

**Draft**  
**NRCS Phase II Team 1/**  
**Action Plan**

**I. HIGH-LEVEL MILESTONES: COMMUNICATION - Improve communications both internally and externally to accelerate the adoption of Drainage Water Management (CPS 554) conservation practice in combination with nutrient management.**

**Lead Individual – Tom Christensen**

- **A. Develop an agency action plan to support greater adoption, with emphasis in the Upper Mississippi Basin** **Completed**  
**TARGET: December 31, 2011**

**Activities:**

1. Develop initial draft action plan **Due date: 6/1/2011 By: Team 6/1/2011**
2. After internal review and partner comments, complete final action plan **Due date: 1/30/2012 By: Paul S.**
3. Present Action Plan at National Summit **Due date: 10/15/2011 By: Exec Sponsors**

- **B. Finalize plans with partners for National Summit to identify science and technology, policy, programmatic, economic and institutional barriers and solutions**  
**TARGET: September 30, 2011**

**Activities:**

1. Complete Agreement with partners to carry out National Summit **Due date: 6/15/2011 By: Paul 6/30/2011**  
Doug T.
2. Complete draft agenda for National Summit **Due date: 7/15/2011 By: Paul 7/28/2011**  
Doug T.
3. Final National Summit plans submitted for Approval **Due date: 8/1/2011 By: Paul 9/28/2011**
4. Present data gathered on feasible acres and applicability of drainage water management (DWM) at the National Summit **Due date: 11/1/2011 By: Pat W. 10/11/2011**
5. Produce a summary report from the National Summit on findings and recommendations **Due date: 12/31/2011 By: Paul**

- **C. Carryout the Partner Forum II** **TARGET: June 15, 2011**

**Activities:**

1. Develop a draft Agenda **Due date: 5/1/2011 By: Paul S. 5/20/2011**
2. Coordinate invites being sent **Due date: 5/15/2011 By: Paul S. 6/14/2011**
3. Participate in Partner Forum **Due date: 6/15/2011 By: Paul S. 6/15/2011**
4. Post the Partner Forum I transcript to website **Due date: 5/1/2011 By: Paul S. 6/15/2011**
5. Post the Partner Forum II transcript to website **Due date: 7/15/2011 By: Paul S. 6/24/2011**

- **D. Carryout the Partner Forum III** **TARGET: December 30, 2011**

**Activities:**

1. Develop a draft Agenda **Due date: 11/15/2011 By: Paul S.**
2. Coordinate invites being sent **Due date: 12/1/2011 By: Paul S.**
3. Participate in Partner Forum **Due date: 12/30/2011 By: Paul S.**
4. Post the Partner Forum III transcript to website **Due date: 2/1/2011 By: Paul S.**

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➤ **E. Evaluate the Phase 1 study recommendations for feasibility, prioritization, and modification**

**TARGET:** June 1, 2011

**Activities:**

- |  |                            |                 |                  |
|--|----------------------------|-----------------|------------------|
| 1. Complete a full review of study recommendations and report to Sponsors          | <b>Due date:</b> 6/15/2011 | <b>By:</b> Team | <b>6/14/2011</b> |
| 2. Prioritize feasible tasks to address recommendations and include in Action Plan | <b>Due date:</b> 6/1/2011  | <b>By:</b> Team | <b>6/24/2011</b> |

