Sample Narratives and Guidance for AgWRAP Pond Practices

Below are sample narratives that have been submitted by other Districts across the state. Please use these only as a guide as it is best to have each narrative reflective of site specific conditions at each farm.

Pond (378)

- Construct a pond at location indicated on the conservation plan map. The pond will be used primarily to provide water for storage for crop irrigation. NRCS, SWCD and DSWC assistance will be provided for the survey, layout, design and specification prior to installation. Refer to the approved NRCS/SWCD plans and specification for construction and installation details, as well as, operation and maintenance instructions.

- Construct an agricultural pond for water supply for irrigation. The pond shall be for agricultural use and include all associated component to meet the intent of the design. The pond must be certified by a professional engineer or an individual with appropriate job approval authority. Livestock shall be excluded from the pond.

The below narratives are for existing pond repairs and/or sediment removal. You would still list the practice as a pond in the conservation plan.

Pond (378)

- Existing pond will be brought up to current NRCS standards. All slopes will be graded to a combination 5:1 side slope and a top width of 10 ft (based on estimated dam height). All trees will be removed from the embankment. The erosion in the auxiliary spillway is a result of continuous flow since the principal spillway has been blocked. The eroded areas will be stabilized in accordance with the pond repair plan. The principal spillway will be sized for the 1 yr 24 hr storm and the auxiliary spillway for the 10 yr 24 hr storm since the drainage area is less than 20 acres. Sediment will be removed from the pond. The sediment will be placed away from the dam and pool area to dry and then be spread and stabilized. Temporary erosion control measures may be installed to keep sediment away from the pool area. Temporary seeding may be used as well.

- Pond # 2 as identified on conservation plan map is in need or repair. Woody vegetation on dam and around pond should be removed. Dam requires reshaping and a wider top width. The emergency spillway needs to be reshaped. Accumulated sediment within the pond needs to be removed to allow for adequate storage for irrigation. Refer to the approved NRCS/DSWC plans and specifications for construction and installation details, as well as, operation and maintenance instructions.

Other considerations for Pond Practices:

- If you have more than one pond on the same tract of land only one conservation plan is required. Make sure you assign a different name/number for each pond such that it corresponds with the conservation map.

- If the practice and guidance is the same for each pond, you could only write one narrative and list the ponds separately in the table. If the guidance is substantially different for each pond, it would be best to list in separate narratives to reflect what is actually occurring.

- For the planned amount listed in the conservation plan, you look closely at your units planned. Here are some *suggested* units to *consider* for pond practices:
    - New Construction – Estimated size of pond (acre feet)
    - Pond Repair/Expansion – Estimated amount to be restored (acre feet)
    - Pond Sediment Removal – Estimated amount to be restored (acre feet)

- At a minimum, the conservation plan must address the practice that was approved by the SWCC *and* any facilitating or supporting practices that are needed for the system to function properly. For example, a plan for a new irrigation pond should include a method to irrigate; a pond sediment removal plan should address field conditions that could prevent future erosion and sedimentation.

- Please remember that the conservation plan is a record of the client's decisions, so do not feel that you must develop the conservation plan to meet the *division's* needs. Develop the plan to ensure that it has the information the *client* needs to successfully address the conservation needs and implement the practice(s) planned.