

**Why You Should Read This:** The document below reviews the environmental impact likely from a project. This project is planned to be federally funded through your tax dollars; therefore, you are entitled to take part in its review. If you have concerns about the environmental impact of this project, raise them now. We encourage public input in this decision making process.



**IOWA STATE REVOLVING FUND**  
**FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT**

August 27, 2020

**To: All Interested Citizens, Government Agencies, and Public Groups**

An environmental review has been performed based on the procedures for implementing the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), for the proposed agency action below:

**Applicant:** City of Farmersburg  
**County:** Clayton  
**State:** Iowa

**SRF Number:** CS1920949 01  
**Iowa DNR Project Number:** S2015-0188A

Other Federal Funding: CDBG (\$300,000 Requested)

The City of Farmersburg, Iowa is planning an upgrade to their wastewater infrastructure. The city has applied for financial assistance through the State Revolving Fund (SRF) loan program to build the project. The State Revolving Loan Program is a program authorized by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and administered by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) in partnership with the Iowa Finance Authority.

The City of Farmersburg is located in Clayton County, Iowa approximately 110 miles east of Mason City, Iowa and 60 miles northwest of Dubuque, Iowa. The population of Farmersburg according to the 2010 US Census was 302. The population is expected to remain steady during the 20 year design period.

The existing collection system consists of 8-inch vitrified clay pipe with synthetic rubber joints and precast concrete manholes. The system was installed in 1971. There are 35 manholes and approximated 7,500 feet of pipe within the system. The system is gravity flow to the lift station which delivers wastewater to the treatment facility. During wet weather events, a bypass pump

is operated at the lift station to prevent overflows within the building. Bypass flows are directed to Outfall 002 at Howard Creek near the pump station. The new NPDES permit no longer allows this. Additionally, the lift station is undersized to handle flows during wet weather events.

The purpose of this project is to make improvements to the lift station and force main to mitigate or eliminate bypass events and to safely and reliably operate the City of Farmersburg's wastewater collection system for the next 20 years.

The proposed project includes construction of a new lift station adjacent to the existing lift station. The existing lift station and structure (built in 1971) will be demolished. This project will include construction of a new wet well, valve vault, larger pumps, and upgraded discharge piping. The existing 4-inch cast iron force main that runs from the lift station to West Park Drive and east along the length of Bulbark Street and through the farm field to the existing lagoons will be replaced with a 6-inch PVC force main along the same route. The approximately 3,250 feet of new main will run adjacent to the existing main in City right-of-way and existing easement through the farm field. An emergency generator will be installed adjacent to the lift station.

The treated wastewater from the existing treatment plant discharges to Howard Creek. It has a use stream designation of A-2 and B(WW2). Class A2 waters are secondary contact recreational use waters in which recreational or other uses may result in contact with the water that is either incidental or accidental. During the recreational use, the probability of ingesting appreciable quantities of water is minimal. Waters designated Class B(WW2) are those in which flow or other physical characteristics are capable of supporting a resident aquatic community that includes a variety of native nongame fish and invertebrate species.

The project will not significantly affect the pattern and type of land use (industrial, commercial, agricultural, recreational, residential) or growth and distribution of population. The project will not conflict with local, regional or State land use plans or policies. The project will not impact wetlands. The project will not affect threatened and endangered species or their habitats. If any State- or Federally-listed threatened or endangered species or communities are found during the planning or construction phases, additional studies and/or mitigation may be required. The project will not displace population, alter the character of existing residential areas, or convert significant farmlands to non-agricultural purposes. Provided the terms of the flood plain permits are abided by, the project will not affect the 100-year flood plain. The project will not have effect on parklands, preserves, other public lands, or areas of recognized scenic or recreational value.

No Historic Properties will be adversely affected by the proposed project. However, if project activities uncover any item(s) that might be of archaeological, historical, or architectural interest, or if important new archaeological, historical, or architectural data should be encountered in the project APE, the applicant should make reasonable efforts to avoid further impacts to the property until an assessment can be made by an individual meeting the Secretary of the Interior's professional qualifications standards (36 CFR Part 61).

The project will not have a significant adverse effect upon local ambient air quality provided the applicant takes reasonable precautions to prevent the discharge of visible emissions of fugitive dusts beyond the lot line of the property during the proposed project (567 IAC 23.3(2)“c”). The project will not have a significant adverse effect upon local ambient noise levels, surface water quantity, groundwater quality or quantity, or water supply. No significant impact to surface water quality, fish, shellfish, wildlife, or their natural habitats is expected provided that an NPDES General Permit Number 2 (for storm water discharge associated with construction activities) is obtained and the terms of which are abided by. The project will not have a significant adverse effect upon local ambient noise levels.