➤ **F. Coordinate the establishment and maintenance of a DWM Website**

**TARGET:** June 15, 2011

**Activities:**

- |   |                             |                    |                  |
|---|-----------------------------|--------------------|------------------|
| 1. The CIG Report and Executive summary is linked from the NRCS home page after final edits | <b>Due date:</b> 6/1/2011   | <b>By:</b> Paul S. | <b>6/14/2011</b> |
| 2. The DWM Team website is established on the Water Resources page                          | <b>Due date:</b> 7/1/2011   | <b>By:</b> Paul S. | <b>6/24/2011</b> |
| 3. Review the DWM website every two months to ensure accuracy and that it is up to date     | <b>Due date:</b> 7/15/2011  | <b>By:</b> Paul S. | <b>7/29/2011</b> |
|   | <b>Due date:</b> 9/15/2011  | <b>By:</b> Paul S. | <b>9/28/2011</b> |
|   | <b>Due date:</b> 11/15/2011 | <b>By:</b> Paul S. |                  |
|   | <b>Due date:</b> 1/15/2012  | <b>By:</b> Paul S. |                  |
|   | <b>Due date:</b> 3/15/2012  | <b>By:</b> Paul S. |                  |
|   | <b>Due date:</b> 5/15/2012  | <b>By:</b> Paul S. |                  |
|   | <b>Due date:</b> 7/15/2012  | <b>By:</b> Paul S. |                  |
|   | <b>Due date:</b> 9/15/2012  | <b>By:</b> Paul S. |                  |
|   | <b>Due date:</b> 11/15/2012 | <b>By:</b> Paul S. |                  |
|   | <b>Due date:</b> 1/15/2013  | <b>By:</b> Paul S. |                  |
| 4. Add new and current content as it becomes available or at least every 4 months           | <b>Due date:</b> 7/15/2011  | <b>By:</b> Paul S. | <b>7/29/2011</b> |
|   | <b>Due date:</b> 11/15/2011 | <b>By:</b> Paul S. | <b>9/28/2011</b> |
|   | <b>Due date:</b> 3/15/2012  | <b>By:</b> Paul S. |                  |
|   | <b>Due date:</b> 7/15/2012  | <b>By:</b> Paul S. |                  |
|   | <b>Due date:</b> 11/15/2012 | <b>By:</b> Paul S. |                  |
|   | <b>Due date:</b> 3/15/2012  | <b>By:</b> Paul S. |                  |
|   | <b>Due date:</b> 7/15/2012  | <b>By:</b> Paul S. |                  |
|   | <b>Due date:</b> 11/15/2012 | <b>By:</b> Paul S. |                  |
|   | <b>Due date:</b> 3/15/2013  | <b>By:</b> Paul S. |                  |

➤ **G. Coordinate the establishment and maintenance of a SharePoint site for the DWM Team**

**TARGET:** July 1, 2011

- |   |                             |                    |                  |
|---|-----------------------------|--------------------|------------------|
| 1. Work with IT at NHQ to establish a SharePoint site for team use                | <b>Due date:</b> 6/15/2011  | <b>By:</b> Paul S. | <b>6/12/2011</b> |
| 2. Add new and current content as it becomes available or at least every 4 months | <b>Due date:</b> 7/15/2011  | <b>By:</b> Paul S. | <b>7/8/2011</b>  |
|   | <b>Due date:</b> 11/15/2011 | <b>By:</b> Paul S. |                  |
|   | <b>Due date:</b> 3/15/2012  | <b>By:</b> Paul S. |                  |
|   | <b>Due date:</b> 7/15/2012  | <b>By:</b> Paul S. |                  |
|   | <b>Due date:</b> 11/15/2012 | <b>By:</b> Paul S. |                  |
|   | <b>Due date:</b> 3/15/2012  | <b>By:</b> Paul S. |                  |
|   | <b>Due date:</b> 7/15/2012  | <b>By:</b> Paul S. |                  |
|   | <b>Due date:</b> 11/15/2012 | <b>By:</b> Paul S. |                  |
|   | <b>Due date:</b> 3/15/2013  | <b>By:</b> Paul S. |                  |

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➤ **H. Carryout an effective communications and outreach campaign**

**TARGET:** September 30, 2011

**Activities:**

1. Meet with NHQ Public Affairs to develop a National Communications and Outreach Plan **Due date:** 7/18/2011 **By:** Paul S., 7/14/2011  
Doug T.,  
Troy D.
2. Hold a team teleconference with NHQ PA and the States' PAS to frame the development of State communications and outreach plans **Due date:** 12/1/2011 **By:** Paul S.  
State Reps
3. Review the states' communication and outreach plans as part of the states' AGWAM plan **Due date:** 12/15/2011 **By:** Paul S.
4. Report to the PMT on DWM activities and research needs **Due date:** 3/15/2012 **By:** Wayne H.  
Paul S.
5. Develop a DWM brochure similar to Sage Grouse Initiative to be used by NRCS offices in the MRBI and other states **Due date:** 3/15/2012 **By:** Paul S.
6. Post the DWMS Task Force's 2/ DWM brochure to the DWM website **Due date:** 3/15/2012 **By:** Paul S.

