

This section of the FEDERAL REGISTER contains documents other than rules or proposed rules that are applicable to the public. Notices of hearings and investigations, committee meetings, agency decisions and rulings, delegations of authority, filing of petitions and applications and agency statements of organization and functions are examples of documents appearing in this section.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

National Sheep Industry Improvement Center; Solicitation of Nominations of Board Members

AGENCY: National Sheep Industry Improvement Center.

ACTION: Notice: Invitation to submit nominations.

SUMMARY: The National Sheep Industry Improvement Center announces that it is accepting nominations for the Board of Directors of the National Sheep Industry Improvement Center for three voting directors' positions whose terms expire on February 13, 2003. Two positions are for members who have expertise in finance and management and one position is for a member who is an active producer of sheep or goats. Board members manage and oversee the Center's activities. Nominations may only be submitted by National organizations that consist primarily of active sheep or goat producers in the United States and who have as their primary interest the production of sheep or goats in the United States. Nominating organizations should submit:

(1) Substantiation that the nominating organization is national in scope,

(2) The number and percent of members that are active sheep or goat producers,

(3) Substantiation of the primary interests of the organization, and

(4) An Advisory Committee Membership Background Information form (Form AD-755) for each nominee.

This action is taken in accordance with 7 U.S.C. 2008j(f) which establishes the powers and composition of the Board of Directors for the National Sheep Industry Improvement Center.

DATES: Completed nominations must be received no later than November 4, 2002. Nominations received after that date will not be considered.

ADDRESSES: Submit nominations and statements of qualifications to Jay B. Wilson, Executive Director/CEO, National Sheep Industry Improvement Center, USDA, PO Box 23483, Washington, DC 20026-3483 if using the U.S. Postal Service or Room 2117, South Agriculture Building, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250 if using other carriers.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jay B. Wilson, Executive Director/CEO, National Sheep Industry Improvement Center, USDA, PO Box 23483, Washington, DC 20026-3483 if using the US Postal Service or Room 2117, South Agriculture Building, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250 if using other carriers. Forms and other information can be found at <http://www.nsiic.org>. Telephone (202) 690-0632, (This is not a toll free number.) FAX 202-720-1053.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The National Sheep Industry Improvement Center (NSIIC), or Sheep Center (Center), is authorized under 7 U.S.C. 2008j. The Center shall (1) promote strategic development activities and collaborative efforts by private and State entities to maximize the impact of Federal assistance to strengthen and enhance production and marketing of sheep or goat products in the United States; (2) optimize the use of available human capital and resources within the sheep or goat industries; (3) provide assistance to meet the needs of the sheep or goat industry for infrastructure development, business development, production, resource development, and market and environmental research; (4) advance activities that empower and build the capacity of the United States sheep or goat industry to design unique responses to special needs of the sheep or goat industries on both a regional and national basis; and (5) adopt flexible and innovative approaches to solving the long-term needs of the United States sheep or goat industry.

The management of NSIIC is vested in a Board of Directors that is appointed by, and reports to the Secretary of Agriculture. The Board of Directors is composed of seven voting members of whom four are active producers of sheep or goats in the United States, two have expertise in finance and management, and one has expertise in lamb, wool, goat or goat product

marketing. Of the three open positions, two positions are for members who have expertise in finance and management and one position is for a member who is an active producer of sheep or goats. The Board also includes two non-voting members, the Under Secretary of Agriculture for Rural Development and the Under Secretary of Agriculture for Research, Education, and Economics. The Executive Director serves as the CEO.

The Secretary of Agriculture shall appoint the voting members from the submitted nominations. Member's term of office shall be three years. Voting members are limited to two terms. Each of the three positions for which nominees are being sought are currently held by members who are serving second terms and are therefore not eligible to be re-nominated.

The Board shall meet not less than once each fiscal year, but is likely to meet at least quarterly. Board members will not receive compensation for serving on the Board of Directors, but shall be reimbursed for travel, subsistence, and other necessary expenses.

The statement of qualifications of the individual nominees is being obtained by using Form AD-755, "Advisory Committee Membership Background Information" which can be accessed at <http://www.nsiic.org>. The requirements of this form are incorporated under OMB number 0505-0001.

Dated: September 13, 2002.

Jay B. Wilson,

Executive Director/CEO, National Sheep Industry Improvement Center.

[FR Doc. 02-23706 Filed 9-17-02; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Notice of Mineral County Resource Advisory Committee Meeting

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of meetings.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the authorities in the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. 92-463) and under the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 (Pub. L. 106-393) the Lolo National Forest Mineral County Resource Advisory Committee

will meet on October 3 at 6 p.m. in Superior, Montana for a business meeting. The meeting is open to the public.

DATES: October 3, 2002.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Mineral County Courthouse, 300 River Street, Superior, MT 59872.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Robert Harper, Designated Federal Official (DFO), District Ranger Superior Ranger District, Lolo National Forest at (406) 822-4233.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This will be the first meeting of the Mineral County Resource Committee. Agenda topics include reviewing the role of the RAC, the purpose of Title II funds and receiving public comment. If the meeting location is changed, notice will be posted in the local newspapers, including the Mineral Independent and the Missoulian.

