

Barnes County Water Resource District
PO Box 306
Valley City ND 58072
701-845-8508

March 14, 2023

Nathan Jones
Acting State Conservationist
Natural Resources Conservation Service
220 E. Rosser Ave, PO Box 1458
Bismarck, ND 58502-1458

Board Members

Chairman
Jerry Hieb
4041 117th Ave SE
Valley City, ND
58072
701-845-0683

Vice Chairman
Bruce Anderson
11232 35th St. SE
Valley City, ND
58072
701-840-1450

Manager
Daniel Buttke
12023 46th St. SE
Fingal, ND
58031
701-640-0624

Manager
Bret Fehr
1215 97th Ave SE
Wimbledon, ND
58492
701-435-2816

Manager
Scott Legge
10083 27th St. SE
Sanborn, ND
58480
701-646-6681

Dear Mr. Jones:

We request NRCS Watershed Program planning assistance for a potential Public Law (PL) 566 project with the Barnes County Water Resource District for a project involving 10 Mile Lake in the Sheyenne River watershed [HUC 10 #0902020401 City of Valley City-Sheyenne River]. The project would address agricultural water management on cropland as well as providing benefit to homes, public roads, structures, and septic systems. The project would entail construction of a control structure and drainage features to lower the elevation of 10 Mile Lake by 4 feet.

We are a political subdivision of a State with a legal interest in or responsibility for the watershed project proposed. We understand, as sponsors of a PL-566 planning effort, that our responsibilities will include:

- Assisting in the locally led planning effort, and making timely decisions to guide the work of NRCS technical staff as planning proceeds,
- Contributing a share of the project costs, as determined by NRCS, by providing funds or eligible services necessary to undertake the activity,
- Before being credited with the value of any in-kind contributions for in-kind services and/or acquisition of land rights, Sponsor will sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with NRCS,
- Obtaining any necessary real property rights, by eminent domain, if necessary,
- Obtaining any needed water rights, and regulatory permits at the Sponsor's cost,
- Agreeing to provide for any required operation and maintenance of the completed measures.

We look forward to working with NRCS staff to complete a Preliminary Investigation Feasibility Report (PIFR) to provide reasonable assurance that a potential watershed project can be developed that addresses a PL-566 purpose and that there are no apparent insurmountable obstacles to the completion of that project. Economic feasibility, wetland impacts, and availability of suitable wetland mitigation sites are the concerns identified as needing special attention during development of the PIFR. NRCS and our engineering consultant have worked together to develop a plan to conduct feasibility level preliminary economics and evaluation of wetland impacts/potential mitigation sites. Due to the cost of even doing this very preliminary level work, Barnes WRD will fund approximately \$40,000 of work by our consultant to partner with NRCS staff in completing remote sensing based wetland delineations, random field sampling, and mitigation site feasibility reviews during the summer/fall of 2023.

Barnes County Water Resource District
PO Box 306
Valley City ND 58072
701-845-8508

It is our understanding that ND NRCS staff will complete the remainder of the analysis work and complete development of the PIFR by the end of December of 2023. At that point, if the PIFR indicates the pursuing a full watershed plan is feasible, we will work with NRCS to develop a Plan of Work for an in-depth planning effort.

Board Members

Chairman

Jerry Hieb
4041 117th Ave SE
Valley City, ND
58072
701-845-0683

Vice Chairman

Bruce Anderson
11232 35th St. SE
Valley City, ND
58072
701-840-1450

Manager

Daniel Buttke
12023 46th St. SE
Fingal, ND
58031
701-640-0624

Manager

Bret Fehr
1215 97th Ave SE
Wimbledon, ND
58492
701-435-2816

Manager

Scott Legge
10083 27th St. SE
Sanborn, ND
58480
701-646-6681

The names, addresses, and telephone numbers of the administrative and technical contact persons in our organization are as follows:

Heather Manson
Secretary-Treasurer
Barnes County Water Resource District
PO Box 306
Valley City, ND 58072
(701) 845-8508
hmanson@barnescounty.us

Mike Opat, PE
Barnes County Water Resource District Engineer
Houston Engineering
1401 21st Avenue North
Fargo, ND 58102
(701) 499-9473
mopat@houstoneng.com

Please contact them for any additional information that you might need in assessing our request.

