

Cost Share Program Guidelines

TTK (Turtle Creek, Turman Creek, Kelley Bayou) Watershed

1. **Executive Document Summary Number:**
#41471

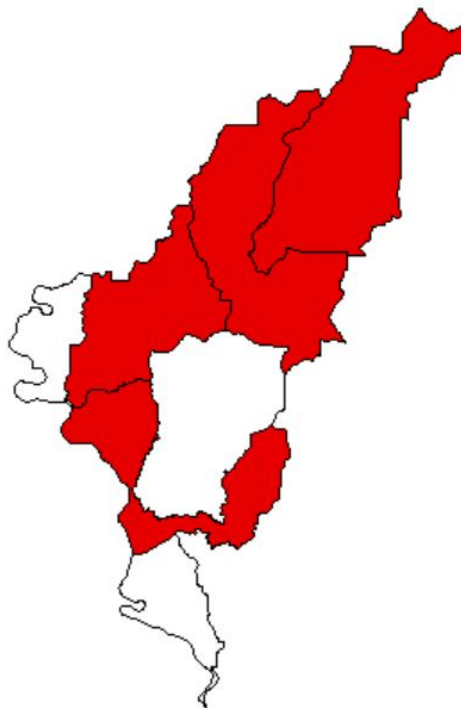
2. **Name of Watershed Management Plan to be implemented with Cost-Share funds:**
Watershed Management Plan for TTK Watershed, dated December 2015

3. **Watershed(s) to be targeted:**
Thunderbird Pond (051201111201)
West Turman (051201111202)
Dodd's Bridge (051201111203)
Little Turtle Creek (051201111602)

4. **Critical areas of the watershed and page numbers in the watershed management plan where this information may be found:**

Section 7.0 of the Watershed Management Plan (pg. 129-140) addresses critical area identification and prioritization. Subwatersheds considered critical for individual parameters (based up monitoring results, pollutant load calculations, land use data, and TTK Advisory Committee prioritization) include Thunderbird Pond, West Turman, Dodd's Bridge, and Little Turtle Creek. During TTK Implementation III, the Little Turtle Creek watershed will now be included as a priority critical area for cost-share funding. Critical areas for cost-share implementation can be viewed below:

Figure 1 - Critical TTK Subwatersheds



5. Decision-making process for determining where BMPs will be targeted within critical areas:

The TTK Advisory Committee chose applicable BMPs for the critical areas after cross-referencing the collected TTK water monitoring data alongside the compiled Stakeholder Concerns and load reduction goals (WMP pgs. 108-118, 128-129). The BMPs on Table 1 below were chosen based on their applicability to current land use and farming practices throughout the watershed. Projects within the critical areas will be prioritized in such a way that the most serious problems will be addressed first. Special prioritization will be given to projects on land bordering an impaired stream or for pastures where over 25 head of livestock have direct access to a stream. Additional prioritization will be applied to first-time adopters of conservation practices covering more than 100 acres.

6. Eligible BMPs and pollutants to be addressed:

Table 1 – Eligible Practice Information

Conservation Practice	NRCS Code	Cost-Share Rate	WMP pages	Pollutant(s) Addressed	Notes
Access Control/Fence (linear ft.)	472, 382	75%	141	TSS, Nutrients, E.coli, Habitat/Bio	Must be associated with a Grazing Plan and exclusion efforts
Animal Trails and Walkways (linear ft.)	575, 578	75%	141	TSS, Nutrients, E.coli, Habitat/Bio	Must be associated with a Grazing Plan and exclusion efforts
Conservation Cover/Cover Crops (acre)	327, 340, 635	75% seed and labor	141	TSS, Nutrients, Habitat/Bio	Seed and labor only - excludes fertilizer; single year practice or 5 yrs for equipment mods. Maximum = 3 years per field
Critical Area Planting (acre)	342	75%	141	TSS, Nutrients, Habitat/Bio	
Diversion (linear ft.)	362, 606	Variable (40-75%)	141	TSS, Nutrients, Habitat/Bio	Subject to Tiered Cost-Share and Cost-Cap
Field Border/Filter Strip (linear ft.)	386, 393, 332	75%	141	TSS, Nutrients, Habitat/Bio	
Forage and Biomass Planting (acre)	512	50%	141	TSS, Nutrients, Habitat/Bio	No Annuals; must be associated with Prescribed Grazing or conversion from rowcrop; not intended to be sold as hay
Grade Stabilization Structure (linear ft.)	410	Variable (40-75%)	142	TSS, Nutrients, Habitat/Bio	Subject to Tiered Cost-Share and Cost-Cap
Grassed Waterway (linear ft.)	412	75%	142	TSS, Nutrients, Habitat/Bio	

