

## CHAPTER 103F

## PROTECTION OF WATER RESOURCES

103F.461 Groundwater education.  
103F.515 Conservation reserve program.  
103F.612 Wetland preservation areas.

103F.613 Duration of wetland preservation area.

**103F.461 GROUNDWATER EDUCATION.**

(a) In each even-numbered year, the board of water and soil resources must review groundwater education activities with local units of government and develop recommendations for improvement in a report to the environmental quality board for review and then to the house of representatives and senate committees with jurisdiction over the environment, natural resources, and agriculture as part of the groundwater policy report in section 103A.204. The board must work with agencies and interested groups with responsibility for groundwater education in preparing the report.

(b) The board must ensure that the biennial review of groundwater education with local units of government is coordinated with the Minnesota environmental education advisory board and the nonpoint source education and information strategy of the pollution control agency.

(c) Grants for innovative groundwater education strategies to local units of government identified in this section may be awarded by the board of water and soil resources.

**History:** 1999 c 86 art 3 s 10

**103F.515 CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM.**

*[For text of subd 1, see M.S.1998]*

Subd. 2. **Eligible land.** (a) Land may be placed in the conservation reserve program if the land meets the requirements of paragraphs (b) and (c).

(b) Land is eligible if the land:

- (1) is marginal agricultural land;
- (2) is adjacent to marginal agricultural land and is either beneficial to resource protection or necessary for efficient recording of the land description;
- (3) consists of a drained wetland;
- (4) is land that with a windbreak would be beneficial to resource protection;
- (5) is land in a sensitive groundwater area;
- (6) is riparian land;
- (7) is cropland or noncropland adjacent to restored wetlands to the extent of up to four acres of cropland or one acre of noncropland for each acre of wetland restored;
- (8) is a woodlot on agricultural land;
- (9) is abandoned building site on agricultural land, provided that funds are not used for compensation of the value of the buildings; or
- (10) is land on a hillside used for pasture.

(c) Eligible land under paragraph (a) must:

- (1) be owned by the landowner, or a parent or other blood relative of the landowner, for at least one year before the date of application;
- (2) be at least five acres in size, except for a drained wetland area, riparian area, windbreak, woodlot, or abandoned building site, or be a whole field as defined by the United States Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Services;
- (3) not be set aside, enrolled or diverted under another federal or state government program unless enrollment in the conservation reserve program would provide additional conservation benefits or a longer term of enrollment than under the current federal or state program; and

(4) have been in agricultural crop production for at least two of the last five years before the date of application except drained wetlands, riparian lands, woodlots, abandoned building sites, or land on a hillside used for pasture.

(d) In selecting drained wetlands for enrollment in the program, the highest priority must be given to wetlands with a cropping history during the period 1976 to 1985.

(e) In selecting land for enrollment in the program, highest priority must be given to permanent easements that are consistent with the purposes stated in section 103F.505.

*[For text of subs 3 to 9, see M.S.1998]*

**History:** 1999 c 231 s 127

### 103F.612 WETLAND PRESERVATION AREAS.

*[For text of subd 1, see M.S.1998]*

**Subd. 2. Application.** (a) A wetland owner may apply to the county where a wetland is located for designation of a wetland preservation area in a high priority wetland area identified in a comprehensive local water plan, as defined in section 103B.3363, subdivision 3, and located within a high priority wetland region designated by the board of water and soil resources, if the county chooses to accept wetland preservation area applications. The application must be made on forms provided by the board. If a wetland is located in more than one county, the application must be submitted to the county where the majority of the wetland is located.

(b) The application shall be executed and acknowledged in the manner required by law to execute and acknowledge a deed and must contain at least the following information and other information the board of soil and water resources requires:

(1) legal description of the area to be approved, which must include an upland strip at least 16-1/2 feet in width around the perimeter of wetlands within the area and may include total upland area of up to four acres for each acre of wetland;

(2) parcel identification numbers where designated by the county auditor;

(3) name and address of the owner;

(4) a statement by the owner covenanting that the land will be preserved as a wetland and will only be used in accordance with conditions prescribed by the board of water and soil resources and providing that the restrictive covenant will be binding on the owner and the owner's successors or assigns, and will run with the land.

(c) The upland strip required in paragraph (b), clause (1), must be planted with permanent vegetation other than a noxious weed.

*[For text of subd 3, see M.S.1998]*

**Subd. 4. Recording.** Within five days of the date of application, the county shall forward the application to the county recorder for recording or to the registrar of titles for filing if the land is registered. The county recorder shall record the application containing the restrictive covenant and return it to the applicant. If the land is registered, the registrar of titles shall memorialize the application containing the restrictive covenant upon the certificate of title. The recorder or registrar of titles shall notify the county that the application has been recorded or memorialized.

*[For text of subs 5 to 7, see M.S.1998]*

**History:** 1999 c 11 art 1 s 4,5

### 103F.613 DURATION OF WETLAND PRESERVATION AREA.

*[For text of subs 1 and 2, see M.S.1998]*

**Subd. 3. Notice and recording; termination.** When the county receives notice under subdivision 2, the county shall forward the original notice to the county recorder for record-

ing or to the registrar of titles for filing if the land is registered and shall notify the regional development commission, where applicable, the board of water and soil resources, and the county soil and water conservation district of the date of expiration. The benefits and limitations of the wetland preservation area and the restrictive covenant filed with the application cease on the date of expiration. If the land is registered, the registrar of titles shall cancel the memorial of the application containing the restrictive covenant upon the certificate of title on the effective date of the expiration.

*[For text of subd 4, see M.S.1998]*

**History:** 1999 c 11 art 1 s 6