

APPENDIX A

Comments and Responses

A-1	Contact List
A-2	Invitation Letter Example

Forest River Watershed Planning Roster

Point of Contact	Title	Representing	Mailing Address	Mailing Address (2)	City	State	Zip	Email
Richard Webb	Assistant State Conservationist (Field Operations)	NRCS	706 8th Ave SE, Suite 1		Devlis Lake	ND	58301	Richard.webb@nd.usda.gov
Shawn Krance	Area Resource Conservationist	NRCS	706 8th Ave SE, Suite 1		Devlis Lake	ND	58301	shawn.krance@nd.usda.gov
Christi Fisher	State Engineer	NRCS	220 East Rosser Avenue		Bismarck	ND	58502-1458	christi.fisher@nd.usda.gov
Mary Podoll	State Conservationist	NRCS	220 East Rosser Avenue		Bismarck	ND	58502-1458	mary.podoll@nd.usda.gov
Rita Sveen	District Conservationist	NRCS - Walsh County	417 Park Street West, Suite 1		Park River	ND	58270	rita.sveen@nd.usda.gov
Kevin M. Gietzen	District Conservationist	NRCS - Grand Forks County	4775 Technology Circle #1B		Grand Forks	ND	58203	kevin.gietzen@nd.usda.gov
Patricia Mcqueary	Project Manager	US Army Corps of Engineers - Regulatory Division	3319 University Drive		Bismarck	ND	58504	Patricia.L.Mcqueary@usace.army.mil
Kevin J. Shelly	ND Supervisor	US Fish and Wildlife Service	3425 Miriam Avenue		Bismarck	ND	58501	
Chris Roed	District Supervisor	US Fish and Wildlife Service -Devils Lake Wetland Management District	221 2nd Street NW, Suite #2		Devils Lake	ND	58301	Roed, Chris <chris_roed@fws.gov>
Lee dePalo	Regional Administrator	Federal Emergency Management Agency - Region 8	Denver Federal Center, Bldg 710	Box 25267	Denver	CO	80225	
Cecily Fong	Public Information Officer	ND Department of Emergency Services	Fraine Barracks Lane - Bldg 35	PO Box 5511	Bismarck	ND	58504	
Brent Nelson	Emergency Manager	Walsh County Emergency Manager	Administration Bldg 638 Cooper Ave, Suite #2		Grafton	ND	58237	
Karli Goelz	Director	Grand Forks County Emergency Management Office	122 South 5th Street		Grand Forks	ND	58201	
Sharon Lipsh	Highway Superintendent	Walsh County Highway Department	600 Cooper Ave		Grafton	ND	58237	slipsh@nd.gov
Nick West	County Engineer	Grand Forks Highway Department	P.O. Box 5682		Grand Forks	ND	58206	nick.west@gfcounty.org
Les Noerhe	District Engineer	North Dakota Department of Transportation	P.O. Box 13077		Grand Forks	ND	58208	Inoehre@nd.gov
Bruce Kreft	Resource Biologist	North Dakota Game and Fish Department	100 E Bismarck Expy		Bismarck	ND	58501	bkreft@nd.gov
Keith Weston	Executive Director	Red River Retention Authority	1120 28th Avenue North, Suite C		Fargo	ND	58102	rrra@ideaone.net
Richard Axvig	Chairman	Grand Forks County Water Resource District	151 South 4th Street	Suite 348	Grand Forks	ND	58201	Richard Axvig <richardaxvig@gmail.com>
	Commissioners	Walsh County Commission	600 Cooper Ave		Grafton	ND	58237	
	Commissioners	Grand Forks County Commission	151 S 4th Street #201		Grand Forks	ND	58201	
Karl Rockeman	Water Quality Division Director	North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality	918 E Divide Avenue, 4th Floor		Bismarck	ND	58501	krockema@nd.gov
Justin Parks	Watershed Coordinator	Grand Forks County Soil Conservation District	4775 Technology Circle, Suite C		Grand Forks	ND	58203	Justin.Parks1@nd.nacdnet.net
Sarah Johnston	SCD Manager	Walsh County Three Rivers Soil Conservation District	417 Park Street West, Suite 1		Park River	ND	58270	Walshcounty3riversscd@polarcomm.com
Evan Freeman	319 Coordinator	319 Project Coordinator						walshcounty319@polarcomm.com
Randy Gjestvang	Red River Engineer	North Dakota State Water Commission	1120 28th Avenue N., Suite C		Fargo	ND	58102	rgjestvang@nd.gov
Aaron Caranza	Regulatory Division Director	North Dakota State Water Commission	900 E Boulevard Ave, # 770		Bismarck	ND	58505	acaranza@nd.gov
Jon Kelsch	Water Development Division Director	North Dakota State Water Commission	900 E Boulevard Ave, # 770		Bismardk	ND	58505	jkelsch@nd.gov
Karen Goff	Dam Safety Program Manager	North Dakota State Water Commission	901 E Boulevard Ave, # 770		Bismardk	ND	58506	kgoff@nd.gov
David Nyhus	Design Engineer- Development Division	North Dakota State Water Commission	902 E Boulevard Ave, # 770		Bismardk	ND	58507	dnyhus@nd.gov
Lisa Steckler	Historic Preservation Specialist	State Historical Society of North Dakota	612 East Boulevard Avenue		Bismarck	ND	58505	lsteckler@nd.gov
John Murray, THPO	Tribal Historic Preservation Officer	The Blackfeet Nation	850 Government Square		Browning	MT	59417	jmflysdown@gmail.com
Jonathan Windy Boy, THPO	Tribal Historic Preservation Officer	Chippewa Cree Tribe of the Rocky Boy's Reservation	9740 Upper Box Elder Road	PO Box 230	Box Elder	MT	59521	alvin@nei-yahw.com