Conservation Practice	NRCS Code	Cost-Share Rate	WMP pgs.	Pollutant(s) Addressed	Notes
HUAP/Access Protection (square ft.)	561, 560	75%	142	TSS, Nutrients, Habitat/Bio	Intended for livestock traffic
Nutrient Management and Precision Ag. Upgrades (single plan, per acre)	590	Variable (50-75%)	142	Nutrients, Habitat/Bio	Subject to Tiered Cost-Share and Cost-Cap *Must be NEW to the operation and reduce N inputs
Pasture Seeding, Prescribed Grazing (acre)	528, 516, 558	75%	142	TSS, Nutrients, E.coli	Must be associated with a Grazing Plan and exclusion efforts
Residue and Tillage Management (Mulch-Till, No-Till, Strip-Till) (acre)	345, 329, 585	75% (Variable)	142	TSS, Nutrients, Habitat/Bio	Subject to Tiered Cost-Share and Cost-Cap per row unit *Must be NEW to the operation and reduce soil disturbance
Riparian Buffer (Forest/Herbaceous) (linear ft.)	391, 390, 395	75%	143	TSS, Nutrients, Habitat/Bio	Permanent vegetation to be established along streams and bodies of water
Streambank and Shoreline Protection (linear ft.)	580	Variable (40-75%)	143	TSS, Habitat/Bio	Case-by-case basis; vegetative measures only. Secondary practice to be considered after an initial BMP has failed to meet pollutant concerns; may require permits
Structure for Water Control (single structure)	587	Variable (30-75%)	143	TSS, Nutrients, Habitat/Bio	Subject to Tiered Cost-Share and Cost-Cap
Terrace (linear ft.)	600, 606, 620	Variable (40-75%)	143	TSS, Nutrients, Habitat/Bio	Subject to Tiered Cost-Share and Cost-Cap
Tree and Shrub Establishment (acre)	612, 338	75%	143	TSS, Nutrients, Habitat/Bio	Intended for establishing permanent vegetation on land going out of production
WASCOB (linear ft.)	638, 606, 620	Variable (40-75%)	143	TSS, Habitat/Bio	Subject to Tiered Cost-Share and Cost-Cap
Watering Facility (single structure)	614, 533	75%	144	TSS, E.coli, Nutrients, Habitat/Bio	Must be associated with a Grazing Plan and exclusion efforts
Wetland Creation, Enhancement, Restoration (acre)	656, 658, 659, 657	75%	144	TSS, Nutrients, Habitat/Bio	Intended for reduction of pollutants

**Livestock must be present on-site to qualify for livestock conservation practices*

**Structural practices must remain in place for a minimum of 10 years*

**Biomass and Forage Planting/Pasture Seeding must be maintained for a minimum of 5 years*

**All equipment upgrades must be NEW to the operation and remain in place for a minimum of 5 years*

**Tillage system upgrades require movement from a lower to higher residue system (i.e. less tillage)*

**Precision Ag upgrades must demonstrate a reduction in N application to qualify*

**No 319 practices may be used in conjunction with other federal program payments or to meet the requirements of a permit*

**NRCS definitions for reduced tillage and no-till will be considered*

**All structures must be designed, constructed, and maintained according to NRCS (or other approved) specifications*

**WASCOBs require proof of a Nutrient Management Plan upon request and ability to farm to 'T'*

7. Target Audience of Cost-Share Program:

The primary audience will consist of interested and eligible landowners and operators within the critical watershed boundaries, especially those with agricultural lands and/or livestock.

