



Good Life. Great Environment.

DEPT. OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

CLEAN WATER STATE REVOLVING LOAN FUND PROGRAM

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION

TO: All Interested Citizens, Government Agencies and Public Groups

In accordance with the Nebraska Clean Water State Revolving Fund environmental review process, which is based on the National Environmental Policy Act, an environmental review has been performed on the proposed agency action below:

This information reviews the environmental impact likely from a project. This project is planned to be federally funded wholly or in part 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, please provide them at this time. The Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality encourages public input in this decision-making process.

PROJECT NAME:	Emergency Sanitary Sewer Lift Station Replacement
APPLICANT:	Bladen, Nebraska
COUNTY:	Webster
POPULATION:	237 (2010 census)
NDEQID NO.:	57900
AWIN SUSTAINABILITY SCORE:	19 - high risk
CWSRF PROJECT NUMBER:	C318005
TOTAL PROJECT AMOUNT:	\$57,000
ESTIMATED CWSRF LOAN AMOUNT:	\$38,578
ESTIMATED CWSRF LOAN FORGIVENESS:	\$18,422

The Village of Bladen needs to replace their sanitary sewer lift station equipment. The Village has applied for financial assistance through the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) loan program to fund the project. Bladen’s existing lift station pumps have required emergency repairs with only one pump currently operational. The project will remove the existing failed equipment and install two new submersible pumps on a slide rail system so maintenance can be conducted outside the wet well. A separate valve vault will be provided outside the wet well for check valves and gate valves for each pump. The renovated wet well will not require entry by the operator as pumps and all control valves will be accessed and removable from outside of the hazardous confined space of the wet well. All lift station controls will be replaced with a new hatch provided with a removable hoist for pump removal.

The project will have a positive impact on the environment. The project will result in continued wastewater treatment of Bladen’s sewage flows with a lower risk of blockage or failure of

Jim Macy, Director

Department of Environmental Quality

P.O. Box 98922

1200 N Street, Suite 400

Lincoln, Nebraska 68509-8922

OFFICE 402-471-2186 **FAX** 402-471-2909

ndeq.moreinfo@nebraska.gov

deq.ne.gov

the lift station pumps, which could result in backup of untreated sewage into Village homes. Wastewater will continue to be pumped to Bladen's Lagoon Wastewater Treatment Facility.

The project is eligible for financing through the Clean Water State Revolving Loan Fund (CWSRF) and is currently listed on the CWSRF SFY2018 Intended Use Plan. Bladen qualifies for a 10 year loan at a program interest rate of 1.5 percent. In addition to principal and interest payments, an administrative fee of 1 percent of the loan balance would be assessed each year. Bladen's Assessing Infrastructure Wastewater Needs (AWIN) score is 19 and is considered high risk category which qualifies Bladen for CWSRF Loan Forgiveness. Bladen's median household income is \$45,625, which qualifies Bladen for 32.32 percent CWSRF loan forgiveness. Forgiveness funds are dependent on availability at the time of loan closing.

Sewer use fees would be pledged to repay the loan. Current residential sewer use rates are a flat rate of \$11.50 per month. The Village of Bladen has approximately 132 sewer connections. Sewer rates would need to be raised by \$3.15 per month to cover the proposed CWSRF debt service and 10 percent coverage requirement. This would equate to a projected residential sewer rate of \$14.65 per month.

The proposed project was reviewed for eligibility for a categorical exclusion from National Environmental Policy Act review specified in 40 CFR (Code of Federal Regulations) Part 6.204. The project meets all criteria described in the above reference and the Department has determined that this project is eligible for categorical exclusion. Consequently, a preliminary decision has been made that a Finding of No Significant Impact will not be prepared. The project as proposed is solely directed toward replacement of the existing lift station.