Dated: September 11, 2002.

Robert Harper,

Designated Federal Official, District Ranger, Superior Ranger District.

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Upper Hocking Watershed, Structure R-23, Fairfield County, OH

AGENCY: Natural Resources Conservation Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of a Finding of No Significant Impact.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to section 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969; the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations (40 CFR part 1500); and the Natural Resources Conservation Service Rules (7 CFR part 650); the Natural Resources Conservation Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, gives notice that an environmental impact statement is not being prepared for the rehabilitation of Structure R-23 in the Upper Hocking Watershed, in Fairfield County, Ohio.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kevin Brown; State Conservationist; Natural Resources Conservation Service; 200 North High Street, Room 522, Columbus, Ohio 43215; telephone 614-255-2500.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The environmental assessment of this federally assisted action indicates that the project will not cause significant local, regional, or national effects on the

human environment. As a result of these findings, Kevin Brown, State Conservationist, has determined that the preparation and review of an environmental impact statement are not needed for this project.

The project purpose is grade stabilization and erosion control. The action includes the rehabilitation of one dam. The Notice of a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) has been forwarded to the Environmental Protection Agency; various Federal, state and local agencies; and interested parties. A limited number of copies of the FONSI are available to fill single copy requests at the above address. Basic data developed during the environmental assessment is on file and may be reviewed by contacting Kevin Brown.

No administrative action on implementation of the preferred alternative will be taken until 30 days after the date of this publication in the **Federal Register**.

Kevin Brown,
State Conservationist.

Finding of No Significant Impact for the Upper Hocking Watershed, Fairfield County, Ohio

Introduction

This undertaking is being planned and will be implemented under the authority of the emergency Watershed Protection Program (7 CFR 624). This program was enacted by Section 216 of Public Law 81-516, Section 403 of Public Law 95-334 (Title IV of the Agricultural Credit Act of 1978), and Section 382 of Public Law 104-127 (Title III of the 1996 Farm Bill). This action is being planned in accordance with Section 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, Public Law 91-190, as amended (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et. seq.*). The policy and procedures of the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act, Public Law 83-566, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1000-1008) are also being utilized for the planning and implementation of this undertaking.

The rehabilitation of the Upper Hocking Watershed Structure R-23 is a federally assisted action. An environmental assessment was completed for the action and was conducted in consultation with local, state, and federal agencies, as well as other interested organizations and individuals. Data developed during the assessment is available for public review at the following location: USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, 200 North High St., Rm. 522, Columbus, Ohio 43215-2478

Preferred Alternative

The sponsors preferred alternative for the rehabilitation of Structure R-23 would be to upgrade the dam to meet state dam safety criteria for a medium hazard dam (NRCS Class B and ODNR Class II). Rehabilitation would include replacing the deteriorated principal spillway with a new riser and

outlet pipe, and reconstructing the auxiliary spillway to increase the storage-discharge capacity of the dam to safely pass 50 percent of the probable maximum precipitation event without overtopping the embankment.

Effect of the Preferred Alternative

This alternative would fully meet the needs and desires of the sponsors and the public by protecting public health and safety while also meeting all applicable dam safety and performance standards. This alternative would greatly diminish the potential for dam failure. Total cost of this alternative is estimated to be \$125,000.00.

Construction activities would require draining the 5-acre pond, and removing part of the dam, to accomplish riser and pipe removal and replacement. It is anticipated that the project construction activities would take approximately 6 weeks. At least 4 landowners must drive across the private road on top of the dam to get to their residences. During the construction period, this road would be closed to the public. A temporary access road to the homes would be made part of the project.

Temporary displacement of wildlife, aquatic species, and fish that use the lake would occur during construction. The water would be lowered very slowly to minimize impacts to the wildlife, aquatic species, and fish. In the long term, use of the area by wildlife and aquatic species should return to pre-construction levels. After the project is completed, the pond would be restocked with fish as per the concerns of the surrounding landowners.

About 5 acres would be temporarily disturbed due to the construction of this project. All disturbed areas on the fill and in the emergency spillway will be seeded to an erosion controlling grass.

This action will have no effect on wetlands, rare, or threatened and endangered species, and prime or unique farmland. Air quality in the watershed will be essentially unaffected by the rehabilitation project. There will be brief, temporary increases in noise levels and pollution of air from dust and exhaust emissions, which are inherent in earth moving construction processes.

An environmental assessment was completed as part of the planning process. An inventory for cultural resources was completed as part of the environmental assessment. The Ohio Historic Preservation Office has submitted written notification, in accordance with the provisions of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, and the Act's implementing regulations, 36 CFR 800, that there is little likelihood the project will encounter significant archaeological sites or buildings. It is of their opinion that the proposed work will not affect historic properties. Concerns have been addressed from contacted tribes. If there is a significant cultural resource discovery during construction, appropriate notice will be made by NRCS to the state Historic Preservation Officer. NRCS will take action as prescribed in NRCS General Manual 420, Part 401, to protect or recover any significant cultural resource during construction.