8. Percentage of Cost-Share to be Provided:

See Table 1 – Eligible Practice Information

For selected practices (structural, precision ag and/or no-till upgrades), a tiered cost-share system will be implemented, based on a producer’s existing farming practices and tendency towards land stewardship.

9. Cost-Share Advertising and Promotion:

A variety of advertising and promotion outlets will be utilized:

- Word-of-mouth promotion through SWCD Board members, TTK Advisory Committee, conservation staff partners (i.e. NRCS, ISDA, TNC), and one-on-one conversations with local producers who frequent the USDA office
- Ads and articles featured in the local newspapers
- Announcements and updates sent to TTK Group email list for wide distribution
- Updates provided via TTK Quarterly Newsletter
- Information available on website <http://watershed-alliance.org>
- Social media updates via WCIWA Twitter and Sullivan SWCD Facebook page
- Information dispersed to neighboring SWCDs and partner agencies to be forwarded on to eligible clients and producers
- Contact local implement dealerships, contractors, and seed sales personnel to notify them of cost-share programs and critical areas where producers may be eligible
- Promotional booths and announcements at popular local events such as Sullivan County Fair, Merom Chautauqua Festival, Sullivan Ag Day, Pigg Implement Annual Planter Clinic, and other applicable occasions where a large number of producers may be reached
- Develop and distribute comprehensive brochure outlining eligible practices, application process, and percent cost-share available
- Presentations at various events and meetings (field days, PARP workshops, Purdue Extension events, SWCD Annual Meeting, INField Advantage group meetings, local drainage boards, County Council, Commissioners, neighboring SWCDs etc.)

10. Cost-Share Application Review:

The Watershed Coordinator will be the primary reviewer of cost-share applications for proposed projects and/or practices. Scored applications will be utilized to determine cost-share percentage in the case of variable rate practices (i.e. structures, precision ag and no-

till upgrades). For practices with standard cost-share rates (i.e. cover crops, HUAP, etc.), the Watershed Coordinator will determine eligibility with consensus of NRCS staff. Consensus will be indicated by NRCS Conservation Plan signatures on file for the applicant.

Applications for which no precedent has been set or are unclear as to compliance with the cost-share program shall be reviewed by the Sullivan County Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors and, if necessary, the TTK Advisory Committee.

11. Criteria to be used when reviewing cost-share applications:

The following criteria will be considered when reviewing cost-share applications and eligibility for each producer and project:

- Location within a critical area as defined by the WMP
- Inclusion of the BMP(s) in the Cost-Share Program
- Compliance with rules set forth in this Cost-Share Program
- Compliance with accepted standards such as the NRCS Field Office Technical Guide
- Compliance with Section 319 rules and regulations

As a reminder, additional guidelines for 319 projects can be referenced below:

Section 319 Cannot Fund:

