed/Initiative Area	12-Digit Hydrologic Unit Code(s)	12-Digit Hydrologic Unit Name(s)
	Chesapeake Bay Watershed Initiative (CBWI)		
	Mississippi River Basin Healthy Watersheds Initiative (MRBI) (current)		
	Mississippi River Basin Healthy Watersheds Initiative (MRBI) (former)		
	Lake Champlain (LC)		
	Western Lake Erie Basin (WLEB) and Phosphorus Focus Watersheds of the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI)		
	National Water Quality Initiative (NWQI)		
	Other Priority Monitoring		
	State Priority Watersheds (State funded)		
Priority Needs: Please identify which of the following priority monitoring needs are capable of being monitored in the watershed(s).			
	Edge-of-field monitoring systems that evaluate water quality benefits a conservation system installed over tile drainage and monitor those benefits at the tile outlet.		
	Edge-of-field monitoring systems that evaluate water quality benefits from a drainage water management system.		
	Edge-of-field monitoring systems that evaluate surface water quality benefits of conservation practices installed on fields of less than 2% slope.		
	Edge-of-field monitoring systems that evaluate water quality benefits of a <i>below-field</i> conservation practice (e.g., bioreactor, riparian buffer or cover, wetlands).		
	Edge-of-field monitoring systems that evaluate water quality benefits of irrigation water management systems.		
	Edge-of-field monitoring systems that investigate matching buffer or filter width needs with slopes, erodibility, tillage, and crop rotations.		
	Edge-of-field monitoring systems that characterize the water quality benefits of cover crops, species selection, and purpose (nutrient capture, erosion protection, and/or soil health).		
	Edge-of-field monitoring systems that evaluate the water quality benefits of improving pasture management systems as a result of implementing Prescribed Grazing.		
	Edge-of-field monitoring systems that evaluate the water quality benefits of improved nutrient management, including injecting or incorporating nutrient amendments, as a result of implementing Nutrient Management.		

State	NRCS State POC:
Ability to Implement Monitoring: Please indicate the State's ability to implement the edge-of-field water quality monitoring activities.	
Please explain how producers within the watershed have easy access to entities or contractors who have demonstrated that they can assist producers to implement the criteria outlined in the conservation activity standards 201 and 202.	
Monitoring Professionals: Please indicate the names of the monitoring professional(s) who have experience with the following.	
Installing automatic samplers and associated equipment that meet the criteria of the 202 activity standard	
Calibrating automatic samplers and associated equipment according to the criteria of the 202 activity standard	
Maintaining automatic samplers and associated equipment according to the criteria of the 202 activity standard	
Collecting water quality samples that meet the criteria of the 201 activity standard	
Analyzing water quality samples that meet the criteria of the 201 activity standard	
Statistical analysis of water quality data	
Monitoring Professionals (Names and number of each entity available):	Federal Agencies: State Agencies: Universities/Colleges: Non-Government Organizations: Private Contractors:
Names and number of individuals that will be available for this monitoring effort:	Federal Agencies: State Agencies: Universities/Colleges: Non-Government Organizations: Private Contractors:
Approximate travel distance of these individuals to the potential monitoring locations:	Federal Agencies: State Agencies: Universities/Colleges: Non-Government Organizations: Private Contractors:
Additional Information Related to This Request (use additional page if necessary):	