Justification for categorical exclusion includes:

- The proposed action is not known or expected to have potentially significant environmental impacts on the quality of the human environment either individually or cumulatively over time;
- The proposed action is not known or expected to significantly affect federally listed threatened or endangered species or their critical habitat;
- The proposed action is not known or expected to significantly affect national natural landmarks or any property with nationally significant historic, architectural, prehistoric archeological or cultural value, including but not limited to, property listed on or eligible for the National Register of Historic Places;
- The proposed action is not known or expected to significantly affect environmentally important natural resource areas as wetlands, floodplains (the lift station is not found in the 100 year floodplain), prime farmland, wild and scenic rivers, and significant fish or wildlife habitat;
- The proposed action is not known or expected to have a significant effect on the pattern and type of land use (industrial, commercial, agricultural, recreational, residential) or growth and distribution of population including altering the character of existing residential areas, or may not be inconsistent with state or local government, or federally-recognized Indian tribe approved land use plans or federal land management plans.

- The proposed action is not known or expected to cause significant public controversy about a potential environmental impact of the proposed action.

The Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality shall revoke the categorical exclusion and shall require a full environmental review if, subsequent to the granting of exclusion, the state determines that the proposed project no longer meets the requirements for a categorical exclusion due to changes in the proposed project; or new evidence reveals that serious local or environmental issues exist; or federal, state, local or tribal laws are being violated.

This action is taken on the basis of careful review of the application and other supporting data, which are on file in the office of the NDEQ. These are available for public review upon request. Persons having a comment on this categorical exclusion determination are encouraged to submit such comments directly to Tom Fuenning, Review Engineer, of the Technical Assistance Section of NDEQ, who can be reached at (402) 471-4989 or email: tom.fuenning@nebraska.gov.

Signed this 30th day of May, 2018.

Sincerely,

Jim Macy
Director

JM/tsf

Attachments: Distribution List
Engineer's Project Summary with Maps

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DISTRIBUTION LIST

BLADEN, NEBRASKA

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
Office of Public Affairs
P.O. Box 98922
Lincoln, NE 68509-8922

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN
SERVICES - REGULATION AND LICENSURE
Steve McNulty
P.O. Box 95026
Lincoln, NE 68509-5026

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
Mitch Paine
P.O. Box 94676
Lincoln, NE 68509-4676

NEBRASKA GAME & PARKS COMMISSION
Craig Wacker/Carey Grell
P.O. Box 30370
Lincoln, NE 68503-0370

DIRECTOR, NEBRASKA STATE
HISTORICAL SOCIETY
P.O. Box 82554
Lincoln, NE 68508-2554

STATE OFFICE OF POLICY RESEARCH
Policy Advisor
Rm 1319, State Capitol
P.O. Box 94601
Lincoln, NE 68509-4601

DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
Abigail Anderson
P.O. Box 94666
Lincoln, NE 68509

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Eliza Hines
9325 South Alda Road
Wood River, NE 68883

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Nick Chevance
Environmental Coordinator
Midwest Regional Office
601 Riverfront Drive
Omaha, NE 68102-4226

USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT
Ken Shaw
Room 308, Federal Building
100 Centennial Mall North
Lincoln, NE 68508

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
Christopher Simmons/Kelly Beard-Tittone
11201 Renner Blvd
Mail Code: WWPDWIMB
Lenexa, KS

STATE CONSERVATIONIST
Natural Resources Conservation Service
Federal Building, Room 345
100 Centennial Mall North
Lincoln, NE 68508

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
John Moeschel
State Program Manager
US Army corps of Engineers
Nebraska State Office, Suite 1
8901 South 154th Street
Omaha, NE 68138-3621