- ✘ Purchase of large agricultural equipment or other large pieces of equipment - (equipment modifications and leasing are allowable); equipment repairs/replacements do not qualify for funding
- ✘ Purchase of land or land easements, including conservation easements - (costs associated with land/conservation easements may be used as match in cases where the sponsor can remain responsible for the continuance of the easement until its conclusion, and where the purpose is to restore vegetation, hydrologic function, or some other characteristic which will have a positive effect on water quality)
- ✘ Projects directed at water *quantity* rather than water *quality*, such as drainage/flood control or channelization
- ✘ Dredging
- ✘ Non-vegetative materials used for streambank stabilization (i.e. rip-rap, concrete)
- ✘ Any practices, equipment, or supplies used to fulfill the requirements of a Federal permit, such as a NPDES permit, or to comply with a State rule or permit, or to meet enforcement requirements
- ✘ Practices at a Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO)
- ✘ Wetland mitigation sites
- ✘ Incentive payments of any kind
- ✘ Yield losses
- ✘ Practices not sanctioned by IDEM or a partner agency of IDEM
- ✘ Practices not installed in accordance with standards and specifications developed by NRCS, IDNR or other recognized standards
- ✘ Sales tax
- ✘ Log jam removal

12. *Administrative Responsibility:*

The Watershed Coordinator shall be responsible for the administrative tasks of the cost-share program with the exception of the disbursement of funds. The Sullivan County SWCD Coordinator/Educator will be responsible for disbursing funds and tracking reimbursement of funds by IDEM. The Watershed Coordinator will compile Section 319 Match Documentation and Section 319 Itemization of Invoice Expenditures as required by IDEM.

13. *Cost-Share Cap per Applicant:*

There is a \$50,000 cap per customer. No single customer shall receive more than \$50,000 in cost-share funding during the timeline of this 319 Implementation grant.

14. *Cost-Share Cap per BMP:*

Cost-Share caps per BMP will apply for structural practices, precision ag and planter upgrades as outlined in Figure 2 featured on page 8 of this document (TTK Cost-Share Eligibility Guidelines for Staff). Cost-share caps will be based on a producer's application score in the tiered cost-share system.

At the maximum cost-share levels, the following caps will apply:

Precision Agriculture Upgrades: \$10,000 cap

Planter Upgrades: \$1,000 per row unit cap

Structural Projects: \$50,000 cap

15. *Equipment Modification Cost-Share:*

Planter modifications and precision agriculture modifications may be eligible for cost-share under this program. Guidelines for a tiered cost-share approach and eligibility can be found in Figures 2, 4, and 5 at the conclusion of this document (pgs. 8-12). Stipulations for these modifications require that equipment upgrades generate a measurable pollutant load reduction (i.e. reduce overlap, increase surface residue, decrease fertilizer inputs) and be new to the operation.

16. *BMP installation review and approval:*

BMPs will be reviewed by one or more of the following: qualified Sullivan Soil & Water Conservation District staff or contract employee (i.e. Watershed Coordinator), Natural Resources Conservation Services staff members or a Technical Service Provider as approved by NRCS.

17. *Permit Requirements:*

Permits may be required for BMPs such as wetland restoration or any project being installed in a county right-of-way. In this case, local Drainage Boards, Indiana Department of Environmental Management, Indiana Department of Natural Resources, and/or the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers may need to be contacted prior to construction. It is the responsibility of the applicant to obtain all necessary permits and pay for any applicable fees prior to the project.

18. *BMP Geolocation:*

The latitude/longitude location of each BMP will be documented on the 319A form as required by IDEM for each producer payment. This information will be used by IDEM to record in a statewide geodatabase of 319 projects. In addition, the Watershed Coordinator will maintain a constantly updated shapefile in ArcMap (or other applicable mapping program) to catalog BMPs as they are completed throughout the watershed. Each producer will have a conservation plan on file which will also contain location information for each BMP completed.

19. *Pollutant load reduction models/tools to be used for installed BMPs:*

The Region5 and StepL pollutant load reduction models will primarily be used to estimate pollutant load reductions as a result of installed BMPs. However, for BMPs that aren't featured in the aforementioned models (Example: precision agriculture upgrades), a local agronomist or conservationist may be consulted to provide applicable pollutant load reduction estimates to be used with IDEM approval. No model for E.coli pollutant load reduction has been approved to date.