➤ **I. Determine producer and farm manager perspectives related to the practice Drainage Water Management (CPS 554)**

**TARGET:** December 30, 2011

**Activities:**

1. Work with producers and farm mgrs. In the Focus area to measure their understanding, willingness to adopt, perceived barriers, need for assistance , control of suitable land, etc.. **Due date:** 2/1/2012 **By:** DWM Team
2. Present results of above survey to ADWS Task Force **Due date:** 3/30/2012 **By:** Paul S.
3. Present results of above survey to Exec. Sponsors **Due date:** 5/30/2012 **By:** Doug T.

➤ **J. Participate on the ADWM Task Force and update the Task Force on DWM Team's activities**

**TARGET:** September 30, 2011

**Activities:**

1. Attend the winter 2011 Task Force meeting **Due date:** 12/1/2011 **By:** Paul S., 10/11/2011  
Doug T.
2. Report Task Force activities to the DWM Team and Executive Sponsors along with written recommendations for NRCS actions **Due date:** 12/30/2011 **By:** Doug T.

➤ **K. Integrate the ADWM Task Force into DWM Team's review and feedback system**

**TARGET:** September 30, 2011

**Activities:**

1. Ask the Task Force to review draft Action Plan **Due date:** 10/1/2011 **By:** Paul S., 6/27/2011  
Doug T.
2. Ask the Task Force for feedback on progress made by the DWM Team every six months **Due date:** 12/30/2011 **By:** Doug T.

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**II. HIGH-LEVEL MILESTONES: TECHNOLOGY – Fully utilize existing and new technology to accelerate the adoption of the conservation practice - Drainage Water Management (CPS 554)**

**Lead Individual – Wayne Honeycutt for A., B. and C.**

**Lead Individual – Doug Lawrence for D.**

➤ **A. Develop repository for or links to research done on DWM practices**

**TARGET:** August 30, 2011

**Activities:**

1. Create a site under Water Resources for Research findings on DWM practices or link to other topical sites **Due date:** 9/1/2011 **By:** Paul S. **9/28/2011**
2. Utilize the ADWM Task Force’s website as a resource for NRCS website via link **Due date:** 9/1/2011 **By:** Paul S. **9/28/2011**
3. Assess known impacts of DWM on greenhouse gases and potential impacts to global climate change **Due date:** 3/1/2012 **By:** Doug T. Chris S.
4. Assess the impacts of DWM as an option for flood mitigation (added item) **Due date:** 6/1/2012 **By:** Doug T.

➤ **B. Complete technical reviews of interim and other innovative practices for DWM**

**TARGET:** February 1, 2012

**Activities:**

1. Evaluate the Denitrifying Bioreactor interim practice standard: set up a team, evaluate, and provide a report with recommendations to the Action Team **Due date:** 12/15/2011 **By:** Bruce A. J. Davis
2. Monitor and evaluate research and demonstration results involving saturated buffers, blind outlets and two-stage ditches: set up a team, evaluate, and provide a report with recommendations to the Action Team **Due date:** 12/15/2011 **By:** J. Davis
3. Monitor and evaluate research and demonstration results involving potential application of subsurface water control valves newly developed commercially to operate within a tile line: set up a team, evaluate, and provide a report with recommendations to the Action Team, including recommendations on incentives **Due date:** 12/15/2011 **By:** Tech Sub-team
4. Initiate the use of subsurface water control devices in demonstration plots, pilot watersheds or CIG projects if the evaluation of these devices shows potential **Due date:** 12/15/2011 **By:** Tech Sub-team
5. Develop a protocol for communication of positive results for any technologies that have been evaluated and determined to be ready for implementation on a wide scale or on a pilot scale: define the practice implementation and what practice standard is met, quantify benefits to relevant resource concerns, provide design **Due date:** 12/15/2011 **By:** Tech Sub-team

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guidance, and identify areas of caution and what might be used for water quality trading.

