

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

February 7, 2012

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 Liscomb

SRF No.: CS 192061101

Project No.: S2011-0014

County: Marshall

State: Iowa

The City of Liscomb, Iowa is planning an upgrade to their wastewater treatment system. 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 Liscomb, Iowa is located in Marshall County approximately 60 miles northeast of Des Moines, Iowa and 90 miles west of Cedar Rapids, Iowa. The population of Liscomb according to the 2000 US Census was 272. Projected design population is for the year 2031, or 350.

The City's wastewater is collected and transported by an existing gravity sewer system, constructed in 1971. It consists of PVC pipe and concrete manholes. The current wastewater treatment facility consists of a two (2) cell waste stabilization lagoon system, also constructed in 1971.

The purpose of this project is to make improvements to the wastewater treatment system to enhance their reliability and increase capacity to safely and reliably operate the City of Liscomb's wastewater system for the next 20 years.

The City proposes to clean and reuse existing lagoon cells, construct new inlet structure and inter-cell structure and associated piping and control valves for the existing cells. Two new secondary lagoon cells and associated piping and outlet structures will be constructed west of the existing cells. Perimeter drain tile will be installed at the lagoon site. The existing drainage swale around the existing lagoons will be cleaned. Approximately 3,000 feet of tile pipe will be installed to the west along a drainage way to a headwall east of Knapp Ave. The project area is currently the existing treatment facility and agricultural land. The treated wastewater from the proposed facility will discharge to a Marshall County drainage ditch that is a tributary to the Iowa River.

Several alternatives were considered. The No-Action alternative is not viable as ground and surface water would not be protected as required. The construction of a three cell system was rejected due to projected additional costs and construction challenges associated with the major modifications of the existing cells, including the necessary replacement of existing lagoon cell liners. The conversion to an aerated lagoon system was eliminated due to high construction, operating, and maintenance costs.

The proposed project was selected as it would accommodate construction staging, would not compromise the existing lagoon cell liners, and would provide the city with increased capacity.

Positive environmental effects will be improved safety and reliability in the wastewater treatment system for the City of Liscomb. Greater treatment capacity will reduce chances of wastewater bypasses, therefore decreasing the chances for contamination via untreated wastewater.

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 displace population, alter the character of existing residential areas, or convert significant farmlands to non agricultural purposes. The project will not conflict with local, regional or State land use plans or policies. The project will not have effect on parklands, preserves, other public lands, or areas of recognized scenic or recreational value. The project will not impact wetlands provided that the terms and conditions of US Army Corps of Engineers Nationwide Permit 12 are abided by. The project will not affect the 100 year flood plain. No Historic Properties will be adversely affected by the proposed project provided that the terms and conditions outlined in the Letter of Agreement signed by IDNR, SHPO, Office of the State Archaeologist, and the City of Liscomb. The project will not have a significant adverse effect upon local ambient noise levels, surface water quantity, groundwater quality or quantity, or water supply.

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.

The attached review does not indicate that a significant environmental impact will result from the proposed action. This action is taken on the basis of 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 kate.bussanmas@dnr.iowa.gov or 515-725-0992.

Sincerely,



Kate Bussanmas
Environmental Specialist
401 SW 7th, Suite M
Des Moines, IA 50309

Enclosures: Environmental Assessment
Project Map

Distribution List (email): Matt Walker, Garden & Associates
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Horst Greczmiel, Council on Environmental Quality
Dean Lemke, Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship
Ken Sharp, Iowa Department of Public Health
Benton Quade, Iowa Economic Development Authority
Annie Beaman, Iowa Environmental Council
Susan Heathcote, Iowa Environmental Council
Tracy Scebold, Iowa Finance Authority
Mickey Shields, Iowa League of Cities
Jane Clark, Sierra Club
Donna Jones, USACE Rock Island District
Jim Carroll, USDA Rural Development
Nick Chevance, USDO, National Park Service, Midwest Region
USDO, Fish and Wildlife Service, Rock Island Field Office
Christopher Simmons, USEPA Region VII
Joe Cothorn, USEPA Region VII

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IOWA STATE REVOLVING FUND

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT DOCUMENT

PROJECT IDENTIFICATION

Applicant: City of Liscomb

SRF No.: CS 192061101

Project No.: S2011-0014

County: Marshall

State: Iowa

COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION

Location: The City of Liscomb, Iowa is located in Marshall County approximately 60 miles northeast of Des Moines, Iowa and 90 miles west of Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

Population: The population of Liscomb according to the 2000 US Census was 272. Projected design population is for the year 2031, or 350.

