

Board of Supervisors held discussions at regular meetings in 2003 regarding the need for rehabilitating Indian Creek Site 2. A meeting to present the initial results of the NRCS assessment and preliminary rehabilitation ideas was held on August 6, 2003. The meeting was attended by representatives of the SWCD, County Board of Supervisors, City of Council Bluffs, and the Council Bluffs Chamber of Commerce.

The NRCS planning staff met with the County Board of Supervisors at their regular meeting on August 20, 2003. As a result of this meeting, sponsors firmly supported proceeding with the development of a plan to rehabilitate Site 2.

A public meeting conducted jointly by sponsors and the NRCS was held in Council Bluffs the evening of September 17, 2003. Preliminary alternatives were presented and public input was requested. Forty-five local residents attended the meeting. Most of the attendees live near the Site 2 pool and along Mudhollow Road. Following the presentation, many questions and much discussion occurred about the breach inundation area, property values, and preliminary alternatives.

Forty letters of invitation were sent to representatives of state and federal agencies, conservation groups, agricultural groups, and others for a "scoping meeting" on September 18, 2003. No representatives of the target audience attended except for two representatives of the sponsors who attended the public meeting the night before and earlier meetings. The two declined the opportunity for further discussions.

The tri-agency biology review for Site 2 was initiated by a field review on September 30, 2003. The Iowa DNR, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, consulted with NRCS on the likely impacts of the project on wildlife habitat, wetlands, and T&E species.

Eight Indian tribal contacts and the local county historical society were notified of this intended action in accordance with 36CFR800. They were consulted about their knowledge of historical properties in the project area. No response was received from the tribal contacts. The local historical society responded that they knew of no historic properties in the project area.

NRCS planning staff members met with sponsors at a Pottawattamie County Board of Supervisors meeting on May 12, 2004. The staff presented initial study results of the alternatives. The sponsors requested further study of outflow rates from Site 2 for various storm events. They also requested discontinuing study of an alternative

that would reduce the pool size by over 50 percent. Reducing the pool size was not acceptable to the sponsors or the local residents of the watershed. The NRCS agreed to follow up on these requests and meet again with the sponsors.

The follow up meeting was held on August 11, 2004. Sponsors received updates from NRCS planning staff studies. The sponsors agreed they would select an alternative and respond to NRCS by September 1, 2004. The sponsors agreed to coordinate a public information meeting in the early fall.

The sponsors selected Alternative F on August 25, 2004. They asked NRCS to proceed with plan development following a public information meeting in October 2004.

A public informational meeting was held in Council Bluffs on October 20, 2004. The alternative plans, their effects, and their costs were presented by NRCS to the 26 local people present. Most of the attendees live in proximity to Site 2. Representatives of the sponsors publicly endorsed Alternative F as their selection. Members of the public present supported the plan and did not present any new information to consider in plan development. No public controversy was evident.

Conclusion

The Environmental Assessment summarized above indicates that this Federal action will not cause significant impacts on the environment. Therefore, based on the above findings, I have determined that an environmental impact statement for the Indian Creek Watershed Draft Supplemental Watershed Plan and Environmental Assessment Number 1 is not required.

Dated: July 29, 2005.

Richard Van Klaveren,
State Conservationist.

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Notice of Proposed Changes to Section IV of the Field Office Technical Guide (FOTG) of the Natural Resources Conservation Service in Indiana

AGENCY: Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).

ACTION: Notice of availability of proposed changes in Section IV of the FOTG of the NRCS in Indiana for review and comment.

SUMMARY: It is the intention of NRCS in Indiana to issue eight revised conservation practice standards in Section IV of the FOTG. The revised standards are: Waste Storage Facility (313), Waste Treatment Lagoon (359), Irrigation Storage Reservoir (436), Irrigation Storage, Microirrigation, (441) Irrigation System, Sprinkler (442), Irrigation System, Surface and Subsurface (443), Irrigation Water Management (449), and Irrigation Regulating Reservoir (552).

These practices may be used in conservation systems that treat highly erodible land and/or wetlands.

DATES: Comments will be received for a 30-day period commencing with this date of publication.

ADDRESSES: Address all requests and comments to Jane E. Hardisty, State Conservationist, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), 6013 Lakeside Blvd., Indianapolis, Indiana 46278. Copies of these standards will be made available upon written request. You may submit your electronic requests and comments to darrell.brown@in.usda.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jane E. Hardisty, 317-290-3200.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 343 of the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 states that after enactment of the law, revisions made to NRCS state technical guides used to carry out highly erodible land and wetland provisions of the law, shall be made available for public review and comment. For the next 30 days, the NRCS in Indiana will receive comments relative to the proposed changes. Following that period, a determination will be made by the NRCS in Indiana regarding disposition of those comments and a final determination of changes will be made.

Dated: July 25, 2005.

Jane E. Hardisty,

State Conservationist, Indianapolis, Indiana.

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Notice of Meeting of the Agricultural Air Quality Task Force

AGENCY: Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), USDA.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The Agricultural Air Quality Task Force (AAQTF) will meet to