- 6. Use the protocol developed above to communicate results from technical reviews, as appropriate **Due date:** 2/1/2012 **By:** Tech Sub-team
- 7. Evaluate potential expanded use of interim standard "CPS 799 – Monitoring and Evaluation" for use in Farm Bill contracts on subsurface drainage systems to obtain more on-farm resource benefit data (Remote telemetry?) **Due date:** 12/15/2011 **By:** Tech Sub-team
- 8. Review and revise Technical Standard for DWM (554) as needed **Due date:** 10/15/2011 **By:** Tech Sub-team  
9/15/2011

➤ **C. Identify and collect the knowledge needed to improve the understanding of DWM**

**TARGET:** June 15, 2011

**Activities:**

- 1. Review prior-funded CIG projects for transferrable DWM science, data and methods **Due date:** 6/15/2011 **By:** Troy D. 8/1/2011  
John D.
- 2. Develop PowerPoint presentation to report on the ADWC Coalition CIG results **Due date:** 6/15/2011 **By:** Doug T. 6/15/2011
- 3. Identify needed science/data for DWM implementation **Due date:** 9/1/2011 **By:** Doug T.
- 4. Utilize CIGs, 319 grants, and other funding sources to collect the science and/or performance data on DWM (Use an RFP to initiate process if needed) **Due date:** 11/1/2012 **By:** Tech Team
- 5. Establish, through the PMT, high quality, long-term research into the performance of DWM systems to determine the benefits and operation and maintenance costs **Due date:** 3/1/2012 **By:** Wayne H.  
Doug T.
- 6. Establish monitoring protocols for use with demonstration projects to ensure high quality performance data **Due date:** 3/1/2012 **By:** Pat W.  
Jerry W.  
 Andy L.

➤ **D. Utilize technology to determine where Drainage Water Management (CPS 554) is feasible**

**TARGET:** September 30, 2011

**Activities:**

- 1. Establish a Data Resource Sub-Team to assist principle team members with completion of the tasks under this item **Due date:** 6/15/2011 **By:** Paul S. 6/24/2011
- 2. Utilize CEAP modeling to identify land where DWM may likely be implemented at a large scale and would likely provide environmental benefits on water quality **Due date:** 12/15/2011 **By:** Daryl L.  
changed method to obtain
- 3. Identify land, using LIDAR where available, with a high potential for DWM implementation (land with slopes of 1% or less) in the Upper Mississippi River Basin and develop state-and - county level suitability maps **Due date:** 12/30/2011 **By:** Steve N.  
changed method to obtain
- 4. Identify land, using LIDAR where available, with **Due date:** 12/30/2011 **By:** Steve N. Cancelled

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a moderate potential for DWM implementation using contour systems (>1% and < 2% land slope) in the Upper Mississippi River Basin and develop state-and-county level suitability maps

5. Identify any other suitability maps for the state and county level relative to subsurface drainage and soils limitations that may be useful to prioritize workload **(developed soil suitability format for tile drainage)** **Due date:** 12/1/2011 **By:** Jerry S. **10/1/2011**
6. Identify how to utilize a LIDAR data to create 6" contour intervals for lands with high potential for DWM implementation **Due date:** 2/1/2012 **By:** Steve N.
7. Evaluate procedures for field offices to determine feasibility of DWM at the field/tract level within priority areas **Due date:** 2/1/2012 **By:** Jerry S.
8. Select a procedure that is automated, quick and easy using tools being developed by CDSI team **Due date:** 4/1/2012 **By:** Jerry W.
9. Evaluate Drainage Soil interpretation Reports previously developed relative to subsurface drainage that were previously recommended for nation-wide use **Due date:** 12/15/2011 **By:** Jerry W. **Cancelled**  
(see #5 above) Griffin
10. Modify Drainage Soil interpretation reports previously developed by Central National Technical Support Center and Texas State NRCS to change soil slope criteria for DWM and run report by state and county that would provide acres with soils with potential application of DWM **Due date:** 12/15/2011 **By:** Jerry W. Griffin
11. Request assistance of Paul S. Finnell, at the National Soils Center in Lincoln, to use data queries to create database containing total acres of soil by county, by state, that are poorly drained, or (designated as artificially drained) and having slopes  $\leq 1.0\%$ . This will assist states in focusing their efforts in areas of greatest potential **Due date:** 8/15/2011 **By:** Jerry W. **10/1/2011**

