Water Quality Trading Project Planning and Implementation
Building a WQT Program: Options and Considerations

- Elements and decisions inherent in trading
- Point-nonpoint trading
- Detailed options
- Pros and cons for each option
- Examples with detailed references
- Consistent definitions and language
Building a WQT Program: Options and Considerations

7. Project Implementation and Assurances

8. Project Review, Certification, & Tracking

9. Compliance & Enforcement
Credit Generating and Tracking Process

1. Select & Validate Site
2. Implement & Calculate Credits
3. Verify & Certify Credits
4. Register & Issue Credits

Ongoing Verification, Tracking & Transfer
Project Eligibility

Select & Validate Site
Implement & Calculate Credits
Verify & Certify Credits
Register & Issue Credits
Ongoing Verification, Tracking & Transfer
Site Screening & Eligibility

Select & Validate Site

Implement & Calculate Credits

Verify & Certify Credits

Register & Issue Credits

Ongoing Verification, Tracking & Transfer
Select and Validate Site

Ongoing Verification, Tracking & Transfer

Implement & Calculate Credits

Verify & Certify Credits

Register & Issue Credits

Pollution reduction: 85 lbs/yr

Baseline: 20%

Trading ratios: 50%

Credit to sell

USDA NRCS, Ohio
Verify & Certify

Document as-built condition
Final credit estimate
Final project documentation

Administrative review
Technical review
Site visit/confirm project implementation

Select & Validate Site
Implement & Calculate Credits
Verify & Certify Credits
Register & Issue Credits
Ongoing Verification, Tracking & Transfer

Verify & Certify

Select & Validate Site
Implement & Calculate Credits
Verify & Certify Credits
Register & Issue Credits
Ongoing Verification, Tracking & Transfer
I have 100 credits calculated, verified and ready to be issued.

Your credits are registered and posted online and ready for sale!

Register & Issue

- Select & Validate Site
- Implement & Calculate Credits
- Verify & Certify Credits
- Register & Issue Credits
- Ongoing Verification, Tracking & Transfer
Ongoing Verification

Project is maintained and in good working order.
Eligibility has not changed.
Good to go!
Program comparisons

Commonalities

• Assessment of current conditions, practices, etc.
• Evaluation of opportunities
• Consideration within farm planning

Differences

• Program Eligibility requirements
• Limitations on available practices
• Higher documentation and data rigor
• Additional steps
Integrating and advancing conservation efforts

- Reducing required “points of entry” for conservation programs.
- Linking agricultural stewardship to broader watershed/water quality efforts.
- Increase program enrollment
- Targeted conservation
Questions for conversation

• Where does conservation and WQT planning align? Is there a logic point or step at which one begins and one ends?

• What are options and/or considerations for aligning planning?

• Are there tools and resources that can aid landowners and intermediaries in the process? Who can best deliver?
Questions?