

Vermilion River Watershed Restoration & Enhancement Project

ELIGIBILITY

1.1. Eligible Applicants

- 1.1.1. To apply for financial support for a restoration and/or enhancement project, a person must be:
 - a) the legal owner(s) of the private land(s) within the Vermilion River watershed on which a wetland and/or riparian areas is/are to be restored or enhanced; and/or riparian buffers are to be established.

1.2. Eligible Projects

- 1.2.1. Eligible Projects must be located within the Vermilion River watershed (please see the map in the INTRODUCTION).
- 1.2.2. An Eligible Project must have an Eligible Applicant.
- 1.2.3. An Eligible Project includes a set of necessary activities that will achieve any of the VRW Restoration & Enhancement Project deliverables (Please see INTRODUCTION, Table 1).
- 1.2.4. An Eligible Project may include a combination of restoration and enhancement practices, and agricultural beneficial management practices (BMPs). Examples are listed in **Appendix A**. The Applicant may propose other practices that will support and achieve the VRW Restoration & Enhancement Project deliverable(s) (Please see INTRODUCTION, Table 1).
- 1.2.5. An Eligible Project must restore or enhance a natural wetland or a riparian area of a natural river/stream or lake, or establish riparian buffers adjacent to a natural river/stream or lake. The implementation of agricultural BMPs alone on the uplands adjacent to a wetland or water body, does not qualify as an Eligible Project.
- 1.2.6. In-stream works may need permits and approvals from municipal, provincial and/or federal government agencies. It is the duty of the applicant to ensure that these requirements are completed, and provide a copy to the NSWA.
- 1.2.7. The NSWA Executive Director will review all Applications and determine which ones are Eligible Projects to be funded under the VRW Restoration & Enhancement Project.

1.3. Approved Projects

- 1.3.1. Only Approved Projects will be funded by the VRW Restoration & Enhancement Project.
- 1.3.2. An Approved Project must:
 - a) have an Approval Letter sent by the NSWA Executive Director to the Applicant indicating the specific restoration or enhancement site, its Project Term, the amount of funding awarded, deliverables, and schedule and conditions of payments;
 - b) comply with the Terms and Conditions sent with the Approval Letter;
 - c) be completed within the specified Project Term.
- 1.3.3. In completing the Approved Project, the Applicant must:
 - a) comply with all applicable laws and regulations;
 - b) with the assistance of the NSWA, obtain all required provincial and federal government approvals prior to commencing the Approved Project; and
 - c) meet all applicable guidelines issued by the municipal, provincial and federal governments.

1.4. Ineligible Projects

- 1.4.1. Ineligible Projects include:

- a) Creation of a wetland in areas where there was no prior wetland;
- b) Creation of wetlands as part of reclamation of a disturbed land;
- c) Restoration of wetlands as part of government regulatory or policy mitigation requirement;
- d) Creation of riparian areas along man-made channels or drainage channels;
- e) Creation and maintenance of man-made lakes, reservoirs, dug-outs, lagoons, and stormwater management ponds, and creation of their respective riparian areas;
- f) Bank stabilization using non-biodegradable materials such as concrete rip raps, gabions, and similar structural materials;
- g) Bank modifications to build access structures for public use;
- h) Projects already funded wholly by other sources of grants;
- i) Implementation of Beneficial Management Practices (BMPs) on the uplands without an adjacent wetland or riparian areas restoration/enhancement or riparian buffer zone establishment;
- j) Any other project deemed ineligible by the NSW Executive Director, or when referred to and deemed ineligible by the grant funder.

1.5. Eligible Expenses

1.5.1 Eligible Expenses are approved by the NSW Executive Director and stated in the Approval Letter, and may include:

- a) Eligible Costs listed in **Appendix B**
- b) Annual compensation for the value of land made unavailable for crop production as a result of restoration or enhancement at current market evaluation;
- c) Cost of land securement or conservation easements;
- d) Any other expense approved by the NSW Executive Director, or when referred to and deemed eligible by the grant funder;

1.6. Ineligible Expenses

1.6.1 Expenses that are not eligible for reimbursement:

- d) GST, except for funding under the NWCF. The NSW Executive Director will indicate in the Approval Letter if your funding includes GST.
- e) Extended warranties on equipment, electronics, or technology purchased;
- f) Leasing costs;
- g) Expenses incurred prior to the date the Application is received. If applicable, the NSW Executive Director will indicate in the Approval Letter a retroactive date.
- h) Expenses incurred outside of the Project Term for an Approved Project;
- i) Expenses incurred when an Approved Project is not completed by the Applicant during the Project Term;
- j) Expenses incurred in transactions between individuals who are related to each other by blood, marriage, adoption, common-law relationships, or close-business ties;
- k) Expenses funded through any other federal or provincial government grants, programs or projects; and
- l) Any other expense deemed ineligible by the NSW Executive Director, or when referred to and deemed ineligible by the grant funder.

1.6.2 Barter and exchange transactions are ineligible. Only expenses incurred in monetary transactions evidenced by receipts are eligible.