

~~Strikethrough print~~ represents text which has been deleted.

***Bold and italicized print*** represents text which has been added or modified.

## **RESOLUTION**

### **CONSERVATION PROGRAMS – USDA**

### **WRE and CRP**

The Conservation Reserve Program and Wetlands Reserve Easements are valuable programs as an economic alternative for the highest and best use of certain land. These two programs can also bring environmental benefits for the public purposes provided by this program. Our region of the country has benefitted significantly from the CRP and WRE programs, and we emphatically endorse their continuation.

Delta Council gratefully acknowledges that USDA continues to examine ways to ensure maintenance of natural drainage and other resource management issues on WRE and CRP properties. Specifically, we continue to encourage USDA to make certain that off-site impacts do not occur due to the normal deterioration of secondary and primary field drains, or lack of beaver control on CRP and WRE sites. Further, we acknowledge that the majority of the Delta easement tracts are approaching a period when they warrant maintenance and repairs. Delta Council is encouraged that the Congress and NRCS-USDA have begun to implement maintenance and rehabilitation on these long-term easement sites.

Delta Council expresses its opposition to any further reduction in the CRP Signing or Practice Incentive Payments.

#### **Resolution**

#### **Wetlands Reserve**

#### **Enrollment Caps**

Due to near-record enrollment of land in the Wetlands Reserve Easements throughout several counties in the Mississippi Delta since 1990, the statutory county acreage limit on enrollment is becoming a limiting factor in the future expansion of the program. In particular, counties in the South Delta, represent areas which are approaching or have exceeded their statutory limit for enrollment in the Wetlands Reserve Program according USDA figures. Therefore, Delta Council praises the work of USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service and USDA-Farm Service Agency for adopting policies and methods to address these concerns.

Delta Council recognizes the impact on county tax bases in those counties that have reached the *WRE* cap. While these programs do provide benefits to the environment, Delta Council urges local, state, and federal agencies to work together to protect against the loss of county tax base due to *WRE* enrollment.

Adopted by:      Delta Council Board of Directors  
                        June 2, 2023