20. *BMP Maintenance:*

The applicant shall be responsible for properly maintaining all BMPs for the specified duration. With the exception of cover crops, all vegetative and land management BMPs must be maintained for a minimum of 5 years. Cover crops shall have a single year maintenance period. All structural practices must be maintained for a minimum of 10 years.



TTK 319 Cost-Share Eligibility Guidelines (For Staff Use)

**Check for critical area!*

**Conservation Plan on file (and signed) by Operator
(Control of Land form may be needed from Landowner)*

**Include job sheets*

**W-9 form on file for payment*

Cover Crops – Cost Share:

All producers receive 75% for seed/labor

IDEM 319 Maximum = 3 years of cost-share funding per field

No fertilizer application will be funded

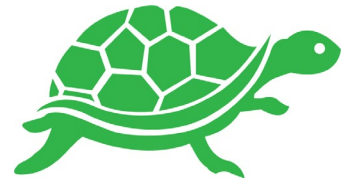
Seed tags must be included with bills submitted

Precision Ag – Cost Share:

Checked 1-3 = 50% cost-share with \$3,000 cap

Checked 4-6 = 60% cost-share with \$5,000 cap

Checked 7 or more = 75% cost-share with \$10,000 cap



**Upgrade must be new to the operation and reduce overlap/inputs for Nitrogen*

Planter Modifications/Upgrades – Cost Share:

Level 1 = 75% up to \$150.00/row unit

Level 2 = 75% up to \$500.00/row unit

Level 3 = 75% up to \$750.00/row unit

Level 4 = 75% up to \$1000.00/row unit

**NRCS definitions of reduced tillage and no-till will be considered*

**Designed for planters on 30" rows*

HUAP (Heavy Use Area Protection) – Cost-Share:

75% of total cost for an NRCS designed HUAP (intended for livestock traffic)

Structures – Cost Share:

Level 1 = 40% cost-share with \$5,000 cap per Tract *(must check 1)*

Level 2 = 50% cost-share with \$10,000 cap per Tract *(must check 2)*

Level 3 = 60% cost-share with \$20,000 cap per Tract *(must check 3)*

Level 4 = 75% cost-share with \$25,000 cap per Tract *(must check 4)*

Level 5 = 75% cost-share with \$50,000 cap per Tract *(must check 4 AND one of the last two items)*

**NRCS definitions for reduced tillage and no-till will be considered*

**All structures must be designed, constructed, and maintained according to NRCS specifications*

**WASCOBs require proof of a Nutrient Management Plan upon request and ability to farm to 'T'*

**Livestock practices require proof of Grazing Plan upon request*

Figure 3 – Producer Application for Structural Practice Cost-Share



TTK 319 Cost-Share Eligibility
Structural Practices

Producer Name: _____ Phone number: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____ Would you like to receive our E-Newsletter?

Watershed(s), if known: _____

Tract/Farm #s and/or location(s): _____

Landowner(s): _____

Please check all that apply per FSA Farm Tract under review:

Level 1: Check all that apply

<input type="checkbox"/>	100% No-Till soybeans
<input type="checkbox"/>	Plant critical areas (draws, washes) to cover crops
<input type="checkbox"/>	Buffers (20' or more) on all streams and creeks

Level 2: Check all that apply

<input type="checkbox"/>	100% No-Till soybeans
<input type="checkbox"/>	Plant critical areas (draws, washes) to cover crops
<input type="checkbox"/>	Buffers (20' or more) on all streams and creeks
<input type="checkbox"/>	Variable Rate Applications of P, K, and lime

Level 3: Check all that apply

<input type="checkbox"/>	100% No-Till for commodity crops or 100% cover crops for horticultural crops
<input type="checkbox"/>	Plant critical areas (draws, washes) to cover crops
<input type="checkbox"/>	Buffers (20' or more) on all streams and creeks
<input type="checkbox"/>	Variable Rate Applications of P, K, and lime
<input type="checkbox"/>	Split Nitrogen Applications (no fall applications)

