

## **Attachment 4 – Public Participation Plan**

### **Planning Services**

#### **Watershed Rehabilitation Plan-Environmental Document**

Work with sponsor and NRCS to develop Public Participation Plan (PPP) (see Example).

1. Determine purpose and objectives for the PPP
2. Develop mailing list of stakeholders (agencies, groups, individuals, landowners, including those in the breach inundation zone of the dam). NRCS and Sponsor will assist by providing available stakeholder contact information. Follow requirements from EO-10584 to contact other Water Resource Planning agencies based on coverage of the watershed area.
3. Determine what the public/agencies will be asked to comment on, when and by what methods
4. Determine what information needs to be provided to the public, when and by what methods, adhering to state public meeting laws.
5. As a minimum, public inputs should be obtained on the scope of concerns/issues to be addressed, alternatives to be considered, environmental, social, cultural and economic concerns to be evaluated and the selected plan from the following.
  - US Army Corps of Engineers
  - US Fish and Wildlife Service
  - US National Parks Service
  - South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control
  - South Carolina Department of Transportation
  - Nature Conservancy
  - Affected Local and County offices
6. Complete PPP plan for Sponsor and NRCS review and concurrence
7. Finalize and update as needed.

Applicable Plan-Environmental Document Sections: Outcomes and summaries of public participation will be documented in the following section of the Supplemental Watershed Plan-Document:

#### Plan-EA

- 1) Scope of the EA
- 2) Consultation, Coordination and Public Participation
- 3) Distribution List
- 4) Appendix A – Comments and Responses

## EXAMPLE

### PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN

for Hamilton Lake Dam (PA-602)

### **Watershed Rehabilitation Program**

#### OBJECTIVES OF THE PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN

1. Ensure that the general public, including private groups, and government agencies; at local, county and state levels are thoroughly familiarized with the proposed Hamilton Dam rehabilitation project. This will ensure that a successful synergy exists to promote an atmosphere of extra-agency cooperation.
2. Provide a forum for the reception and consideration of public input regarding the project. The desired input includes not only opinion, but also uncollected data.
3. Clarify the effects of the diverse alternatives under consideration.
4. Collect pre-existing resource data regarding the Marsh Creek watershed. The data will be collected from a multitude of agencies and citizens.
5. Receive written comments and incorporate them into the decision making process.

#### MAILING LIST

(See attached list, Addendum 1)

#### TECHNIQUES TO ENSURE PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

1. Hold a meeting between NRCS and the Sponsor to explain the Dam Rehabilitation Program.
2. Contact local agencies and illustrate the rehabilitation program. Also request existing data about the watershed.
  - a. Tioga County Planning Commissions
  - b. Tioga County Conservation Districts
  - c. Tioga County EMS
  - d. Tioga Supervisors
3. Hold a public scoping meeting in Wellsboro to explain the Rehabilitation Program and to seek input on watershed problems and opportunities, the range of alternatives to consider and the effects to be addressed.
4. Determine if any agencies should be requested to participate as Cooperating Agencies.
5. Contact the local newspaper(s) to request their assistance in keeping the public informed.
  - a. Wellsboro Gazette
6. Solicit the local conservation district(s) in order for articles to be included in their respective newsletters pertaining to ongoing development.
  - a. Tioga County Conservation District

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7. Post notices in local stores, township buildings and other gathering places announcing public meetings.
8. Request the local radio station announce public meetings.
  - a. 104.5 FM WNBT
  - b. 1490 AM WNDA
9. Discuss the ongoing development at the Tioga County Commissioner’s meetings and the Tioga County Conservation District meetings.
10. Develop email address list to facilitate electronic notification and regular updates.

**INFORMATION PROVIDED AND OBTAINED**

EARLY IN PLANNING PROCESS

*Information Provided:*

1. NRCS Dam Rehabilitation Program Outline
2. Objectives of the Hamilton Dam (PA-602) -Plan-Environmental Document
3. Known watershed problems and opportunities
4. Discussion of the included alternatives
5. Explanation of the process through completion

*Information Obtained:*

1. Watershed natural resource problems that should be addressed
2. Data and other information that may be pertinent to the planning activities
3. Alternatives that should be considered and how the diverse alternatives may affect their property and lives.
4. Range of effects that should be determined relative to the evaluated alternatives.

LATER IN PLANNING PROCESS

*Information Provided:*

1. Identified problems and opportunities
2. Sponsor objectives
3. Alternatives considered
4. Alternatives evaluated including a comparison of effects (ecological, economic, social, physical, cultural, etc.)
5. Selected alternative
6. Draft supplemental Plan–Environmental Document
7. Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for an Environmental Assessment (EA) or Record of Decision (ROD) for an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)

*Information Obtained:*

1. Verbal and written feedback/comments on the above items

## SCHEDULE OF PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SUPPORT ACTIVITIES AND RESPONSIBLE PARTY

*March 2, 2016* – First planning meeting  
*Responsible* – NRCS, A&E Firm, and Borough of Wellsboro

*March 2, 2016* – One on one contact with government agencies, interest groups and private landowners who function as leaders in the area.

*Responsible*

- Wellsboro Borough Municipal Authority
- Wellsboro Borough Council
- Tioga County Commissioners/Tioga Planning Commission/Tioga County EMS
- Tioga County Conservation District
- Tioga County Historic Society
- Charlston Township Supervisors
- PA Fish and Boat Commission Waterway Conservation Officers
- PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Bureau of Forestry
- Tioga County NRCS Field Office
- Susquehanna River Basin Commission

*April 2016* – Public/Interagency Early Scoping Meeting  
*Responsible* – Hold a public meeting at the Wellsboro Borough Office and invite all interested parties and groups; Borough of Wellsboro, Pennsylvania with support from NRCS and KLAES

*Date* – Ongoing communications with agencies, groups and individuals  
*Responsible* – Newsletters, news releases, email, telephone and other means.

*July 2016* – Sponsor decide on preferred alternative  
*Responsible* – Borough of Wellsboro, NRCS-PA

*January 2017* – Technical review of preliminary plan  
*Responsible* – Borough of Wellsboro, NRCS-PA.

*February 2017* – NRCS – National Water Management Center (NWMC) review  
*Responsible* – Submit to NWMC for 30-day review

*January 2017* – Public Meeting and comment period

*Responsible* – Borough of Wellsboro and NRCS-PA; Send draft Plan–Environmental Document to agencies, groups and interested individuals for thirty (30) day public comment period. Hold a public meeting to solicit comments.

*April 2017* – NRCS-PA; Publish FONSI or ROD  
*Responsible* – NRCS

## MONITORING AND PLAN REVISIONS

At the completion of each of the following milestones a review of the Public Participation Plan will be made and any needed changes will be made at that time.

Georgetown County – Sandy Island – Tidal Passage  
Watershed Plan and Environmental Document

**MILESTONES**

1. Public/Interagency Early Scoping Meeting
2. Sponsor decides on preferred alternative
3. NWMC review
4. Public review of draft plan
5. Completion of Plan-Environmental Document