



THE CITY OF WATERTOWN
**WATERWAYS
IMPROVEMENT
PROGRAM**

CONSERVATION PRACTICE HARVESTABLE BUFFER INSPECTION AND VERIFICATION FORM

The intended use of this form is for annual inspections, practice installation verification, and practice establishment guidelines for harvestable buffers. It will be used as a method for LWCD to show Watertown the practice is functioning, and the landowner is approved for payment of installation costs and annual payments.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Landowner Name, Address, and Contract Number: Ted Mueller, W2117 North Side Drive, Watertown, WI 53094. WWIP-RR28-001-2024

Practice Type and Install Date: Harvestable Buffer. Installed 3-15-24.

Site Visit Date(s): 8/14/25 after significant rainfall events in the region to make sure buffer is intact. 11/6/2025 for annual inspection.

PRACTICE INSTALLATION AND ESTABLISHMENT GUIDELINES

Practice installed according to specs, is correct size/dimension, installed in proper location, and no signs of encroachment? YES or NO

If no, explain:

Practice installed/established in accordance with Conservation Practice Agreement, Exhibit C Installation and Maintenance Plan? YES or NO

If no, explain:

Was practice checked after severe storms and verified it remained intact? YES or NO

If no, explain:

Are there any areas void of vegetation and need replanting? YES or NO

If yes, explain:

POST-ESTABLISHMENT STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES

Do plant densities achieve successful planting performance standards? YES or NO

- Checked several areas for densities within one square foot and found buffers to be in compliance.

Is the % stand canopy and stem densities per square foot in accordance with Code 393? YES or NO

If no, explain:

Are any areas void of vegetation and need replanting? YES or NO

If yes, explain:

Harvested plants have at least 4 inches of growth after cutting? YES or NO

If no, explain:

Is there overland sheet flow entering the buffer? YES or NO

- The known concentrated flow area to the north of the west buffer had planted corn in field, but the area showed no signs of any concentrated flows, rilling, or gullying.

Concentrated flows dissipating prior to upslope edge of buffer? YES or NO

If no, explain:

Evidence of buffers being used as travel lanes for equipment or livestock? YES or NO

If yes, explain:

Any grading of buffer needed due to sediment deposition reducing buffer effectiveness? YES or NO

If yes, explain:

Any removal of unevenly deposited sediment accumulation needed that disrupts sheet flow? YES or NO

If yes, explain:

List any weed management needs or maintenance activities conducted on practice: See below.

Other Observations and Verification Status:

Pennycress (*Thlaspi arvense*) and a weedy mustard (likely *Erysimum cheiranthoides*) found in areas of buffer and is affecting grassy-alfalfa seed from establishing in small areas (less than 5 sq. ft.). Buffer vegetation was found growing throughout weed stands, but either mowing prior to seed development or an herbicide application may be needed if not out competed by late next year. Timely harvesting of crop could help combat seed dispersal.

LANDOWNER MAINTENANCE NEEDS:

List of any management activities needed:

- Mow or spray weed patches when applicable to prevent further distribution of pennycress and mustard weed seeds.
- Continue to follow Conservation Practice Agreement, particularly Exhibit C, Maintenance and Installation Plan.

I certify that installed conservation practice is performing in accordance with standards set forth in landowner's Conservation Practice Agreement, Exhibit C, and landowner is eligible for payments.

LWCD Staff Member: _____



Date: 11-6-2025