Minimum separation distances will be maintained. Noise during construction will be maintained at tolerable levels through controls on construction activities. Any construction debris will be removed from the site for proper disposal. Adverse environmental effects from construction activities will be minimized with proper construction practices, inspection, prompt clean up and other appropriate measures. Areas temporarily disturbed by the construction will be restored.

It has been determined that the proposed action will result in no significant impacts to the surrounding environment. This determination is based on a careful review of the engineering report, the environmental assessment and other supporting data which are on file at the Department of Natural Resources' office in Des Moines, Iowa. These are available for public review upon request. A copy of the environmental assessment is attached. This Department will not take any administrative action on the project for at least thirty (30) calendar days from the above date. Persons disagreeing with the above environmental decision may submit comments to the department during this period. Please direct your comments to me at [karrie.darnell@dnr.iowa.gov](mailto:karrie.darnell@dnr.iowa.gov) or 515-725-8340.

Sincerely,



Karrie Darnell  
Environmental Specialist  
502 E. 9<sup>th</sup> Street  
Des Moines, IA 50319-0034

Enclosures: Environmental Assessment  
Project Map

Distribution

List (email): Lucas Elsbernd, Fehr-Graham  
Melanie Mitchell, Simmering-Cory  
Edward Boling, Council on Environmental Quality  
Jake Hansen, Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship  
Ken Sharp, Iowa Department of Public Health

Stephanie Chickering, Iowa Department of Public Health  
Leslie Leager, Iowa Economic Development Authority  
Ingrid Gronstal, Iowa Environmental Council  
Tracy Scebold, Iowa Finance Authority  
Tony Toigo, Iowa Finance Authority  
Mickey Shields, Iowa League of Cities  
Jane Clark, Sierra Club  
Josh Mandelbaum, Environmental Law and Policy Center  
Kate Sand, USDA Rural Development  
Tokey Boswell, USDO, National Park Service, Midwest Region  
Kraig McPeck, Fish and Wildlife Service, Rock Island Field Office  
Christopher Simmons, USEPA Region VII  
Kelly Beard-Tittone, USEPA Region VII  
The Outlook

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**IOWA STATE REVOLVING FUND**  
**ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT DOCUMENT**

***PROJECT IDENTIFICATION***

**Applicant:** City of Farmersburg  
**County:** Clayton  
**State:** Iowa

**SRF Number:** CS1920949 01  
**Iowa DNR Project Number:** S2015-0188A

***COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION***

**Location:** The City of Farmersburg is located in Clayton County, Iowa approximately 110 miles east of Mason City, Iowa and 60 miles northwest of Dubuque, Iowa.

**Population:** The population of Farmersburg according to the 2010 US Census was 302. The population is expected to remain steady during the 20 year design period.

**Current Waste Collection System:** The existing collection system consists of 8-inch vitrified clay pipe with synthetic rubber joints and precast concrete manholes. The system was installed in 1971. There are 35 manholes and approximated 7,500 feet of pipe within the system. The system is gravity flow to the lift station which delivers wastewater to the treatment facility. During wet weather events, a bypass pump is operated at the lift station to prevent overflows within the building. Bypass flows are directed to Outfall 002 at Howard Creek near the pump station. The new NPDES permit no longer allows this. Additionally, the lift station is undersized to handle flows during wet weather events.

***PROJECT DESCRIPTION***

**Purpose:** The purpose of this project is to make improvements to the lift station and force main to mitigate or eliminate bypass events and to safely and reliably operate the City of Farmersburg's wastewater collection system for the next 20 years.

**Proposed Improvements:** The proposed project includes construction of a new lift station adjacent to the existing lift station. The existing lift station and structure (built in 1971) will be demolished. This project will include construction of a new wet well, valve vault, larger pumps, and upgraded discharge piping. The existing 4-inch cast iron force main that runs from the lift station to West Park Drive and east along the length of Bulbark Street and through the farm field to the existing lagoons will be replaced with a 6-inch PVC force main along the same route. The approximately 3,250 feet of new main will run adjacent to the existing main in City right-of-way and existing easement through the farm field. An emergency generator will be installed adjacent to the lift station.

**Receiving Stream:** The treated wastewater from the existing treatment plant discharges to Howard Creek. It has a use stream designation of A-2 and B(WW2).