Level 4: Check all that apply

<input type="checkbox"/>	100% No-Till for commodity crops or 100% cover crops for horticultural crops
<input type="checkbox"/>	Plant critical areas (draws, washes) to cover crops
<input type="checkbox"/>	Buffers (20' or more) on all streams and creeks
<input type="checkbox"/>	Variable Rate Applications of P, K, and lime
<input type="checkbox"/>	Split Nitrogen Applications (no fall applications)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Cover crops on at least 50% of crop acreage

Level 5: Check all that apply

	100% No-Till for commodity crops or 100% cover crops for horticultural crops
	Plant critical areas (draws, washes) to cover crops
	Buffers (20' or more) on all streams and creeks
	Variable Rate Applications of P, K, and lime
	Split Nitrogen Applications (no fall applications)
	Cover crops on at least 50% of crop acreage
	At least 25% of roads buffered (20' or more) on total operation
	Farm owner's or operator's proof of recent septic inspection and/or maintenance on any property located within the TTK watershed (within current grant time period)

I hereby certify that the aforementioned statements are correct and can be verified during an on-site visit or through an evaluation of current records, if requested.



Producer signature

Date

Figure 4 – Producer Application for Planter Upgrade Cost-Share



TTK 319 Cost-Share Eligibility
Planter Modifications/Upgrades

Producer Name: _____ Phone number: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____ Would you like to receive our E-Newsletter?

Watershed(s), if known: _____

Tract/Farm #s and/or location(s): _____

Landowner(s): _____

Level 1: Check all that apply

<input type="checkbox"/>	Chaff Spreader on combine
<input type="checkbox"/>	No-Till coulter

Level 2: Check all that apply

<input type="checkbox"/>	Chaff Spreader on combine
<input type="checkbox"/>	No-Till coulter
<input type="checkbox"/>	Row cleaners

Level 3: Check all that apply

<input type="checkbox"/>	Chaff Spreader on combine
<input type="checkbox"/>	No-Till coulter
<input type="checkbox"/>	Row cleaners
<input type="checkbox"/>	Buffers (20' wide or more) on 100% of streams and creeks

Level 4: Check all that apply

<input type="checkbox"/>	Chaff Spreader on combine
<input type="checkbox"/>	No-Till coulter
<input type="checkbox"/>	Row cleaners
<input type="checkbox"/>	Buffers (20' wide or more) on 100% of streams and creeks
<input type="checkbox"/>	Split Nitrogen applications (no fall applications)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Variable Rate P, K, and lime applications

I hereby certify that the aforementioned statements are correct and can be verified during an on-site visit or through an evaluation of current records, if requested.

Producer signature

Date



Figure 5 – Producer Application for Planter Upgrade Cost-Share



TTK 319 Cost-Share Eligibility **Precision Agriculture – Equipment Upgrades**

**Must be NEW to the operation and REDUCE inputs*

Producer Name: _____ Phone number: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____ Would you like to receive our E-Newsletter?

Watershed, if known: _____

Tract/Farm #s and/or location(s): _____

Landowner(s): _____

Please check all that apply:

<input type="checkbox"/>	100% No-Till soybeans
<input type="checkbox"/>	Critical Areas seeded and maintained
<input type="checkbox"/>	Variable rate applications of P, K, and lime
<input type="checkbox"/>	Split Nitrogen application (no fall application)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Buffers 20' wide or more are maintained on 75% of streams
<input type="checkbox"/>	Buffers 10' wide or more are maintained on 50% of roads
<input type="checkbox"/>	10% of total operation utilizes cover crops
<input type="checkbox"/>	Riparian (trees) zones remain along creeks and streams
<input type="checkbox"/>	Proof of septic maintenance within the past 3 years
<input type="checkbox"/>	100% No-Till commodity crops

I hereby certify that the aforementioned statements are correct and can be verified during an on-site visit, if requested.

 Producer signature

 Date