Kyle Felsman, THPO	Tribal Historic Preservation Officer	Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes	PO Box 278		Pablo	MT	59855	clayton@cskt.org
William BigDay, THPO	Tribal Historic Preservation Officer	The Crow Tribe of Indians	PO Box 159		Crow Agency	MT	59002	ebullchief@crownations.net
Michael J. Black Wolf, THPO	Tribal Historic Preservation Officer	Fort Belknap Indian Community	656 Agency Main Street		Harlem	MT	59526	mblackwolf@ftbelknap.org
Dyan Youpee, THPO	Tribal Historic Preservation Officer	Fort Peck Assiniboine and Sioux Tribes	PO Box 1027 / 501 Medicine Bear Road		Poplar	MT	59255	cultres@nemontel.net
Teanna Limpy, THPO	Tribal Historic Preservation Officer	Northern Cheyenne Tribe	PO Box 128		Lame Deer	MT	59043	teanna.limpy@cheyennenation.com
Lynette Bell, THPO	Tribal Historic Preservation Officer	Shoshone Tribe of the Wind River Reservation	PO Box 538		Fort Washakie	WY	82514	wjferriisii@yahoo.com
Crystal C/Bearing	Tribal Historic Preservation Officer	Northern Arapaho Tribe	PO Box 67		St. Stephens	WY	82524	cbearing.nathpo@gmail.com
Elgin Crows Breast, THPO	Tribal Historic Preservation Officer	Mandan, Hidatsa & Arikara Nation	404 Frontage Road		New Town	ND	58763	redhawk@mhanation.com
Dr. Erich Longie, THPO	Tribal Historic Preservation Officer	Spirit Lake Tribe of Fort Totten	PO Box 76		Fort Totten	ND	58335	thpo@go.ndtc.com
John Eagle, THPO	Tribal Historic Preservation Officer	Standing Rock Sioux Tribe	PO Box D		Fort Yates	ND	58538	j.eagle@standingrock.org
Elaine Nadeau, THPO	Tribal Historic Preservation Officer	Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa	PO Box 900		Belcourt	ND	58316	brucefnadeau@gmail.com
Bill Latady, THPO	Tribal Historic Preservation Officer	Bois Forte Band of Chippewa Indians	1500 Bois Forte Road		Tower	MN	55790	blatady@boisforte-nsn.gov
Jill Hoppe, THPO	Tribal Historic Preservation Officer	Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa	1720 Big Lake Road		Cloquet	MN	55720	jillhoppe@fdlrez.com
Mary Ann Gagnon, THPO	Tribal Historic Preservation Officer	Grand Portage Band of Lake Superior Chippewa	PO Box 428		Grand Portage	MN	55605	maryanng@grandportage.com
Amy Burnette, THPO	Tribal Historic Preservation Officer	Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe	115 6th Street, NW, Suite E		Cass Lake	MN	56633	amy.burnette@llojibwe.org
Noah White, THPO	Tribal Historic Preservation Officer	Prairie Island Indian Community of Minnesota	5636 Sturgeon Lake Road		Welch	MN	55089	art.owen@piic.org
Cheyenne St. John, THPO	Tribal Historic Preservation Officer	Lower Sioux Indian Community	39527 Reservation Highway 1		Morton	MN	56270	cheyanne.stjohn@lowersioux.com
Natalie Weyaus, THPO *	Tribal Historic Preservation Officer	Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe	43408 Oodena Drive		Onamia	MN	56359	natalie.weyaus@millelacsband.com
Samantha Odegard, THPO Coordinator	Tribal Historic Preservation Officer	Upper Sioux Community	PO Box 147		Granite Falls	MN	56241	sarac@uppersiouxcommunity-nsn.gov
Jamie Arsenault, THPO and NAGPRA Rep.	Tribal Historic Preservation Officer	White Earth Nation of Minnesota Chippewa	PO Box 418		White Earth	MN	56591	cayla.olson@whiteearth.com
Kade Ferris, THPO	Tribal Historic Preservation Officer	Red Lake Band of Chippewa Indians	PO Box 274		Red Lake	MN	56671	kade.ferris@redlakenation.org
Steven Vance, THPO	Tribal Historic Preservation Officer	Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe	PO Box 590		Eagle Butte	SD	57625	steve.vance@crst-nsn.gov
Bonnie St.John McGhee, THPO	Tribal Historic Preservation Officer	Crow Creek Sioux Tribe	PO Box 50		Fort Thompson	SD	57339	darrellzephier78@gmail.com
Garrie Kills A Hundred, THPO	Tribal Historic Preservation Officer	Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribe	P.O. Box 285		Flandeau	SD	57028	garrie.killsahundred@fsst.org
Trina Lone Hill, THPO/Director	Tribal Historic Preservation Officer	Oglala Sioux Tribe	PO Box 129		Kyle	SD	57752	dennis@oglalathpo.org
Russell Eagle Bear, THPO	Tribal Historic Preservation Officer	Rosebud Sioux Tribe of Indians	PO Box 809		Rosebud	SD	57570	rstthpo@yahoo.com
Dianne Desrosiers, THPO	Tribal Historic Preservation Officer	Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate	PO Box 907		Sisseton	SD	57262	dianned@swo-nsn.gov
Kip Spotted Eagle, THPO	Tribal Historic Preservation Officer	Yankton Sioux Tribe	Box 1153 / 800 Main Avenue SW		Wagner	SD	57380	yst.thpo@gmail.com
Keith Bylin	Walsh County Resident	Concerned Citizen						kjbylin@polarcomm.com