Current Waste Collection and Treatment: The City's wastewater is collected and transported by an existing gravity sewer system, constructed in 1971. It consists of PVC pipe and concrete manholes. The current wastewater treatment facility consists of a two (2) cell waste stabilization lagoon system, also constructed in 1971.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Purpose: The purpose of this project is to make improvements to the wastewater treatment system to enhance their reliability and increase capacity to safely and reliably operate the City of Liscomb's wastewater system for the next 20 years.

Proposed Improvements: The City proposes to clean and reuse existing lagoon cells, construct new inlet structure and inter-cell structure and associated piping and control valves for the existing cells. Two new secondary lagoon cells and associated piping and

outlet structures will be constructed west of the existing cells. Perimeter drain tile will be installed at the lagoon site. The existing drainage swale around the existing lagoons will be cleaned. Approximately 3,000 feet of tile pipe will be installed to the west along a drainage way to a headwall east of Knapp Ave. The project area is currently the existing treatment facility and agricultural land.

Receiving Stream: The treated wastewater from the proposed facility will discharge to a Marshall County drainage ditch that is a tributary to the Iowa River.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

Alternatives Considered: Modifying the existing lagoons to become aerated lagoons with post secondary treatment was considered. Expanding and upgrading the existing lagoons to a three cell system was considered. This alternative would result in construction of a new cell and major modification of the existing cells. Expanding and upgrading the existing treatment facilities to a four cell systems was considered. This alternative allows for the construction of two new lagoon cells and the use of the existing cells without major modification.

The City also considered doing nothing and not improving the system.

Reasons for Selection of Proposed Alternative: The No-Action alternative is not viable as ground and surface water would not be protected as required. The construction of a three cell system was rejected due to projected additional costs and construction challenges associated with the major modifications of the existing cells, including the necessary replacement of existing lagoon cell liners. The conversion to an aerated lagoon system was eliminated due to high construction, operating, and maintenance costs.

The proposed project was selected as it would accommodate construction staging, would not compromise the existing lagoon cell liners, and would provide the city with increased capacity.

MEASURES TAKEN TO ASSESS IMPACT

Public Involvement: A public hearing was held on August 8, 2011 at 7:00PM at a special City's council meeting. The public notice of this hearing was published in The Record on June 29, 2011. 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
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
Delaware Tribe of Indians
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

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. Therefore, 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 (IAW Iowa Administrative Code 567-23.3(2)“c”).

Historical/Archaeological: The State Historical Preservation Office, Office of the State Archaeologist and various Native American tribes with an interest in the area were provided information regarding the project. A Lead Agency Agreement was signed for this project as it has planned funding from two federal sources, CDBG and IDNR SRF; the IDNR recipient was designated as the lead agency representative for all Section 106 interactions. The IDNR recipient has determined, and the SHPO has agreed (R&C#110964057), that this undertaking will require a Letter of Agreement between the City of Liscomb, the Office of the State Archaeologist, SHPO, and IDNR to mitigate visual impacts to the adjacent Liscomb Cemetery. Based on the findings of the Phase I Archeological Survey and upon execution of the Letter, there will be “no historic properties effected”. Some of the Native American tribes have not responded with any objections to the project; however they reserve the right to be notified in the event of an unexpected discovery of archeological materials.

Environmental: 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 or waters of the United States provided that the terms and conditions of Nationwide Permit 12 are abided by. The project will not impact any wild and scenic rivers as none exist within the State of Iowa. . The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service 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. 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.

An NPDES wastewater discharge permit is needed. Therefore, 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. The proposed project is outside the present corporate limits of Liscomb in areas zoned residential, commercial, or industrial. 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 improved safety and reliability in the wastewater treatment system for the City of Liscomb. Greater treatment capacity will reduce chances of wastewater bypasses, therefore decreasing the chances for contamination via untreated wastewater.

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 or waters of the United States provided that the terms and conditions of the US Army Corps of Engineers Nationwide Permit 12 are abided by.
- 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.
- 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 provided that the terms and conditions outlined in the Letter of Agreement signed by IDNR,

SHPO, the Office of the State Archaeologist, and the City of Liscomb are abided by. 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 (IAW Iowa Administrative Code 567-23.3(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.

The project description, scope, and anticipated environmental impacts detailed above are accurate and complete to the best to my knowledge.

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.