Class A2 waters are secondary contact recreational use waters in which recreational or other uses may result in contact with the water that is either incidental or accidental. During the recreational use, the probability of ingesting appreciable quantities of water is minimal. Waters designated Class B(WW2) are those in which flow or other physical characteristics are capable of supporting a resident aquatic community that includes a variety of native nongame fish and invertebrate species.

### ***ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED***

**Alternatives Considered:** The City considered the following alternatives at the lift station: modifying existing lift station, new lift station with duplex pumps, new lift station with triplex pumps. The City considered the following alternatives for the force main replacement: PVC piping and D1 piping.

**Reasons for Selection of Proposed Alternative:** The selected alternative is installing a new lift station with duplex pumps and replacing the force main with PVC. The No-Action alternative is not viable due to the aging infrastructure and permit prohibiting bypasses from the lift station. The project site was selected for the availability of land (it is already City-owned) as well as minimization of the impacts to the environment.

### ***MEASURES TAKEN TO ASSESS IMPACT***

**Public Involvement:** A public hearing was held on August 24, 2020 at 7:00PM at the City's regular council meeting. The public notice of this hearing was published in The Outlook on July 22, 2020. The purpose of this hearing was to present the environmental and financial impacts of the proposed improvement project. No written or oral comments were received.

**Coordination and Documentation with Other Agencies and Special Interest Groups:**

The following Federal, state and local agencies were asked to comment on the proposed project to better assess the potential impact to the environment:

- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- Natural Resources Conservation Service
- State Historical Society of Iowa (State Historical Preservation Office)
- Iowa DNR Conservation and Recreation Division
- Iowa DNR Water Resources Section
- Citizen Band Potawatomi Indian Tribe
- Flandreau Santee Sioux
- Ho-Chunk Nation
- Iowa Tribe of Kansas and Nebraska
- Iowa Tribe of Oklahoma
- Kickapoo Tribe in Kansas
- Kickapoo Tribe of Oklahoma
- Lower Sioux Indian Community Council
- Miami Tribe of Oklahoma
- Omaha Tribal Council
- Osage Tribal Council
- Otoe-Missouria Tribe
- Pawnee Nation of Oklahoma
- Peoria Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma
- Ponca Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma
- Ponca Tribe of Nebraska
- Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation
- Prairie Island Indian Community
- Sac & Fox Nation of Mississippi in Iowa
- Sac & Fox Nation of Missouri
- Sac & Fox Nation of Oklahoma
- Santee Sioux Nation
- Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community
- Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate
- Spirit Lake Tribal Council
- Three Affiliated Tribes Mandan, Hidatsa & Arikara Nations
- Upper Sioux Tribe
- Winnebago Tribal Council
- Yankton Sioux Tribal Business and Claims Committee
- Clayton County Historic Commission

No adverse comments were received from any agencies or general public. Conditions placed on the applicant by the above agencies in order to assure no significant impact are included in the Summary of Reasons for Concluding No Significant Impact section.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT SUMMARY**

**Construction:** Traffic patterns within the community may be disrupted and above normal noise levels in the vicinity of the construction equipment can be anticipated during construction and should be a temporary problem. Adverse environmental impacts on noise quality will be handled by limited hours of contractor work time during the day. Other adverse environmental effects from construction activities will be minimized by proper construction practices, inspection, prompt cleanup, and other appropriate measures. Areas temporarily disturbed by the construction will be restored. Solid wastes resulting from the construction project will be regularly cleared away with substantial efforts made to minimize inconvenience to area residents.

Care will be taken to maintain dirt to avoid erosion and runoff. The proposed project will disturb soils over an area greater than one acre; therefore, the applicant is required to obtain an NPDES General Permit Number 2 (for storm water discharge associated with construction activities) and abide by its terms. No significant impact to surface water quality, fish, shellfish, wildlife, or their natural habitats is expected.

Temporary air quality degradation may occur due to dust and fumes from construction equipment. The applicant shall take reasonable precautions to prevent the discharge of visible emissions of fugitive dusts beyond the lot line of the property during the proposed project (567 Iowa Administrative Code IAC 23.3(2)“c”).

**Historical/Archaeological:** The State Historical Preservation Office (SHPO), the Certified Local Government, and various Native American tribes with an interest in the area were provided information regarding the project. The DNR has determined, and the SHPO has concurred (R&C# 200522007), that this undertaking will result in “no historic properties affected” based on the scope of the project and the prior use of the project area. However, if project activities uncover any item(s) that might be of archaeological, historical, or architectural interest, or if important new archaeological, historical, or architectural data should be encountered in the project APE, the applicant should make reasonable efforts to avoid further impacts to the property until an assessment can be made by an individual meeting the Secretary of the Interior’s professional qualifications standards (36 CFR Part 61).