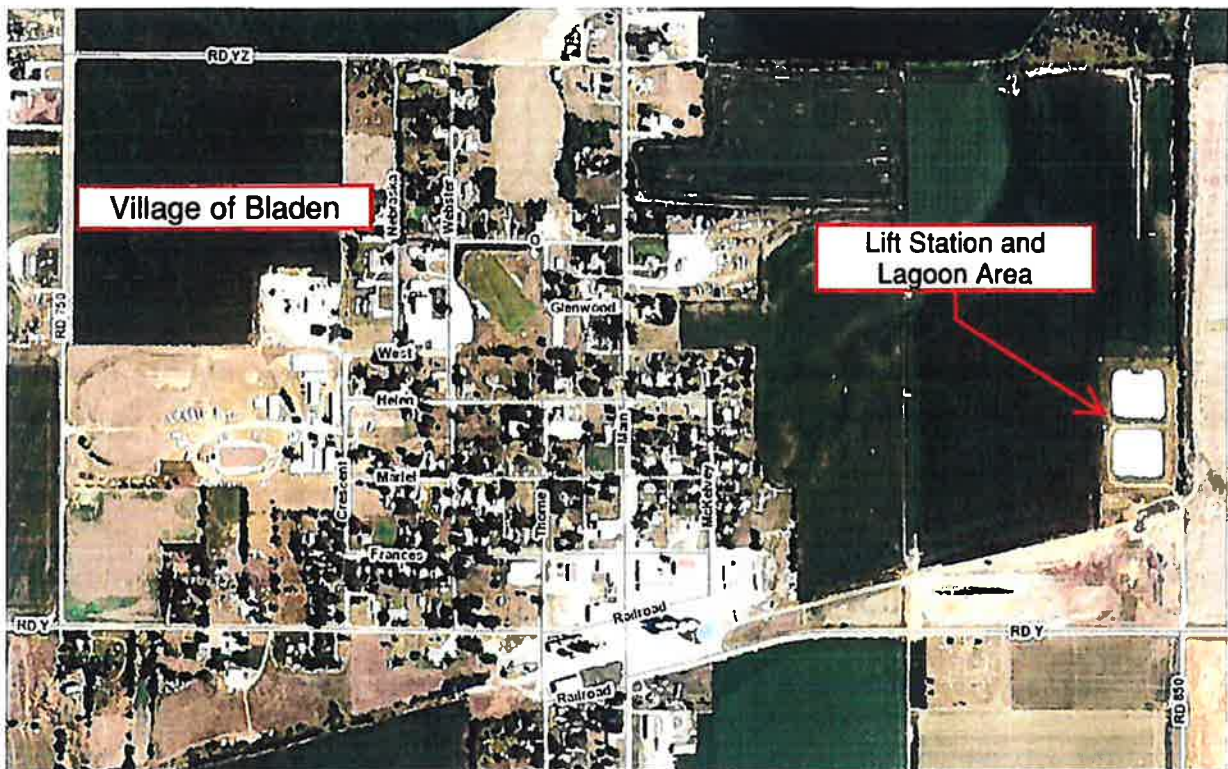
APPLICANT:
Village of Bladen
Debbie Thayer, Clerk
PO Box 37
211 North Main Street
Bladen, NE 68928-0037

CONSULTING ENGINEER:
Tyler Hillmer, P.E.
Miller & Associates
1111 Central Avenue
Kearney, NE 68847

LOCAL NEWSPAPER
Red Cloud Chief
322 N. Webster
Red Cloud, NE 68970
(Public Information Only not for Public Notice)

LOWER REPUBLICAN, NRD
706 2nd Street
PO Box 618
Alma, NE 68920

PROJECT SUMMARY



Bladen Lift Station Renovations

Miller & Associates Project No. 361-D1-001

Project Summary

Bladen Lift Station Renovations

BACKGROUND

The Village of Bladen has a lift station located at their lagoon system; Township 4 North, Range 11 West, Section 8. The location of the lift station and the wastewater treatment lagoons are shown on the cover. The lift station was constructed in 1964. A copy of the original design drawings was provided by the Village.