Sincerely,
BARNES COUNTY WATER RESOURCE DISTRICT



Heather Manson
Secretary-Treasurer

Cc: Christi Fisher, ND State Conservation Engineer

Preliminary Investigation – Feasibility Report
Sponsor Authority and Role Declaration Checklist

Version 2021.0716

State: ND County: Barnes Watershed: Sheyenne River

Project Name: 10 Mile Lake Agricultural Water Management Project

Sponsor's Name:	Barnes County Water Resource District		
Sponsor's Mailing Address:	PO Box 306, Valley City, ND 58072		
Contact Name:	Heather Manson	Phone:	701-845-8508
Title:	Secretary-Treasurer	Email:	hmanson@barnescounty.us
Sponsor Website:			

Description of the existing condition in the watershed that would be addressed through a Watershed Flood Prevention Operations program project.

10 Mile Lake, located in the Sheyenne River watershed in northern Barnes County, North Dakota, is a closed-basin that has caused significant flooding issues related to excess water in the lake. High water levels in the lake have caused adverse impacts to thousands of acres of cropland, with hundreds of acres often underwater for extended periods of time and hundreds of acres too saturated to seed in the spring or harvest in the fall. High water levels also cause significant impacts to public roadways, and many private homes, out buildings and sewage treatment systems are also negatively impacted.

Potential benefits of a Watershed Flood Prevention Operations program project.

Constructing an outlet to allow for water levels in 10 Mile Lake to be lowered approximately four feet and managed at that level will the District and local stakeholders to mitigate the effects of the recurring high water conditions. The project will also provide opportunities for improved agricultural drainage, particularly improved subsurface drainage opportunities for gravity outlet systems that will be possible with lower water levels in the lake. While lower water levels in the lake will return many regularly inundated acres back to agriculture production, the project will provide significant benefits to agricultural acres that regularly seasonally saturated to the point that they cannot be seeded in the spring or harvested in the fall. The project will also provide much needed relief to local road authorities that have been dealing with expensive impacts to their roadways, as well as to local landowners that have been dealing with flooding around their homes, outbuildings, and sewage treatment systems. Additionally, there may be benefits to existing wildlife management areas in the area that have seen degraded habitat conditions due to the high water levels.

State: ND County: Barnes Watershed: Sheyenne River

Project Name: 10 Mile Lake Agricultural Water Management Project

SPONSOR WILL:

- Assist in the locally led planning effort: YES X NO
- Obtain needed land rights including the use of power of eminent domain, if necessary: YES X NO
- Provide local cost-share funds and/or in-kind services to provide the required portion of total project costs: YES X NO
- Provide Funds for continuing Operation and Maintenance actions: YES X NO
- Obtain required permits and approvals at Sponsor cost: YES X NO
- Provide leadership to help ensure adequate conservation land treatment measures are maintained on at least 50% of the watershed area above retention reservoirs: N/A YES X NO
- Before being credited with the value of any in-kind contribution for any in-kind services and/or acquisition of land rights, Sponsor will sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with NRCS: YES X NO

**Preliminary Investigation – Feasibility Report
Sponsor Authority and Role Declaration Checklist**

Version 2021.0716

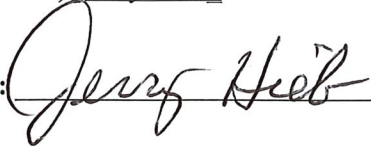
State: ND County: Barnes Watershed: Sheyenne River

Project Name: 10 Mile Lake Agricultural Water Management Project

Authorized Representative of Sponsor

Name (printed): Jerry Hieb

Title: Chairman

Signature:  **Date:** 3/13/23