

How to apply for the Acequia Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP):

Application for assistance will be available at your local NRCS field offices, New Mexico Association of Conservation Districts (NMACD), New Mexico Acequia Association (NMAA), Interstate Stream Commission (ISC) and any local conservation district office. All applications for assistance will be forwarded to NMACD for processing, ranking, and eventual assistance.

The application process is a two-step process. The first step is a general request for assistance utilizing a form developed by all the partners (Request for Assistance). Once that form is completed and submitted, NMACD will initiate contact with the acequia and make a site assessment. Forms will be submitted to NMACD (Norman Vigil). The site assessment will help determine the status of the acequia in developing a plan/approach for assistance. Some acequias may need by-laws, engineering designs or a comprehensive plan to develop an assistance path for the future. The partners will play a major role in assessing the best path. Of course, the acequia will make the final decision.

The second step in the application process will involve gathering information to comply with the Farm Bill requirements and filling out the NMACD-1 RCPP application form. NMACD will assist the acequia explaining and gathering the information. This can be completed during the first visit (site assessment) or as determined by the acequia and NMACD contact person. This information will be completed prior to the ranking process.

The ranking process will be completed by NMACD with partners reviewing rankings for consistency shortly after the application deadline.

NMACD will contact those acequias with the highest ranking and offer financial and technical assistance that covers available funding. The remaining acequias will be notified and assistance will be provided as funding becomes available or other agreements are entered into if applicable.

NMACD will enter into a contract directly with the acequia identifying the terms and conditions. When the project is completed and meets NRCS standard and specifications, payment will be made to the acequia directly from NMACD. It is likely and highly possible that other programs will be married with RCPP funds. Remember that program requirements for other sources of funding must be met. Rest assured the partners will be working closely to ensure all requirements are met as the project progresses.

Application Locations:

All NRCS local field offices, <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/nm/contact>

<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/nm/programs/farmland/rcpp/>

All local soil and water conservation districts, www.nmacd.org

NMACD – Norman Vigil, PO Box 623, Canjilon NM 87515; normanvigilsr@outlook.com, 575-684-0042, 505-967-8760, <http://www.nmacd.org/contact-us>

NMAA – Serafina Lombardi; serafina@lasacequias.org, 1-505-995-9644; <http://www.lasacequias.org>

ISC – Jonathan Martinez; jonathanc.martinez@state.nm.us; 1-505-827-6134;

<http://www.ose.state.nm.us/ISC/index.php>