

Watershed Coordinator – Muchakinock Creek

Job Title Watershed Coordinator

Location Mahaska County/Oskaloosa

Employer Mahaska Soil and Water Conservation District

Starting Wage \$17.00-22.70/hr.

Job Description:

Under general supervision by the Mahaska County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) and day-to-day coordination by the NRCS District Conservationist, the employee will manage, coordinate, and implement the objectives of the water quality conservation project for Muchakinock Creek, non-project activities, conservation planning, application of best management practices, information and education, and other related activities essential to the SWCD and NRCS as a member of the field office team. The project will address areas of environmental concern primarily aimed at reducing sediment from entering the priority surface water body and may include potential nutrients, pesticides, livestock waste and other water quality issues in the district.

This will include promotional outreach efforts as well as collaborating with urban and rural landowners/producers, appropriate government agencies including but not limited to Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship (IDALS), the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Iowa State University Extension, local units of government, various interest groups, and individuals that can affect the success of the project. This will involve planning and carrying out group meetings as well as meeting one-on-one with project cooperators and sponsors. Employee will perform professional and technical duties that relate to water quality monitoring, natural resource assessment and evaluation for conservation planning, information and education, and implementing of best management practices including in-the-field engineering layout and surveys, designs, conservation practice construction and checkout. Employee will be responsible for anticipating and solving potential problems and effectively communicating this with all project participants. All work will be conducted with respect toward others and in a non-discriminatory manner.

Implement best management practices that are designed to maintain or improve the quality of the targeted stream in the project area. Examples of practices to be implemented may include nutrient and pest management, livestock manure management, no till farming, cover crops, terraces, water and sediment control basins, grade stabilization structures, grass seeding, edge-of-field saturated buffers and denitrification bioreactors, wetland creation, stream bank or riparian management and other permanent and management practices. Works one-on-one with producers and other decision makers to facilitate adoption of the practices. The Coordinator will be knowledgeable of innovative and traditional application of techniques of water quality conservation practices.

Research, plan and conduct an information and education program to raise the awareness of water quality impairments and causes and encourage implementation of best management practices to address the resource concerns. This will involve the public and decision-makers of the critical issues and concerns affecting the natural resources of the project area. This effort should incorporate some type of monitoring effort as an information and evaluation tool. Examples of needed activities may include informational

meetings with local advisors and cooperators, newsletters and local media coverage, social media, field demonstrations, workshops, and recognition for active participants.

Continue to evaluate past accomplishments and prioritize future project activities, involving advisory board members, SWCD commissioners and other community and agency partners. Assess physical characteristics of the project area to determine current land use, the sources causing deterioration of water quality and identifying corrective measures needed to improve the condition. Use current technology tools, such as GIS and Agricultural Conservation Planning Framework (ACPF) mapsets to identify resource needs and identify innovative solutions. Utilize monitoring methods to document water quality condition and to show progress being made toward implementation of solutions. Plan and conduct annual project review in order to demonstrate progress and prioritize work efforts and funding resources for the next year. Assists the district in identifying other water quality issues. Develops strategies to solve those problems, seek out potential resources, and implement strategy decisions, which may include preparation of a grant application.

Provide administrative support such as submittal of periodic progress report and funding needs to project funders and partners, grant funds and budget management, and project contract management. Coordinator will manage the project to maintain quality control and to maximize communication with and involvement of local advisors and state and local staff of participating agencies. Complete annual plan of operations and budget each year for the project in cooperation with advisory group and SWCD commissioners. Complete and submit monthly, quarterly, annual and final reports per contract agreement.

Will assist NRCS and the SWCD as directed by the DC in non-project activities as a member of the field office team with conservation planning and application of practices, information-education, and other related activities essential to the District and NRCS.

The work location is at the Mahaska County Soil and Water Conservation District office in Oskaloosa.

Minimum Qualifications	Graduation from an accredited college or university with major course work in a natural science or comparable experience evaluating existing natural resource concerns and alternative conservation practices, and implementing such practices on agricultural land.
Additional Qualifications	THIS IS A COURTESY POSTING for the Muchakinock Creek Watershed Coordinator. The salary is contingent upon experience/qualifications.
Post Close Date	March 25, 2020 at 4:00PM CST – received in the office or via email.
To Apply:	Submit a cover letter and resume to Mahaska County SWCD, 2503 Todd St., Oskaloosa, IA 52577 OR via email mahaskacountyswcd@gmail.com