

District Cost Share Program

Guidance updates

Funding proposal – The SWCD has increased the annual allocation for the District Cost Share Program from \$100,000 to \$150,000 for both the general conservation funding pool and Haul Road funding pool. \$100,000 is set aside for general conservation projects and \$50,000 for the Haul Road program.

Proposal - To split both funding pools into two grant cycles. The general conservation project pool will have \$50,000 available July 1 – December 31 and the remaining \$50,000 available January 1 – June 30. Same proposal for the Haul Road program, to have \$25,000 available July 1- December 31 and the remaining \$25,000 available January 1 – June 30.

Applications will still be taken on a first come first serve basis. If the funding pool is spent before December 31 (or the December board meeting), no more applications will be presented to the board until the January board meeting when the second half of the money is available.

From the District Cost Share Guidance Document and updates from past board meetings:

1. Emergency Applications – If there are insufficient funds left in the current budget, the Board may choose to obligate the remaining funds in the current Cost-Share budget and revisit the project for the rest of the funding when a new budget is available. Funds will not be moved forward from the next Fiscal year budget.

Update - On November 3, 2021 the board approved to put together a fast track / emergency plan for time sensitive projects. The project manager shall contact and get approval from at least 4 board members and then have full approval at the next board meeting.

If the DCS budget for the year has been spent, where would funding come from for emergency applications?

2. Funding – On June 3, 2020 the board approved to reabsorb funds that came in under budget or were cancelled.

Proposal - Project manager will review the DCS tracking sheet to note all projects under budget or cancelled and move those funds into a separate pot of money to be available by mid-April to allow more projects to be approved for funding before the end of the fiscal year. If there is not enough money available or projects waiting for approval, that money shall be reabsorbed to the District.

3. **Eligible and ineligible projects**
 - a. Drilling wells for domestic use and livestock use?
 - b. Drilling wells deeper?
 - c. Paying for wells to be lined?
 - d. Boundary fences between private and public land?
 - e. Cap amount for Variable Frequency Drives was \$1,000, should it still be? (Avg. cost of a new VFD is \$200 per HP, that does not include a lot of potential variables)
 - f. What dictates a maintenance project?
 - g. Can landowners have more than one project open if it is applied through a different ranch name or entity?

4. Cost Share Rate - There is not a current reimbursement rate for a Grader.

Proposal - To include a cost share reimbursement rate of \$150 per hour (including man hours) for a grader.

Approved by the board on January 4, 2023

5. Haul Road Reimbursement Cap – The current cap for Haul Roads is \$2,500 for the rock.

Proposal - To increase the maximum reimbursement cap from \$2,500 to \$3,000 to align with the increasing costs of rock, fuel, and trucking prices.

1/4/23 The board suggested I increase the reimbursement rates by 10% and bring to the next board meeting to discuss.