United States Department of Agriculture

Natural Resources
Conservation Service

January 9, 2020

Bismarck State Office
PO Box 1458
Bismarck, ND
58502-1458

<<<Name>>>
<<<Agency>>>
<<<Mailing Address>>>
<<<City, State Zip>>>

Voice 701.530.2000
Fax 855-813-7556

RE: Formal Request to Participate as a Cooperating Agency on the North Branch
Forest River Dam #1 Rehabilitation, Environmental Assessment

Dear <<<POC>>>:

The Watershed Protection and Flood Protection Act (Section 14 of PL-83-566, as amended), authorizes financial and technical assistance to rehabilitate aging flood control dams originally constructed with the assistance of the NRCS Watershed Program. The North Branch Forest River Watershed Forest River Dam #1, (Bylin Dam), is one of these projects.

Bylin Dam is a high hazard structure, constructed in 1964 through funding and technical assistance provided by the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) Watershed Program, and owned and operated by the Walsh County Water Resource District (WCWRD). The dam was constructed for the purposes of flood control and recreation. The auxiliary spillway and riser structure do not meet current NRCS or North Dakota State Water Commission (NDSWC) dam safety standards. Preliminary analysis has indicated that approximately 140 individuals, 37 potentially inhabitable structures, 1 state highway, multiple county/township roads, recreational facilities, historic/cultural resources, and degradation of river, wetland, and riparian habitat are at risk in the event of a dam failure.

In accordance with the Council on Environmental Quality regulations implementing the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) at 40 CFR Section 1501.6, NRCS is formally requesting your agency become a cooperating agency in the planning and development of the Bylin Dam Environmental Assessment (EA). This request is being made because your agency has been identified as having special expertise or jurisdiction by law related to this project. It is anticipated that this Watershed Rehabilitation Planning effort will take place over the course of 2020-2022 and that 2-3 interagency meetings will be held to share progress and solicit input on structural and nonstructural alternatives, supporting technical analysis work, and the economic, environmental, cultural resource concerns, and social impacts of implementing identified alternatives. Supporting technical materials will be provided electronically for comment, as well. The EA is being prepared to fulfill NRCS's NEPA compliance responsibilities pertaining to our potential federal financial assistance through Section 14 of PL-83-566, as amended. Your agency may also have NEPA compliance responsibilities concerning this project or other future projects that may be evaluated in this EA. Preparation of this EA should also assist in fulfilling environmental review requirements for your agency or other Federal agencies and meet NEPA's intent of reducing duplication and delay between agencies.

Helping People Help the Land

An Equal Opportunity Provider, Employer, and Lender

<<<POC>>>

Page 2

Please provide written confirmation of acceptance or denial to participate. If your agency chooses to accept, please indicate the name and contact information for your agency's point of contact. If your agency is unable to participate as a cooperating agency, then please return a written explanation why your agency cannot participate. Please note that a response declining to be a cooperating agency is required to also be submitted to the Council on Environmental Quality per 40 CFR Section 1501.6(c). Upon acceptance of this invitation, roles can be defined in an informal agreement or formal MOU can be established.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact the ND NRCS Watershed Program Manager, Christi Fisher at Christi.Fisher@nd.usda.gov or by phone at (701) 530-2091. Thank you for your timely response and cooperation with this project.

Sincerely,

MARY E. PODOLL
State Conservationist

Enclosure

cc: Walsh County Water Resource District w/enclosure
Zach Herrmann, Houston Engineering, Inc. w/enclosure

2020-03-06 MEETING

**Notice of Public Meeting
Friday, March 6, 2010 at 11:00am
Minto Community Center
114 Harvey Avenue, Minto, ND 58261
Bylin Dam Rehabilitation
Public Scoping Meeting
Walsh County Water Resource District (WCWRD)**

The WCWRD will host a public meeting on Friday, March 6, 2020 at 11:00am at the Minto Community Center (114 Harvey Avenue, Minto, ND 58261). The WCWRD is proceeding as the Local Sponsoring Organization for the rehabilitation of North Branch Forest River Dam No. 1 (Bylin Dam). The initial phase of this effort is to complete a Supplemental Watershed Plan that will include review of the existing structure, watershed/resource concerns, development of alternatives, and selection of a preferred alternative. The purpose of the meeting is to provide background of the Watershed Planning effort and opportunity for input about resource concerns pertinent to Bylin Dam. Input may be provided through oral comments at the meeting as well as through completion of a questionnaire. For those unable to attend the meeting, the questionnaire will be made available, along with presentation material from the meeting, on the WCWRD web page following the public meeting.

Comment forms will also be available from the WCWRD office at the address listed below. Comments forms will be accepted for all forms postmarked on or before April 3, 2020. Completed comment forms can be mailed to the WCWRD office at:

Walsh County Water Resource District
600 Cooper Avenue
Grafton, ND 58237

**Special Meeting of the Walsh County Water Resource District
Bylin Dam NRCS Rehab Study – Public Scoping Meeting
Friday, March 6, 2020
Minto Community Center, Minto, ND**

March 6, 2020 – 11:00 a.m.

Vice Chairman Larry Tanke called the meeting of the Walsh County Water Resource District Board to order on Friday, March 6, 2020. He introduced the members of the Board and then turned the meeting over to Christy Fischer – NRCS and Mike Opat with Houston Engineering. (For those in attendance, please see attached sign in roster.)