**III. HIGH-LEVEL MILESTONES: TRAINING – Initiate and improve training at the field level to accelerate adoption of Drainage Water Management (CPS 554) conservation practice and its use in a systems approach.**

**Lead Individual – Wayne Honeycutt**

- **A. Provide internal training to ensure all employees in the targeted six state focus area have an understanding of DWM in order to promote the practice effectively**

**Target:** September 30, 2011

**Activities:**

1. Establish a Training Sub-Team to assist the principle Team members assigned to these tasks **Due date:** 6/15/2011 **By:** Paul S. **6/15/2011**
2. Identify DWM training needs in the nine state region **Due date:** 12/1/2011 **By:** State Reps Training Sub-team
3. Develop basic DWM awareness modules/webinars to train all employees identified in **Due date:** 8/15/2011 **By:** Training Sub-team **8/1/2011**

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DWM targeted areas

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 4. Ensure all state DWM action plans include an item to provide training on DWM in their state's Conservation Planning for New Employees   | <b>Due date:</b> 12/1/2011 <b>By:</b> State Reps <b>Cancelled</b><br><b>Not an actual course</b> Training Sub-team<br><b>any longer at the state level</b> |
| 5. Ensure all appropriate field employees have completed the DWM Awareness training modules  | <b>Due date:</b> 4/15/2012 <b>By:</b> State Reps   |
| 6. Develop an agreement with NCSU to make BAE, DRAINMOD Lecture Modules available to NRCS engineers and other scientists who will be involved in planning, assessment, and design of Drainage Systems and DWM  | <b>Due date:</b> 2/15/2012 <b>By:</b> Paul S.<br>Doug T.   |
| 7. Develop agreement with NCSU to add 4 additional, BAE, DRAINMOD Lecture Modules relating to DWM and its effects, and make them available to NRCS engineers and other scientists who will be involved in planning, assessment, and design of Drainage Systems and DWM | <b>Due date:</b> 2/15/2012 <b>By:</b> Paul S.<br>Doug T.   |
| 8. Ensure that DWM and nitrate-nitrogen reduction is incorporated in the Conservation Planning for New Employees training agenda for the focus nine states   | <b>Due date:</b> 12/1/2011 <b>By:</b> Training Sub-team<br><b>Not an actual course</b> <b>Cancelled</b><br><b>any longer at the state level</b>            |
| 9. Provide training to engineers, engineering technicians, and soil conservation technicians in targeted areas to enable them to understand and design DWM practices/systems   | <b>Due date:</b> 6/1/2012 <b>By:</b> Training Sub-team   |

➤ **B. Identify and utilize external training for NRCS employees and partners to accelerate the implementation of DWM** **TARGET:** December 1, 2012

**Activities:**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1. Utilize training conducted by Extension and the Universities in IA, MO, OH, IL, IN and MN.                               | <b>Due date:</b> 10/1/2012 <b>By:</b> Training Sub-team                                    |
| 2. Utilize private sector training on precision farming and precision installation of tile drainage                         | <b>Due date:</b> 10/1/2012 <b>By:</b> Training Sub-team                                    |
| 3. Identify the need for a cooperative agreement to accomplish training identified in needs inventory                       | <b>Due date:</b> 2/1/2012 <b>By:</b> Training Sub-team                                     |
| 4. Promote the use of private sector MOU partners to carry out further DWM training for Technical Service Providers (TSP's) | <b>Due date:</b> 2/1/2012 <b>By:</b> Training Sub-team<br><b>Doug T. conducted webinar</b> |

➤ **C. Utilize TSP's to accelerate the implementation of DWM** **TARGET:** March 1, 2013

