

From: Tyler Weishahn, LBBNRD Assistant Manager

Date: April 11, 2023

RE: 2023 Water Sustainability Fund Annual Report – Little Indian Creek Watershed Flood Prevention and Operations WFPO #10013

A brief timeline of LBBNRD Board action regarding the project in relation to the Water Sustainability Fund:

- March 9, 2023 – Board approval/signature of letter to NRCS State Conservationist, Rob Lawson outlining the importance of the WFPO program to the LBBNRD.
- September 21, 2023 – LBBNRD annual budget approval

This report is for the period between March 31, 2023, and April 11, 2024.

- 1) Project progress to date for the first report, then progress since the last annual report for future projects, including where you are relative to completing the project.
 - a. 90% completion meeting held January 27, 2023.
 - b. Discussion of future project applications with NRCS personnel.
 - c. Coordination of remaining cultural resources investigations.
 - d. Final agency review of the plan environmental assessment.
 - e. 90% agency review meeting held May 17, 2023.
 - f. One-year extension to complete the project granted in August 2023.
 - g. Comments received from NWMC on March 18, 2024.
- 2) List project-related activities planned for the coming year.
 - a. Respond to comments toward finalizing NWMC review of plan.
 - b. Begin working on permitting and compliance requirements.
 - c. Continue corresponding with landowners.
- 3) Forecast or projected cash flow for remainder of the project. This should be high level, not a detailed list, to give the Commission a projection of the fund's cash flow.
 - a. The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) will pay for all engineering design and construction costs, pending approval of the final Plan-EA, Water Sustainability Funding will provide cost-share funding for only land acquisition and permitting and compliance, and the LBBNRD will pay for operation and maintenance costs.
 - b. 2025 - \$500,000 in permitting and compliance costs
 - c. 2026 - \$584,271 in permitting and compliance costs and \$474,062 toward land acquisition
 - d. 2027 - \$474,062 toward land acquisition
 - e. 2028 and beyond - \$948,124 toward land acquisition
 - f. Total WSF-specific project costs of \$2,980,519 (WSF - \$1,788,300 + LBBNRD - \$1,192,219)

- 4) Reassessment of the likelihood that benefits projected in the application will be realized and, for the “Final Report,” a description of benefits realized or reasonably expected to be realized as compared to those stated in their application.
 - a. Upon approval by the NRCS NWMC, funding for design and construction will be released, at which time final land rights negotiations will commence, along with the final permitting and design phases.
 - b. Land acquisition and easements, as well as permits and compliance are critical components for implementation of the overall project objective of providing flood risk reduction to the watershed.

List of public outreach and WSF acknowledgement efforts:

- *The Blue Buzz* Lower Big Blue NRD Newsletter