Christy began the presentation with a brief summary of the NRCS dam rehab study process and how funds were distributed. Mike began with a brief history on Fordville Dam and how funding was secured for the rehab study of the dam with NRCS, SWC and RRJWRD. He then moved on to an overview of what the rehab study will entail and how the study will develop into a final recommendation report.

The current issues with the dam stem from a 2015 dam assessment report from the State Water Commission that classified the dam as a high hazard structure. This study will look into what areas of the dam need to be repaired/replaced and what options are most feasible to keep the dam in good repair and operation.

The study will research all alternatives available to the dam to include:

- No action – no federal action or assistance;
- Rehab to federal high hazard criteria – concrete spillway;
- Remove downstream flood risk & rehab to reduced hazard classification;
- Decommissioning dam.

The final report is expected to be completed by September 2022. Comment forms were provided for the public to fill out and return by Friday, April 3rd, 2020.


Comments/Questions from attendees:

- Dougherty Dam is directly upstream of the Bylin Dam – they are joined. Would like to save both dams.
- Dougherty Dam captures a lot of silt and keeps it from going into the Bylin Dam.
- Earliest construction would be in 2024 +/- and would take approximately 1-2 years.
- Life expectancy of the rehab would be 100 years.
- Funding – 70% NRCS – 50% of remainder SWC – 65% remainder RRJWRD – any remaining costs are local share.
- What is the likelihood of decommissioning? Unknown at this point. Decommissioning is looked at because it is a federal requirement of the study. General public would have a voice if decommissioning was an option being looked into.

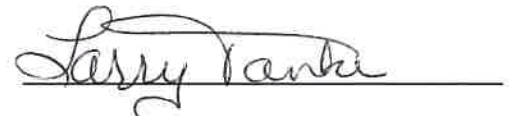
Comment sheets will be available on the Walsh County Water Resource District's website.

With no other questions, the meeting was adjourned.

Attest:



Jennifer Lindenberger, Sec/Treas.



Larry Tanke, Vice Chairman



Agenda

- PL-566 Watershed Rehabilitation Overview
- Dam and Watershed Plan History
- Bylin Dam Overview
- Planning Process
- Purpose & Need
- Dam Safety Concerns
- Flood Prevention Concerns
- Recreation Concerns
- Data Collection & Resource Inventory
- Preliminary Alternatives
- Factors Considered
- Public Input



COMMENT SHEET

North Branch Forest River Dam No. 1 (Bylin Dam)

Public Scoping Meeting – March 6, 2020

Please list any comments or concerns regarding this project:

AS I live a mile Down Stream and Right on the River, This IS a huge concern for me. If the Dam was decommissioned, the threat of flooding IS Substantial. This Dam IS also a concern as an avid sportsman. This Dam is full of fish and serves as a crucial part for wildlife. As a farmer the Dam serves as a major crossing point for our equipment as we are not able to cross the Coulee to the east or Down Stream of the Dam. I would like to be informed and willing to show around my concerns.

(You may also indicate areas of concern via markup or comment on the map displayed on the reverse side of this sheet.)

May we follow up with you for more information?

☒ YES

☐ NO

Please provide your name, address, email address, and phone number:

Name:

Craig Skotheim

Address:

6590 122nd Ave NE Adams ND 58210

Email:

Craig.Skotheim@gmail.com

Phone Number:

701 331 2667

Leave a message

Please drop this form off at the conclusion of the meeting, email, or mail back to:

EMAIL: North Branch Forest River Dam No. 1

bylin@houstoneng.com

MAIL: North Branch Forest River Dam No. 1

c/o Walsh County Water Resource District
600 Cooper Avenue
Grafton, ND 58237

Thank you for taking the time to complete this comment form. Please return any completed questionnaire to the Walsh County Water Resource District before leaving.

If you would like more time to complete, please return no later than **FRIDAY, APRIL 3, 2020** using the email/mail instructions above. Completed forms may also be dropped off at the Walsh County Water Resource District office.

Thank You!!

March. 24, 2020

Dear Walsh County Water Resource District,

I grew up on the Skarheim Bros. Dairy farm about a mile down river from the Bylin Dam.

Before the dam was built the road was very steep and almost ~~undrivable~~ ^{undrivable} most of the year. I remember the spring flooding. My Dad (Dennis) & Uncle Henry never had to clean out the barnyard of manure. John L. Johnson / Dennis Skarheim Jr.; Roger Gustafson / Kevin Gustafson; Mylo Samuelson ^{Earl in summer}; Skarheim Dairy / Jay Skarheim; Rosold / Wayne Uddy; Wistie - no one lives there now; Clifford Askim - no one lives there now; Harry Askim / Ryan Askim all lived in the coulee and the next generation now lives. They all had cattle, the spring flooding cleaned out many barnyards. The Wisties used the concrete tunnel under the railroad as a cattle barn. The water would come all the way up to my uncles back door to his house - Craig Skarheim now lives where that house once sat. The barnyard would flood up to the pole barn that's still there. It would flood the farms for miles. I through the eyes of a child thought it was a fantastic way to clean out the barn yards. The cows had to ~~be~~ ^{remain} in the barns until the water went down and barnyards dried up.

After the dam was built we had to haul out the manure. My Dad Dennis Skarheim built concrete bridge across the river for the cows for 2 reasons 1. to keep the cows from walking in the mud - which kept them cleaner. 2. This meant the cows could get up the hill and to the pastures earlier in the spring.

After the dam was built all the "Cowboy Kids" mothers made us take swimming lessons in P.R. We always had inner tubes at the dam where we'd swim just in case we needed them. The swimming area and docks were on the north side of the dam. We'd swim water ski, fish, winter ice skate, snowmobile & ice fish. Every Sunday afternoon was spent at the dam.