**Environmental:** A Joint Application was submitted by the City’s consultant to the Iowa DNR Conservation and Recreation Division and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The DNR Flood Plain Management Section and the City of Farmersburg issued flood plain permits for the proposed project. Provided the terms of the flood plain permits are abided by, the project will not affect the 100-year flood plain. According to the Iowa DNR Conservation and Recreation Division, the proposed project will not interfere with any State-owned parks, recreational areas or open spaces. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers concurs that the project will not impact wetlands. The project will not impact any wild and scenic rivers as none exist within the State of Iowa. The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Section 7 Technical Assistance website consultation determined, and Iowa DNR Conservation and Recreation Division agree, that the project will not impact threatened or endangered species or their habitats. However, if any State- or Federally-listed threatened or endangered species or communities are found during the planning or construction phases, additional studies and/or mitigation may be required. Provided the terms of the flood plain permits are abided by, no adverse impacts are expected to result from this project, such as those to surface water quantity, or groundwater quality or quantity. According to the Iowa DNR Water Resources Section, this project will not impact the 100-year floodplain. No adverse impacts are expected to result from this project, such as those to surface water quantity, or groundwater quality or quantity. No significant impact to surface water quality, fish, shellfish, wildlife, or their natural habitats is expected.

**Land Use and Trends:** The project will not displace population nor will it alter the character of existing residential areas. No significant farmlands will be impacted. This project should not impact population trends as the presence or absence of existing water/sewer infrastructure is unlikely to induce significant alterations in the population growth or distribution given the myriad of factors that influence development in this region. Similarly, this project is unlikely to induce significant alterations in the pattern and type of land use.

**Irreversible and Irretrievable Commitment of Resources:** Fuels, materials, and various forms of energy will be utilized during construction.

#### ***POSITIVE ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS TO BE REALIZED FROM THE PROPOSED PROJECT***

Positive environmental effects will be reduced wastewater bypass events, compliance with the discharge permit limits, and improved water quality in the receiving stream.

#### ***SUMMARY OF REASONS FOR CONCLUDING NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT***

- The project will not significantly affect the pattern and type of land use (industrial, commercial, agricultural, recreational, residential) or growth and distribution of population.
- The project will not conflict with local, regional or State land use plans or policies.
- The project will not impact wetlands.
- The project will not affect threatened and endangered species or their habitats. If any State- or Federally-listed threatened or endangered species or communities are found during the planning or construction phases, additional studies and/or mitigation may be required.
- The project will not displace population, alter the character of existing residential areas, or convert significant farmlands to non-agricultural purposes.

- Provided the terms of the flood plain permits are abided by, the project will not affect the 100-year flood plain.
- The project will not have effect on parklands, preserves, other public lands, or areas of recognized scenic or recreational value.
- No Historic Properties will be adversely affected by the proposed project. However, if project activities uncover any item(s) that might be of archaeological, historical, or architectural interest, or if important new archaeological, historical, or architectural data should be encountered in the project APE, the applicant should make reasonable efforts to avoid further impacts to the property until an assessment can be made by an individual meeting the Secretary of the Interior's professional qualifications standards (36 CFR Part 61).
- The project will not have a significant adverse effect upon local ambient air quality provided the applicant takes reasonable precautions to prevent the discharge of visible emissions of fugitive dusts beyond the lot line of the property during the proposed project (567 IAC 23.3(2)"c").
- The project will not have a significant adverse effect upon local ambient noise levels, surface water quantity, groundwater quality or quantity, or water supply.
- No significant impact to surface water quality, fish, shellfish, wildlife, or their natural habitats is expected provided that an NPDES General Permit Number 2 (for storm water discharge associated with construction activities) is obtained and the terms of which are abided by.
- The project will not have a significant adverse effect upon local ambient noise levels.

THEREFORE:

The above project conforms to the criteria in 567 Iowa Administrative Code 92.8(1)"b" for wastewater relating to compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969. No adverse effect or significant environmental impact is foreseen at this time.



