

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.

[FR Doc. 02-23679 Filed 9-17-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

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.

Alternatives

The preferred alternative is the most practical alternative to meet the purpose and needs of this action. Three alternatives were considered: (1) No Action, (2) Decommission the Structure, and (3) Structure Rehabilitation.

Consultation—Public Participation

Meetings were held with the project sponsors in June, July, and December of 2001, and April of 2002. On April 23, 2002, the sponsors held a public meeting. In addition, letter requests for concerns and issues were sent to federal and state agencies, and organizations. All concerns and issues were addressed in the environmental assessment.

Conclusion

The environmental assessment summarized above indicates that this Federal action will not cause significant local, regional, or national impacts on the human environment. Therefore, based on the above findings, I have determined that an environmental impact statement is not required for the rehabilitation of the Upper Hocking Watershed Structure R-23.

Dated: August 30, 2002.

Kevin Brown,

State Conservationist.

[FR Doc. 02-23684 Filed 9-17-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-16-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**Natural Resources Conservation Service****Changes in Hydric Soils of the United States**

AGENCY: Natural Resources Conservation Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of change.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to 7 CFR 12.30(a)(4), The Natural Resources Conservation Service, United States Department of Agriculture gives notice of a change in the wording of the criteria used to generate the list of hydric soils of the United States as published in the third edition of Hydric Soils of the United States, Miscellaneous Publication 1491, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Soil Conservation Service, June 1991.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Karl W. Hipple, Chair, National Technical Committee for Hydric Soils, National Soil Survey Center, NRCS, Room 152, Mail Stop 36, Federal Building, 100 Centennial Mall North, Lincoln, Nebraska 68508-3866, Telephone (402) 437-5351.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The wording of criteria 1 and 2 has been changed to incorporate recent changes in Soil Taxonomy.

Criteria for Hydric Soils

1. All Histels except Folistels, and all Histosols except Folistels, or

2. Soils in Aquic suborders, great groups, or subgroups; Albolls suborder; Historthels and Histoturbels great groups; and Cumulic or Pachic subgroups that are:

a. Somewhat poorly drained with a water table equal to 0.0 foot (ft) from the surface during the growing season, or

b. poorly drained or very poorly drained and have either:

(1) Water table equal to 0.0 ft from the surface during the growing season if textures are coarse sand, sand, or fine sand in all layers within 20 inches (in) of the surface, or for other soils,

(2) Water table at less than or equal to 0.5 ft from the surface during the growing season if permeability is equal to or greater than 6.0 in/hour (h) in all layers within 20 in of the surface, or

(3) Water table at less than or equal to 1.0 ft from the surface during the growing season, if permeability is less than 6.0 in/h in any layer within 20 in, or

3. Soils that are frequently ponded for long duration or very long duration during the growing season, or

4. Soils that are frequently flooded for long duration or very long duration during the growing season.

Signed in Washington, DC, on August 5, 2002.

Bruce I. Knight,

Chief.

[FR Doc. 02-23683 Filed 9-17-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-16-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**Minority Business Development Agency**

[Docket No: 980901228-2207-03]

Solicitation of Applications for the Minority Business Opportunity Committee (MBOC) Program

AGENCY: Minority Business Development Agency, Commerce.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA) is soliciting applications from organizations seeking to operate Minority Business Opportunity Committees (MBOC). Applications are being solicited from all geographical areas within the United States, including the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. MBDA anticipates funding one (1) MBOC within each of the geographic regions

listed under "For Further Information Contact, Pre-Application Conference". In order for their proposals to receive consideration, applicants must comply with all information and requirements contained in this notice and the Application Package (AP).

MBDA is an entrepreneurially focused and innovative organization that is committed to empowering minority business enterprises (MBEs) and creating wealth-building opportunities. MBDA fosters the creation, growth and expansion of MBEs in America by providing business development services, tools (e.g., Minority Business Internet Portal <http://www.mbda.gov>) and programs. Each program is designed to focus on the unique business problems of a specific market. MBDA's programs form a national business delivery network that addresses the needs of minority entrepreneurs throughout the United States. The MBOC program is designed to provide minority entrepreneurs with enhanced access to markets, capital, and information. This is accomplished by identifying contracts, business ownership, marketing, sales, financing, and joint venture opportunities, to position MBEs for long-term growth. State or local government entities, American Indian Tribes, colleges, universities, non-profit, and for-profit organizations are eligible to operate MBOCs.

This solicitation incorporates the new requirement that MBOCs utilize information technology to collect and disseminate information for and about MBEs. Additionally this solicitation requires that MBOCs install systems whereby information regarding performance measures can be electronically transmitted to MBDA. (See Computer Requirements.)

DATES: The closing date for applications is October 18, 2002. Completed applications for the MBOC program must be: (1) Mailed (USPS postmark) to the address below; or (2) received by MBDA at the address below no later than 5:00 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time. It is strongly recommended that applicants utilize an overnight mail delivery service to ensure timely receipt of applications. Applicants using this service must ensure that applications are received by MBDA by 5 PM Eastern Daylight Time. Applications postmarked later than the closing date will not be considered. MBDA anticipates that awards will be made with a start date of January 1, 2003.

ADDRESSES: Applicants must submit one signed original plus two (2) copies of the application. Completed application