We were NOT ALLOWED to go on the south side. ~~The~~ Dad Bylin would get Very Angry. To keep the peace our Dad told us to STAY on the North side.

Hoff School House needs to be kept safe. It's one of the only one room schools at its original site in the state or states around. Hoff/Skorheim farm is a 5 generation farm.

I pray the dam stays in place. It would be devastating for many family farms. Dennis Skorheim Jr. & Son. Gustafson, Samuelson's, Jay Skorheim & Son, Wayne Holby, Askima.

Even heavy rains will flood the cowles without the dam.

There also needs to be a Good road across the dam for many farmers to safely get their equipment to their fields and people to work.

Danise Skorheim Bata

6440 HWY 35

Adams, N.D.

COMMENT SHEET

North Branch Forest River Dam No. 1 (Bylin Dam)

Public Scoping Meeting – March 6, 2020

Please list any comments or concerns regarding this project: Will sediment accumulation
be assumed to have occurred since the dam was put in
or will there be some testing of the stratigraphy to see
if sediment accumulation rates have increased over time?
changed estimates of sediment loading lifespan greatly.

(You may also indicate areas of concern via markup or comment on the map displayed on the reverse side of this sheet.)

May we follow up with you for more information? YES NO

Please provide your name, address, email address, and phone number:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Phone Number: _____

Please drop this form off at the conclusion of the meeting, email, or mail back to:

EMAIL: North Branch Forest River Dam No. 1
bylin@houstoneng.com

MAIL: North Branch Forest River Dam No. 1
c/o Walsh County Water Resource District
600 Cooper Avenue
Grafton, ND 58237

Thank you for taking the time to complete this comment form. Please return any completed questionnaire to the Walsh County Water Resource District before leaving.

If you would like more time to complete, please return no later than FRIDAY, APRIL 3, 2020 using the email/mail instructions above. Completed forms may also be dropped off at the Walsh County Water Resource District office.

Thank You!!

COMMENT SHEET

North Branch Forest River Dam No. 1 (Bylin Dam)

Public Scoping Meeting – March 6, 2020

Please list any comments or concerns regarding this project: _____

Consideration - downstream impacts - banks

- River incision downstream

- Buffer to install on riparian

- BMP's in watershed

- Sediment loading

- Nitrate phosphorus impacts

* Landowners adjacent to Bylin are concerned that if the back dam is taken out - sedimentation of Bylin dam will happen

(You may also indicate areas of concern via markup or comment on the map displayed on the reverse side of this sheet.)

May we follow up with you for more information?

☒ YES

☐ NO

Please provide your name, address, email address, and phone number:

Name: Chris Nelson NRCS Park River

Address: _____

Email: _____

Phone Number: _____

Please drop this form off at the conclusion of the meeting, email, or mail back to:

EMAIL: North Branch Forest River Dam No. 1

bylin@houstoneng.com

MAIL: North Branch Forest River Dam No. 1

c/o Walsh County Water Resource District

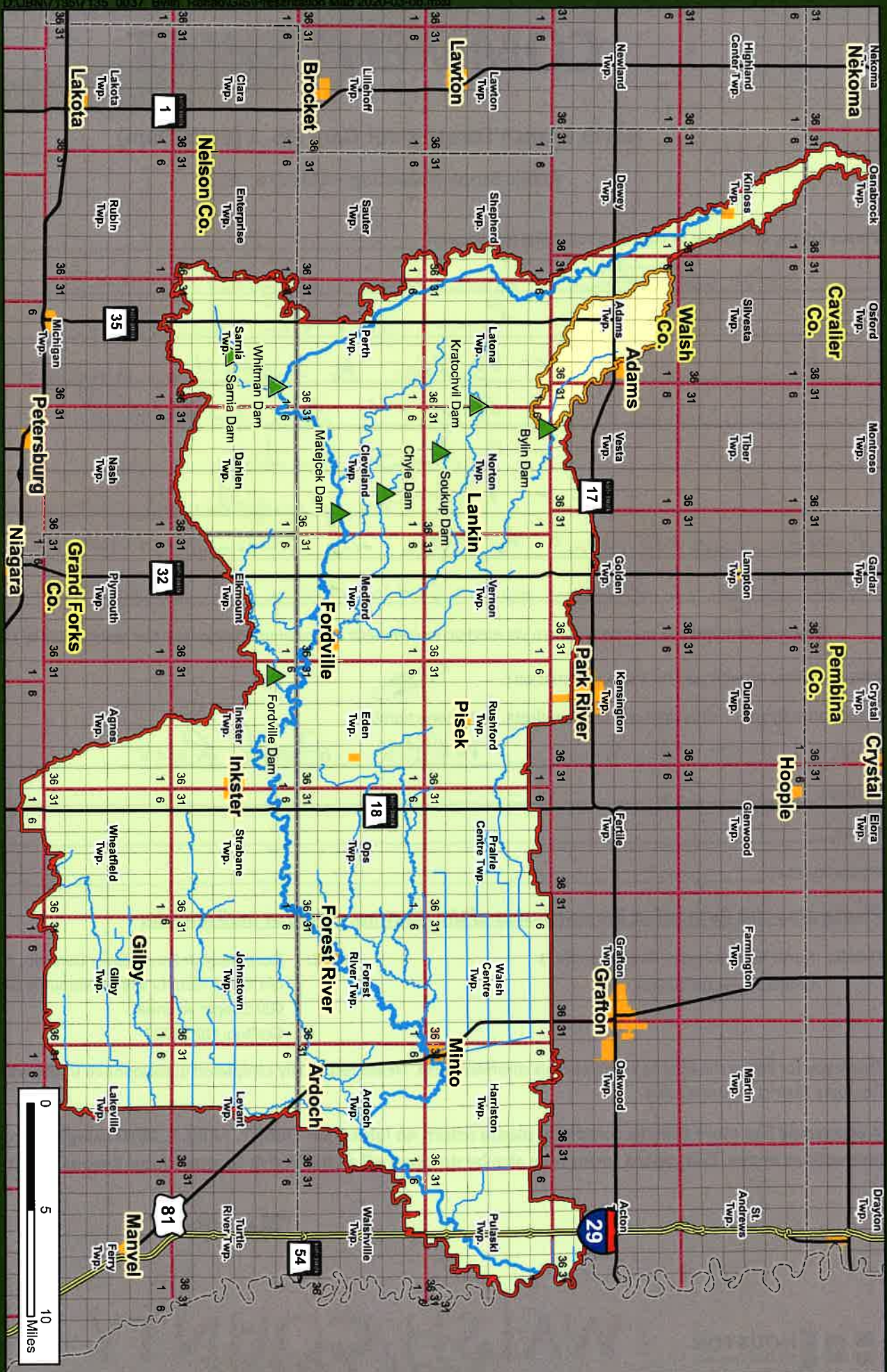
600 Cooper Avenue

Grafton, ND 58237

Thank you for taking the time to complete this comment form. Please return any completed questionnaire to the Walsh County Water Resource District before leaving.

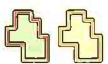
If you would like more time to complete, please return no later than **FRIDAY, APRIL 3, 2020** using the email/mail instructions above. Completed forms may also be dropped off at the Walsh County Water Resource District office.

Thank You!!



Walsh County Water Resource District

Bylin Dam Rehabilitation Planning Effort



**Bylin Dam Direct
Drainage Area
Forest River Watershed**



County Boundary
Township Boundary
City Limits



Prepared By:



HOUSTON
ENGINEERING INC.

1401 21st Avenue North
Fargo, ND 58102
701.237.5065

COMMENT SHEET

North Branch Forest River Dam No. 1 (Bylin Dam)

Public Scoping Meeting – March 6, 2020

Please list any comments or concerns regarding this project: The dam should stay! I grew up living right by this dam - my house overlooked the dam. There are so many family memories with this dam - I had my wedding photos taken w/ the dam in the backdrop. The dam has history + is an iconic symbol to the families who live near it. When I return home to visit the family farm, my kids look forward to throwing rocks, climbing the shale, etc. They can't wait to play at the dam! Don't take away this signature space for the generation to come! Additionally, the road provides access to those that travel to + from everyday. It provides access! Do what you need to provide structural updates, if warranted, but don't REMOVE it!

(You may also indicate areas of concern via markup or comment on the map displayed on the reverse side of this sheet.)

May we follow up with you for more information?

☒ YES

☐ NO

Please provide your name, address, email address, and phone number:

Name: Katie (Bylin) Johnke + family (Scott, Levi, Gavin, Halle)

Address: 2035 Assumption DR Bismarck, ND 58501

Email: katiejohnke@gmail.com

Phone Number: 701-331-0424

Please drop this form off at the conclusion of the meeting, email, or mail back to:

EMAIL: North Branch Forest River Dam No. 1
bylin@houstoneng.com

MAIL: North Branch Forest River Dam No. 1
c/o Walsh County Water Resource District
600 Cooper Avenue
Grafton, ND 58237

Thank you for taking the time to complete this comment form. Please return any completed questionnaire to the Walsh County Water Resource District before leaving.

If you would like more time to complete, please return no later than FRIDAY, APRIL 3, 2020 using the email/mail instructions above. Completed forms may also be dropped off at the Walsh County Water Resource District office.

Thank You!!

From: Sveen, RitaHarmsen - NRCS, Park River, ND <rita.sveen@usda.gov>
Sent: Monday, March 16, 2020 7:48 AM
To: Mike Opat
Cc: Fisher, Christi - NRCS, Bismarck, ND; WCWRB (wcwrb@nd.gov)
Subject: FW: Comment Sheet North Branch Forest River Bylin Dam

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

[External Email]

Mike,

I'm not sure if Keith sent this to you as well? It was only addressed to me in this email. Very good historic perspective.

Rita H. Sveen
District Conservationist
417 Park St W Ste 1
Park River, ND 58270
Natural Resources Conservation Service
United States Department of Agriculture
<http://www.nd.nrcs.usda.gov>
Tel: 701-284-7466 ext3

-----Original Message-----

From: kjbylin@polarcomm.com <kjbylin@polarcomm.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 15, 2020 11:08 AM
To: Sveen, RitaHarmsen - NRCS, Park River, ND <rita.sveen@usda.gov>
Subject: Comment Sheet North Branch Forest River Bylin Dam

March 15, 2020

Hello Houston Engineering, NRCS, and Walsh Co. Water Resource District Office,

First off, I would like to introduce myself. I am Keith Bylin, life long resident and farmer & cow/calf operator of the land used to construct the Bylin Dam back in the early 60's. Born in mid 1955 I have many memories of family discussions on "the dam" and construction days with Clarmont Construction Co. from Bismarck. I have not seen the papers in years my father had. In his desk was engineering data in regards to that project (my brother may still have them) which made for interesting reading years later. Wanted you to know this, as this will be reflected in the following comments. I did not attend the March 6th Public Scoping Meeting in Minto but my sister was there taking notes and I have also viewed the Power Point slides listed on the Walsh County Web site. This is my response for that meeting. I will list my comments and concerns as Historical, Environmental/Recreational, Financial, and Community Relations. Then and as I understand this, NRCS is taking the lead role with other agencies a supporting role?

