

BIG STONE SWCD MONITORING PLAN FOR BUFFER COMPLIANCE TRACKING

§103F.48 RIPARIAN PROTECTION AND WATER QUALITY PRACTICES updated 10/2/18

1. COMPLIANCE TRACKING OF ALL PARCELS SUBJECT TO THE BUFFER LAW

All parcels in the county will be reviewed within a 3-year timeframe. Big Stone SWCD will complete these in this fashion;

- Wrap up initial buffer compliance through 2019. Monitoring will then begin in 2020.
 - Review of 1/3 of parcels each year based on map (Attachment A)
 - To avoid aversion these areas will not be reviewed in a repeating order.
 - Most recent aerial imagery will be utilized initially with measurement tools.
 - Ground truthing of buffer widths will be applied on questionable parcels
 - Landowners are encouraged to notify Big Stone SWCD if any changes to buffer compliance occur, whether intentional, accidental, or natural.
 - e.g. tilling, spraying, eroding, etc. along with a correction plan.

2. RANDOM SPOT CHECKS

Random spot checks for buffer compliance will be done in addition to the tracking of all parcels within a 3-year span. Random spot checks may be conducted via aerial imagery review, or on-site reviews, depending on the availability of updated aerial imagery; the practice that is being checked; and whether access to the parcel is possible. A combination of both aerial imagery and on-site reviews may be used.

- Big Stone SWCD will conduct 25 random spot checks for buffer compliance, of parcels in each additional area outside of the scheduled area for that year.
- Additionally, Big Stone SWCD will review parcels more frequently in certain circumstances such as;
 - Previously non-compliant
 - Alternative Practice Plans
 - Cost-share funded projects (years 1, 3, & 9 of contract)

3. PROCESS TO DOCUMENT SPOT CHECKS

- Big Stone SWCD will document the status of each parcel, in a corresponding document in the office, as well as utilize online mapping software put together by the Board of Water and Soil Resources.

4. PROCESS TO REPORT NON-COMPLIANCE

- Big Stone SWCD will gather the non-compliant parcels throughout the year whether by spot check or public comments.
 - A Local Government Unit meeting will be held annually, to present this data and request any information from partner agencies about the out-of-compliance parcel.
 - LGUs included but not limited to; SWCD, Environmental, Watersheds, County Engineer, County Attorney, Area Hydrologist, and others.
 - Final non-compliance parcels will be presented to the county for further action, along with copies of all corresponding documentation and maps.
 - Refer to the 2018 Big Stone County Riparian Buffer Protection Ordinance, section 5.0 Compliance Determinations.

This Buffer Compliance Tracking Plan was adopted by the Big Stone Board of Supervisors on October 9th, 2018.

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Attachment A – Buffer Reviewing Areas – Big Stone County