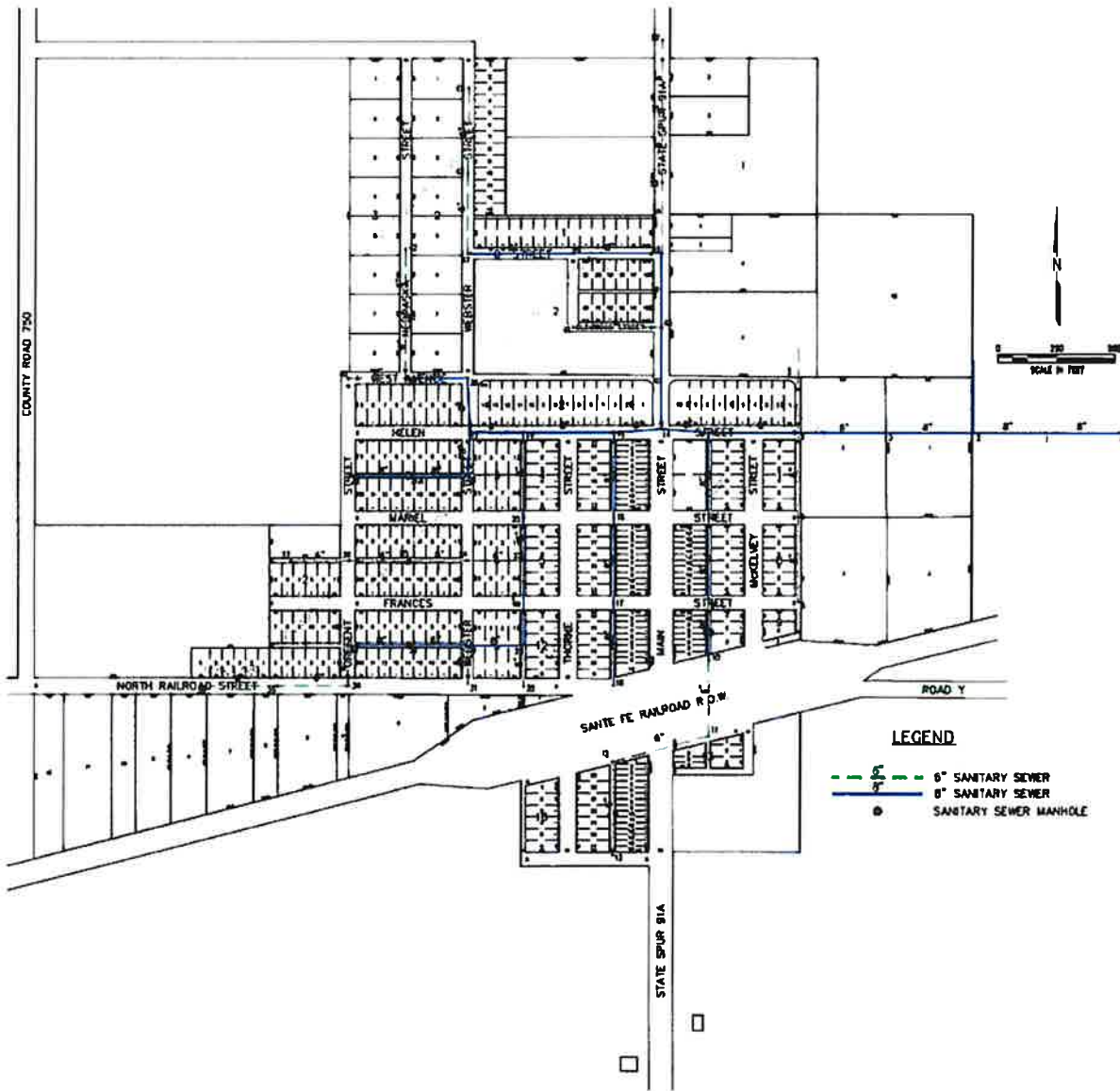
PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS

The lift station pumps, piping, ventilation, electrical, and deck hatch are in need of replacement. The existing pumps are believed to be Gould's 1.5 HP, WS1532D3M WS D3 3888, and only one is operational at this time. The Village would like to replace the pumps on a slide rail system, relocate the check valves into a valve pit, replace the controls, and install a new access hatch. Drawings and specifications are being prepared to advertise for contractors to renovate the existing lift station. Photographs of the existing lift station are shown in Figure 2 – Lift Station Pictures.



The Village did replace the original pumps with the pumps described above in October of 2002. Some piping was also repaired at the time. The electrical and the rest of the components are assumed to be original to the lift station. The discharge piping from the pump that is operational had developed a crack and forced the operator to make emergency repairs to keep the lift station in operation.

A copy of the Villages sewer collection map is shown below in Figure 3- Village Sewer Map.



OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

The lift station does not appear to be in a flood plain. A copy of the FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Map is provided below in Figure 4- FEMA Map. Since the work would be confined to the immediate vicinity of the lift station, it is hoped that a categorical exclusion could be completed and the environmental report waived.