Historical

I was on the Walsh County Historical Preservation Commission for 24 years.

I am guessing since Federal monies are involved in this project, a historical review will need to be done and any work or changes made to an historical site, signed off by the Walsh County Historical Preservation Commission. The Bylin Dam might not be considered a "historical site" but Dougherty Dam to the west is a WPA Project from the 1930's and is in North Dakota's inventory of such projects completed by Steve Martens of NDSU's History Department.

Homestead era farmsteads downstream from the dams have value but as across the state, they are not seeing expensive preservation efforts, but most in this valley are still occupied and maintained. Some seasonal and others full time. There is one of the few remaining one room schools in the state downstream a mile or so from the dam. That is Hoff School which is on the National Registry of Historic Places. It was considered a "gem" to North Dakota's Historic Preservation Nomination Committee during the approval process. Across the road to the east from the Hoff School is the Hoff/Skorheim farmstead. It is a mix of old and modern working farm probably most a risk to changes at the dam, though there are others. There are photos of pre-dam flooding in this farmstead that I hope will be shared with you.

To my knowledge, no inventory has been done of the Native American burial sites in the North Branch of the Forest River, except at the crossing of the oil pipeline 2 miles or so down stream on the north branch. Though I know of several, along the wooded area near the river between the dam and Hwy 32. Probably small offshoots from the 2000+ year old Fordville Burial Mound Complex just east of the confluence of the Forest River's, north and middle branches.

Environmental/Recreational

I am not aware of any serious issues, either surface or ground water, caused by the construction of the Bylin Dam. I do remember my father telling me about the many ground water springs at the surface in the area, now flooded by the permanent pool of the dam. He said when he was a child, the springs fed an area large enough to provide grass for 30 cow calf pairs in the drought years of the 30's. Today only one exists. It is just west of my brothers house. It flows about 30 gpm even during the dry years of 1988 and 1989. Also there have been some algae blooms effecting livestock health and recreation but the last several years the water clarity of the dam as been amazing, compared to others along the escarpment. Two wells on my brothers farm have never been effected by the dam.

Waterfowl hunting has been popular too. It has actually increased the past decade. Hunting on the north shore of the dam is encouraged (three farmsteads on the south shore make it difficult to safely hunt) . Out of state hunters frequent the reservoir now each fall.

Fishing has been very spotty over the years. I do not fish myself but when cars are at the fishing pier or

on the ice I know that walleyes are biting. I can tell you that it can be a busy place at times but mostly there is not much fishing activity. The surface area is only large enough for one water skier at a time but on hot days and before algae starts to form near the boat dock, they seem to have lots of fun down there...

Financial

Walsh County Water Board (as other water boards in the state) has done a poor job of selling to the public, county drainage projects. One just needs to look at past issues of the Walsh County Record newspaper. I suspect funding of the options available to NRCS that will make this dam compliant to the new Federal standards will not all come from the Federal Government side! Be upfront with those of us with property in this drainage basin on what the costs will be and who will be expected to share in those costs. If not, it will be seen as nothing but wealth transfer to those with the great level soils of the Elk River Valley (Golden Valley to us) from those of us on the Pembina Escarpment.

The current cost benefit ratio on this project I am sure, will be a major deciding factor as to how you proceed. I am very interested in this process. More detail the better for me. Historically this has been the most subjective part of any dam project in this country.

Community Relations

I saved this for last as it brings back unpleasant memories of a young boy listening to his parents discuss "the dam". Maybe in the scheme of things it is not important but do you have any idea why the dam is named the "Bylin Dam"? Well it goes like this. The family (it was still in an estate that included at least 10 heirs) was horrified with the idea that the County Commission was going to name it after one of their own members.

Like what happened to the Hanson Hill Dam, which we now know as Matejcek Dam. So during condemnation proceedings they settled out of court for less money but with the stipulation that it be named after the family that homesteaded the land in 1881. I have some of the letters written in the day, to and from attorneys. Not pleasant reading.! When dams are built (or modified), there are winners and losers. Neighbor against neighbor. Just ask the Mandan or Hidatsa near Garrison Dam. But I/we use with little thought and regard, electricity from hydro power.

Recreation value of the permanent pool provides residents of the county is important. I have no survey to back this up of course but I believe much of the shore fishing is by lower income folks and retirees. If the dam is decommissioned or permanent pool lowered to provide more flood protection there would be an outcry. ND Game and Fish need to be a part of this process including their checkbook!

There was also discussion during construction days that no traffic was going to be allowed across the top of the dam when finished. That never happened of course but any changes to the current vehicle and

machinery traffic across the top and around the emergency spillway cannot be restricted (improved would be great). Across the dam is our only farm to market road to ND Hwy 17 especially those of us with grain storage on the south side of the river.

Summary:

Pasturing of the side slopes, vehicle traffic and a odd tree growing in the same are not good maintenance practices, I have never noticed any movement or leakage in the earthen fill of the dam. The road has risen a bit that crosses the emergency spillway because of shaping and adding gravel over they years. I have driven across it literally thousands of times. I half remember seeing an engineering report years ago, stating that in the day they did not have the correct type of clay needed for earthen part of the dam. If I remember right it was possible to "float the structure out of the channel" even when packed to 110% of normal. Don't know about that, but if you folks think it is time to address its safety I believe you. I know you have the ability to communicate with the community (maybe teach the Water Board a thing or two in the process) . NRCS that I have worked with in the past has been understanding and responsive. I also know that the "good of the many, outweigh the good of the few". Please communicate with ALL us! E-mail is cheap and fast! The meeting in Minto was a great start! Call or stop out to visit if I can be of any help. My door and phone line is always open.