**Activities:**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1. Ensure TSP practice progress is recorded in Toolkit and recorded to TSP's for tracking      | <b>Due date:</b> 10/1/2011 <b>By:</b> Doug T.                 |
| 2. Provide support to TSP efforts by assisting organizations achieve certification             | <b>Due date:</b> 8/1/2012 <b>By:</b> Doug T. <b>7/14/2011</b> |
| 3. Provide assistance to the ADMC 3/ in completing the July 2011 TSP training in Rochester, MN | <b>Due date:</b> 8/1/2011 <b>By:</b> Doug T. <b>7/15/2011</b> |

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|---|---------------------------|---------------------|
| 4. Utilize TSPs to increase Conservation Activity Plans (CAPs) and systems applied to at least 30 | <b>Due date:</b> 6/1/2012 | <b>By:</b> DWM Team |
| 5. Utilize TSPs to increase Conservation Activity Plans (CAPs) and systems applied to at least 60 | <b>Due date:</b> 6/1/2013 | <b>By:</b> DWM Team |

**IV. HIGH-LEVEL MILESTONES: POLICY - Identify and seek changes to policy that inhibit the implementation of the adoption of the conservation practice - Drainage Water Management (CPS 554)**  
**Lead Individual – Tom Christensen**

➤ **A. Implement national level policy changes**    **TARGET:** August 30, 2011

**Activities:**

- |   |                            |                              |
|---|----------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Evaluate the eligibility requirements for federal funding for Drainage Water Management CAP or associated practices to include the requirement of a certified wetland determination prior to drainage planning or improvements occurring | <b>Due date:</b> 1/1/2012  | <b>By:</b> Paul S.           |
| 2. Clarify interpretation of rules under NEPA and Swampbuster for NRCS involvement in DWM on prior converted (PC) and farmed wetlands   | <b>Due date:</b> 1/1/2012  | <b>By:</b> Paul S.           |
| 3. Look at a policy change that would require DWM to be implemented as part of a nutrient management system and not as a standalone practice  | <b>Due date:</b> 1/1/2012  | <b>By:</b> Paul S.           |
| 4. Revise NRCS policy to allow conversion of existing drainage systems to configurations that would cost effectively support DWM implementation on steeper slopes and/or where large drainage mains exist                                   | <b>Due date:</b> 9/1/2012  | <b>By:</b> Paul S.           |
| 5. Review Farm Bill (EQIP) regulations and identify barriers to funding of drainage system conversions  | <b>Due date:</b> 3/1/2012  | <b>By:</b> Mark R.           |
| 6. Review Current National Engineering Manual authorization section and supplement if needed to provide guidance concerning subsurface drainage and DWM job class criteria  | <b>Due date:</b> 8/15/2011 | <b>By:</b> Doug T. 8/15/2011 |
| 7. Assist states and coordinate development of appropriate DWM job class criteria.  | <b>Due date:</b> 10/1/2011 | <b>By:</b> Doug T.           |
| 8. Assist states and coordinate development of appropriate Subsurface Drainage job class criteria   | <b>Due date:</b> 10/1/2011 | <b>By:</b> Doug T.           |
| 9. Assist States in securing training sources needed to support delegation of drainage system design and DWM job approval authority to field level employees  | <b>Due date:</b> 10/1/2011 | <b>By:</b> Doug T.           |
| 10. Identify how to link the DWM system components to that management practice for reporting and progress reporting   | <b>Due date:</b> 12/1/2011 | <b>By:</b> Paul S.           |

➤ **B. Implement state level policy changes**    **TARGET:** February 30, 2012

**Activities:**

- |   |                            |                       |
|---|----------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Each of the UMRB states will develop a State | <b>Due date:</b> 1/31/2012 | <b>By:</b> State Reps |
|---|----------------------------|-----------------------|



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- Drainage Water Management (554) Action Plan **Template done by Ruth Book**  
to accelerate the adoption of the conservation practice
2. Each state will develop FY12 and FY13 goals for Drainage Water Management – 554 **Due date: 10/1/2011 By: State Reps**
  3. Adjust local ranking procedures if appropriate to improve the priority of DWM relative to other practices, when a standalone practice or as part of an overall conservation system **Due date: 10/1/2011 By: State Reps**  
**We are encouraging funding pools as the best method**
  4. Increase technical assistance capacity to producers to assist with DWM as part of a conservation systems approach **Due date: 12/1/2011 By: Paul S.**

