

AGENDA MAY 24, 2023 ONLINE

All times are
CENTRAL time zone



LEADERSHIP FOR MIDWESTERN WATERSHEDS

A network for knowledge exchange
among agricultural watershed
management professionals

Ramping Up with RCPP – Agenda

11 AM RCPP Today and on the Horizon

We'll begin with a summary of RCPP funding options and partner/NRCS roles, and specifics of program agreements, information tracking, and reporting. We'll discuss opportunities for innovation and anticipated changes for RCPP "Classic" and "Grants" (Alternative Funding Arrangement) categories.

Introduction – *Craig Ficenec, Sand County Foundation*

Program Overview and Updates – *Seth Fiedler, RCPP Program Specialist, Natural Resources Conservation Service*

Attendee Q&A

Noon Lunch Break

1 PM Advice from RCPP Lead Partners

Hear project leaders' successes and challenges in creating RCPP projects, managing NRCS agreements, and delivering projects on the ground. The goal of this session is to help you decide whether to propose serving as a lead and/or contributing partner in an RCPP project. Brief Q&A will follow each presentation.

RCPP Classic at a Watershed Scale: Cedar River Source Water Partnership – *MaryBeth Stevenson, Watersheds & Source Water Coordinator, City of Cedar Rapids, Iowa; and Evan Brehm, Conservation Agronomist, Iowa Soybean Association*

RCPP Classic at a Statewide Scale: North Dakota Meadowlark Initiative – *Kevin Kading, Private Lands Section Leader, North Dakota Game and Fish Department*

RCPP Alternative Funding Arrangements: Lead Partner Expectations – *Adam Kiel, Managing Director, Soil and Water Outcomes Fund*

Feedback for Prospective RCPP Applicants – *Seth Fiedler, RCPP Program Specialist, Natural Resources Conservation Service*

2:15 PM Breakout Sessions RCPP Participant Discussion

Open to all attendees to share experiences, suggestions, and questions. Choose the breakout room that best fits the type of project you participate in or anticipate applying for: RCPP Classic at a watershed scale; Classic at a state/multi-state scale; or RCPP Grants/Alternative Funding Arrangements.

2:45 PM Stretch Break

3 PM Estimating Outcomes for RCPP Projects

Learn about tools and resources to calculate project-based outcomes using data available for many Midwestern states. The session will include a demonstration of a new calculator used in a recently completed RCPP Classic project, and results in achieving proposed environmental, economic, and social outcomes.

Lessons Learned from the Upper Macoupin Watershed of Illinois – *Jean Brokish, Midwest Deputy Director, American Farmland Trust*

Project-Based County-Level Outcomes Calculator – *Michelle Perez, Water Initiative Director, American Farmland Trust*

Attendee Q&A

3:45 PM Adjourn

Register here

to receive a single zoom link
for all sessions. Feel free come and
go as your schedule allows.

Presented by Sand County Foundation and partners, with financial support from Walton Family Foundation and North Central Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education, and sponsors.



www.sandcountymfoundation.org/lmw

SPEAKERS
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Ramping Up With RCPP — Speaker Bios



Evan Brehm, Conservation Agronomist, Iowa Soybean Association

Evan works with Linn Cooperative Oil Company, covering territory in the Middle Cedar Watershed in east central Iowa. He meets with farmers interested in adopting conservation practices, mainly cover crops. He has also introduced carbon programs to bring value to farmers, and works closely with sales agronomists at Linn Co-op.



Jean Brokish, Midwest Deputy Director, American Farmland Trust

Jean provides coordination and management support for AFT's programs focused on conservation cropping systems. Jean grew up on a Wisconsin dairy farm and has a Bachelor of Science in agronomy from the University of Wisconsin at River Falls and a Master of Science in soil science from Purdue University.



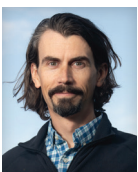
Seth Fiedler, RCPP Program Specialist, Natural Resources Conservation Services

Seth is a member of the national team charged with guiding RCPP policy development and program management. He spends most of his waking hours assisting RCPP state coordinators, who support the RCPP program from each NRCS state office, to resolve the more confounding issues that arise during RCPP project development and implementation.



Kevin Kading, Private Lands Section Leader, North Dakota Game and Fish Department

Kevin supports public access and habitat conservation efforts in North Dakota. He oversees the Department's Private Land Open To Sportsmen (PLOTS) program and is responsible for coordination and implementation of conservation and agriculture policy for North Dakota. He works with various partners including the Precision Ag Partnership with Pheasants Forever.



Adam Kiel, Managing Director, Soil and Water Outcomes Fund

The Soil and Water Outcomes Fund works with public and private partners to support on-farm generation of ecosystem services. Adam has over 20 years of experience in the field and held prior roles as Director of Conservation for the Iowa Soybean Association and with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources and National Park Service. Adam grew up on a farm in Iowa.



Michelle Perez, PhD, Water Initiative Director, American Farmland Trust

Michelle leads AFT's efforts to achieve better water quality and reduce agricultural nonpoint source pollution through a comprehensive initiative with links to outcomes quantification, soil health, climate, and ecosystem markets. Michelle previously served as AFT's senior policy specialist, where she researched, developed, and promoted agricultural and conservation policies.



Mary Beth Stevenson, Watersheds & Source Water Coordinator, City of Cedar Rapids

Mary Beth supports the City's engagement in watershed-based efforts to improve water quality and reduce flood risk. Her role involves coordinating with stakeholder groups to advance watershed improvement efforts. She is the Middle Cedar Watershed Management Authority Chair and also serves on the board of the Lower Cedar Watershed Management Authority.