Keith Bylin
12141 66th St. NE
Adams, ND 58210

701-331-0167
701-944-0223

kjbylin@polarcomm.com

This electronic message contains information generated by the USDA solely for the intended recipients. Any unauthorized interception of this message or the use or disclosure of the information it contains may violate the law and subject the violator to civil or criminal penalties. If you believe you have received this message in error, please notify the sender and delete the email immediately.

COMMENT SHEET

North Branch Forest River Dam No. 1 (Bylin Dam)

Public Scoping Meeting – March 6, 2020

Please list any comments or concerns regarding this project: I am requesting all cultural resource surveys conducted in the project APE. Including maps, shapefiles, site inventories/maps within 1 mile of project APE to help make determination on this proposed project. If there any planned cultural surveys for this project, the Northern Arapaho tribe would like to participate in the survey.

(You may also indicate areas of concern via markup or comment on the map displayed on the reverse side of this sheet.)

May we follow up with you for more information?

☒ YES

☐ NO

Please provide your name, address, email address, and phone number:

Name: Crystal C'Beating - Northern Arapaho THPO

Address: PO Box 167 St. Stephens, WY 82524

Email: cbeating.nathpo@gmail.com

Phone Number: 307.856.1628

Please drop this form off at the conclusion of the meeting, email, or mail back to:

EMAIL: North Branch Forest River Dam No. 1
bylin@houstoneng.com

MAIL: North Branch Forest River Dam No. 1
c/o Walsh County Water Resource District
600 Cooper Avenue
Grafton, ND 58237

Thank you for taking the time to complete this comment form. Please return any completed questionnaire to the Walsh County Water Resource District before leaving.

If you would like more time to complete, please return no later than **FRIDAY, APRIL 3, 2020** using the email/mail instructions above. Completed forms may also be dropped off at the Walsh County Water Resource District office.

Thank You!!



2022-02-08 MEETING

Notice of Public Meeting
Tuesday, February 8, 2022 at 1:30pm
Meeting to be Held Virtually Through Microsoft Teams
Bylin Dam Rehabilitation
Public Meeting to Discuss Alternative Development
Walsh County Water Resource District (WCWRD)

The WCWRD will host a public meeting on Tuesday, February 8, 2022 at 1:30pm to be held virtually through a Microsoft Teams meeting. Access to the meeting will be available by entering the following URL into a web browser: <https://bit.ly/BylinDamRehab>. Members of the public may also participate by attending the meeting in person at the Walsh County Water Resource District's office (600 Cooper Avenue, Grafton, ND 58237).

The WCWRD is proceeding as the Local Sponsoring Organization for the rehabilitation of North Branch Forest River Dam No. 1 (Bylin Dam). The initial phase of this effort is to complete a Supplemental Watershed Plan that includes review of the existing structure, watershed/resource concerns, development of alternatives, and selection of a preferred alternative. The purpose of the meeting is to provide an update on alternatives developed for Bylin Dam, provide information on the preferred alternative for rehabilitation, describe the impacts of the preferred alternative, and to solicit feedback on the proposed rehabilitation effort. Input may be provided through oral comments at the meeting as well as through completion of a questionnaire to be provided on the WCWRD web page following the public meeting. The presentation material used during the public meeting will also be made available on the WCWRD web page.

Comment forms will be available at the WCWRD office which is located at the address listed below. Comment forms will be accepted for all forms postmarked on or before March 1, 2022. Completed comment forms can be mailed to the WCWRD office at:

Walsh County Water Resource District
600 Cooper Avenue
Grafton, ND 58237

Agenda

- Review of History of Bylin Dam
- Existing Condition at Bylin Dam
- Purpose and Need of the Project
- Alternatives Evaluation Process
- Recommended Alternative to be Reviewed in More Detail
- Environmental Consequences
- Discussion on Proposed Works of Improvement at the Dam

STOP FOR
QUESTIONS



Meeting Goal:

- **Present work completed through the rehabilitation effort up to this point.**
- **Solicit input on alternatives to rehabilitate Bylin Dam**

Paul LeClaire

From: kjbylin@polarcomm.com
Sent: Tuesday, February 8, 2022 4:41 PM
To: Bylin
Subject: comments/questions from Feb 8, 2022 meeting on Bylin Dam

[External Email]

Hello Paul and Houston Engineering,

First off thanks for the easy to understand online meeting today. Paul you do a great job and have a demeanor that has an element of trust to it. Least that is my opinion. (-:

Thanks for making the design changes to the road atop the dam. So important to so many of us on the "south side" of the Forest River north branch!!!

Three comments or questions I felt were not worth an heated discussion or worth dragging the meeting out for today.

1: The high voltage power line across the reservoir should/has to be moved. Early discussions with Nodak Electric Coop in Grand Forks should be undertaken so some type of burial of the line would be part of the design. Guessing they would like it in the same area of the emergency spillway.

2: We pasture down to the water level with cattle. Will the mud/silt be a hazard to cattle herd when reservoir is pumped down? How sticky will this soil be? Maybe you know of a situation that this has come up before?? What should I expect?

3: Why no discussion of a dry dam? Some are in use just north of us in the Park River Watershed. Would that lower construction costs and still provide for the 22" rain event? This question I did not want to ask in public because disrupting people's recreation can stir lots of emotions.

Thank much for your email notifications and if I can be of any assistance to you or this project please ask. Curiously I do not hear from the Walsh Water Board on this subject.

Keith Bylin
Adams, ND

cell 701-331-0167