➤ **C. Implement policy changes needed for TSP's to successfully assist with the planning and implementation of Drainage Water Management (554)**

**TARGET: September 30, 2011**

**Activities:**

1. Review TSP certification requirements to ensure they are as flexible as possible on CAPs and design and implementation while ensuring the quality and technical requirements are still met **Due date: 10/1/2011 By: Doug T. 8/1/2011**

**V. HIGH-LEVEL MILESTONES: PROGRAMS - Seek changes to programs to accelerate the implementation of the conservation practice - Drainage Water Management (CPS 554)**

**Lead Individual – Tony Kramer for Item A.**

**- Doug Lawrence for item B.**

➤ **A. Remove programmatic barriers from the implementation of drainage water management**

**TARGET: December 15, 2011**

**Activities:**

1. Ensure that Drainage Water Management CAP 130 and CPS 554, 587, 606, 607, 608 are available in all six states for payment **Due date: 7/1/2011 By: Paul S. 7/25/2011**
2. Develop payment scenario templates for all states to use to ensure consistent payment schedules exist for all DWM practices **Due date: 7/11/2011 By: Ruth B. 7/11/2011**  
Jerry W.  
John B.
3. Ensure consistent TSP and practice payment schedules exist in all states **Due date: 9/1/2011 By: Doug T.**
4. Ensure good documentation exists and there is consistency in the EQIP payment schedules for implementation of practices in all states **Due date: 12/1/2011 By: Ruth B. 8/15/2011**  
Mark R.
5. Determine what incentives are necessary to encourage producers to implement drainage water management considering the lack of predictable or proven increased on-farm economic return to the producer **Due date: 12/1/2011 By: Paul S.**
6. Seek out partnerships and develop MOU's to provide additional financial assistance for DWM in target areas identified by National Geospatial Management Center **Due date: 1/1/2012 By: Doug T. Paul S.**

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7. Review MRBI ranking procedures to ensure the process for ranking and selecting MRBI proposals strongly encourages and promotes DWM (CPS 554), in keeping with the status and elevated importance of this Core Practice **Due date: 7/1/2011 By: Deena W. 8/1/2011**  
**We are encouraging funding pools as the best method**
8. Work with state partners, State Technical Committees and others to review the 43 MRBI Focus Area Watersheds and determine if they should be amended to better address the resource concerns resulting from the need for drainage water management in these regions **Due date: 9/1/2011 By: Troy D. Deena W.**

➤ **B. Track the progress in the implementation of DWM and associated practices and report to the Executive Sponsors** **TARGET: October 1, 2011**

**Activities:**

1. Identify and develop how to track DWM implementation nationally **Due date: 8/1/2011 By: Paul S. 9/25/2011**
2. Provide detailed maps by state and county showing progress of implementing DWM and other related practices and report at Regional video conferences **Due date: 9/30/2011 By: Paul S.**  
**Due date: 4/1/2012 By: Paul S.**  
**Due date: 9/30/2012 By: Paul S.**  
**Due date: 4/1/2013 By: Paul S.**

➤ **C. Utilize New Programs/Opportunities to accelerate the adoption of practice Drainage Water Management (CPS 554)** **TARGET: October 1, 2011**

**Activities:**

1. Evaluate metrics needed to allow DWM practices to be eligible for Environmental Credit Trading (water quality) Note: Dr. Skaggs has a paper coming out on this **Due date: 3/1/2012 By: Tech Sub-team**

**VI. HIGH-LEVEL MILESTONES: WILDLIFE HABITAT - Identify methods to protect and enhance wildlife habitat while accelerating the implementation of the adoption of the conservation practice - Drainage Water Management (CPS 554)**

**Lead Individual – Tom Christensen**

➤ **A. Utilize the CEAP Wildlife Habitat Team to assist in identifying opportunities to integrate habitat creation or enhancement into the process to accelerate the adoption of practice Drainage Water Management (CPS 554)**

