

DEADLINE for questions has been extended until July 16, 2014

**Soil Health Mini Grants
For the Great Lakes Basin and Mohawk River Basin**

RFP Questions and Answers

Q: While reviewing the RFP it states under number 7. Contracts that “The standard term for all projects will be two full construction seasons plus three months for project administration and completion of the final report. The earliest contract start date would be January 1, 2015 and the latest end date would be December 31, 2016. These dates may be subject to change. The project sponsor may request a different term, if necessary. Funding of proposals that extend over more than one State fiscal year will be subject to the reappropriation of funds.”

Does this mean that it is possible to modify the contract dates or length of contract? There will be a process that we can work through to change the dates of the contract if needed to go into the Spring of 2017?

A: The dates given on Page 9, section 7 Contracts are estimates based on when the funding will be announced. Actual contract start and end dates may be negotiated at the time of contracting.

Q: The checklist for the soil health grant asks for “Original and 5 copies of proposal submitted”. If we are submitting this online through the gateway, how do we do this?

A: The request for original and 5 copies on the project checklist is an error. Since all applications must be submitted through the Grants Gateway, it is not necessary to send copies or an original hard copy.

Q: If we are going to apply for implementation of BMPs (e.g. cover crops), do we need to identify the farms we will be implementing these on? If so, do we need a letter of commitment from each farm?

A: It is not necessary to identify landowners at the time of application unless landowner contributions are being used as part of the project. All participating entities, including landowners, contributing monetary or technical assistance are required to submit commitment letters at time of application.

Q: Would a single year of no-till, such as soybeans into corn stubble be an acceptable BMP implementation? Although it would be a single year of no-till in the rotation it offers a gateway into no-till and would give us the opportunity to assess benefits to soil health.

A: Yes, a single year of conservation tillage is considered an implemented Best Management Practice and is eligible under this program.

Q: If two counties submit the grant together can they ask for up to \$50,000?

A: As stated in section 1.4 of the RFP, the maximum funding amount per county is \$25,000.