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**KARRIE DARNELL**

Environmental Review Specialist

State Revolving Fund

Iowa Department of Natural Resources

**USGS 7.5 Minute Quadrangle: Farmersburg**  
**Section: 18, Township: 94 N, Range: 04 W**  
**Date: 1965**  
**Scale: 1 Inch = 2,000 Feet**



**North**

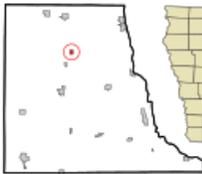
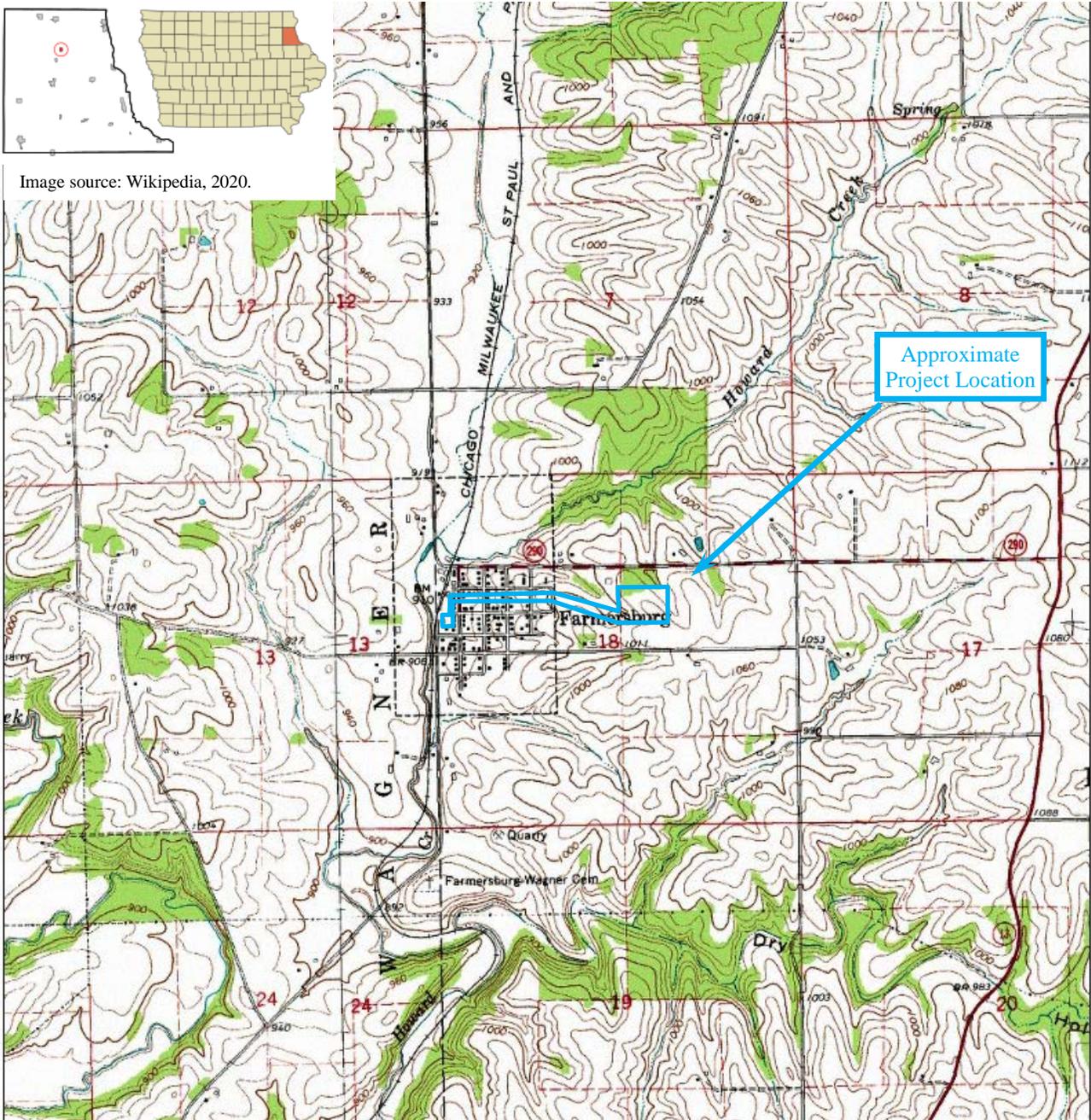


Image source: Wikipedia, 2020.



## USGS Topographic Map

Farmersburg Lift Station and Force Main Improvements  
Farmersburg, IA



State Revolving Fund  
502 East 9<sup>th</sup> Street  
Des Moines, IA 50319-0034

Location information provided by Fehr Graham



North



### Aerial Photograph

Farmersburg Lift Station and Force Main Improvements  
Farmersburg, IA



State Revolving Fund  
502 East 9<sup>th</sup> Street  
Des Moines, IA 50319-0034