**TARGET: January 1, 2012**

**Activities:**

1. Request an analysis by the CEAP Team of opportunities in the areas where DWM is being focused. **Due date: 7/1/2011 By: Paul S. 7/12/2011**  
**Requested for more detail CEAP in UMRB and wildlife**
2. Provide the report at the National Summit **Due date: 10/15/2011 By: Charlie Rewa**

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➤ **B. Integrate the Migratory Bird Habitat Initiative into the process to accelerate the adoption of practice Drainage Water Management (CPS 554)**

**TARGET:** February 1, 2012

**Activities:**

- |   |                            |   |
|---|----------------------------|---|
| 1. Identify the methods to enhance and create wetlands under the MBHI in areas where DWM is being implemented | <b>Due date:</b> 12/1/2011 | <b>By:</b> Programs Sub-team<br>Norman Melvin                   |
|   | Danielle Flynn             |   |
| 2. Identify the methods to develop and manage buffers under the MBHI in areas where DWM is being implemented  | <b>Due date:</b> 12/1/2011 | <b>By:</b> Programs Sub-team<br>Norman Melvin<br>Danielle Flynn |

➤ **C. Promote an open dialogue with wildlife partners to further investigate what opportunities may be available as DWM practices are implemented**

**TARGET:** 2/1/2012

**Activities:**

- |  |                            |                               |
|--|----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. Conduct a session at the National Summit relative to DWM and wildlife opportunities | <b>Due date:</b> 11/1/2011 | <b>By:</b> Paul S. 10/11/2011 |
|--|----------------------------|-------------------------------|

**VII. HIGH-LEVEL MILESTONES: Outcomes - Provide estimates and reports of actual outcomes from the DWM effort    Lead Individual – Tom Christensen**

➤ **A. Develop estimates or projections of potential outcomes**

**TARGET:** January 1, 2012

**Activities:**

- |   |                            |                          |
|---|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Identify outcome goals and quantitative measurements that can be used to measure the success of the team   | <b>Due date:</b> 10/1/2011 | <b>By:</b> Tech Sub-team |
| 2. Utilize the data collected on potential land area with opportunities for application of DWM and provide report to Executive Sponsors on estimates of DWM potential outcomes by State | <b>Due date:</b> 10/1/2011 | <b>By:</b> Tech Sub-team |

➤ **B. Report on the outcomes of the DWM initiative**

**TARGET:** January 1, 2013

**Activities:**

- |   |                            |                              |
|---|----------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Utilize automated tools to provide reports on outcomes during the initial two year effort to Executive Sponsors  | <b>Due date:</b> 9/30/2011 | <b>By:</b> Paul S. 10/5/2011 |
|   | <b>Due date:</b> 4/30/2012 | <b>By:</b> Paul S.           |
|   | <b>Due date:</b> 9/30/2012 | <b>By:</b> Paul S.           |
| 2. Complete a team report on outcomes and any impediments still present in implementing DWM   | <b>Due date:</b> 3/1/2013  | <b>By:</b> Paul S.           |
| 3. Identify Nutrient and Wildlife benefits associated with DWM (554) and quantify in our automated reporting systems using simple calculations such as those used by Dr. Skaggs on nitrates | <b>Due date:</b> 3/1/2013  | <b>By:</b> Paul S.           |

1/ The NRCS team working on drainage water management is made up of eighteen employees from a broad cross-section of the agency's expertise and administrative levels. The team is charged with "Increasing the Successful Adoption of Drainage Water Management". The team has three advisors from outside the agency that are considered experts in the field of drainage water management.

2/ The Ag. Drainage Water Management Systems Task Force is comprised of scientists and planners from the USDA's Agricultural Research Service (ARS), NIFA (National Institute of Food and Agriculture) and the Natural

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Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). Also on the ADMS Task force are state employees (primarily from Land Grant Universities) who work in soil and water conservation.

3/ The Ag. Drainage Management Coalition (ADMC) is a public/private partnership improving America's water quality, wildlife habitat, and agronomics through drainage water management

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