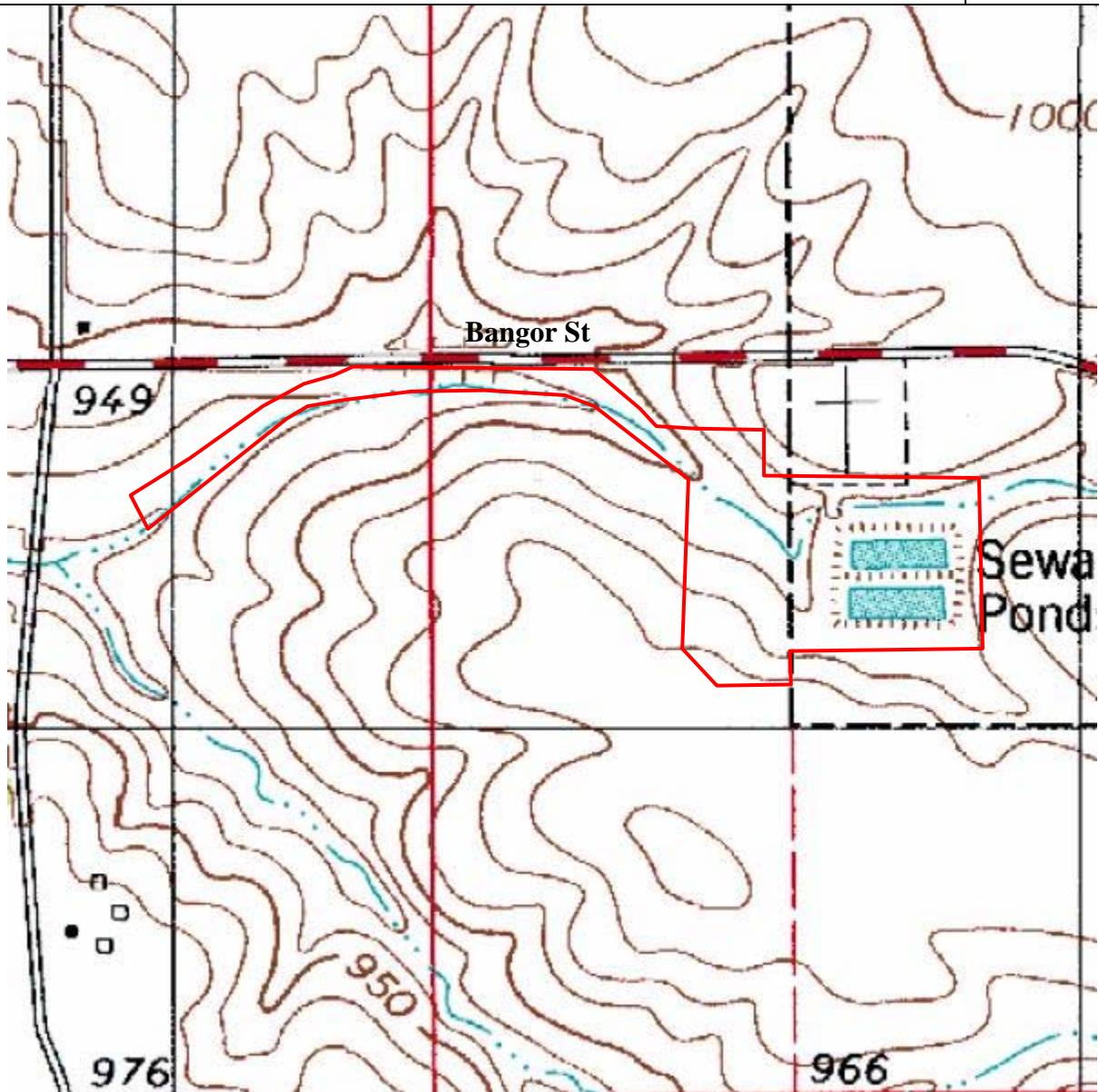


Kate Bussanmas
Environmental Review Services
State Revolving Fund
Iowa Department of Natural Resources

Liscomb Quadrangle
Section: 11, 12, Township: 85 N, Range: 19 W



North



USGS Topographic Map

Liscomb Updated Wastewater Treatment Facility
Liscomb, Iowa



State Revolving Fund
401 SW 7th Street, Suite M
Des Moines, IA 50309

2010 – USDA Orthophoto

Location provided by Garden and Associates



North



Aerial Photograph

Liscomb Updated Wastewater Treatment Facility
Liscomb, Iowa



State Revolving Fund
401 SW 7th Street, Suite M
Des Moines, IA 50309