New Generation for PL566 - Missouri Projects

Presented by
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Assistant State Conservationist – Water Resources and Easements
Watershed Programs

What’s The Future?

October 2019
Watershed Programs – History

![Graph showing the number of dams over years for different programs: PL-566, Pilot/RC&D, and PL-534.](nrcs.usda.gov)
Watershed Programs – History – PL-566
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<th>Fiscal Year</th>
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Includes $50M of Mandatory funding in the Farm Bill
Watershed Programs – Future - Streamline

Watershed Streamlining Team
East Locust Creek Reservoir Project
Missouri
Project Description

- **Purpose**
  - Water Supply (45,045 ac–ft) (90% of pool volume)
    - Seven million gallons of water per day
  - Flood control (8,863 ac–ft above pool)
  - Recreation (1,400 ac–ft) (3% of pool volume)
  - Sediment (3,500 ac–ft) (7% of pool volume)

- **Reservoir**
  - Size – 2,328 acres
  - 82 Miles of Shoreline
  - Max Pool Depth – 60’
  - Dam Height – 79’
What’s Unique About ELCR

- Overwhelming local support
- ½ Cent county wide sales tax (81.25% Favor)
- Strong support from the State of Missouri
- Special authorization & federal cost share
- Growth is limited by water
- Positive economic impact ($14M annual)
Permitting Timeline

- Series of drought of 1970s and early 1980s – Lots of talk about the need for a reservoir
- Relatively wet years in the late 1980s–2000 – less talk about the need for a reservoir
- 1995 – Preliminary Engineering Report discussing reservoir options
- **Drought of 2000–2001, North Central Missouri Regional Water Commission formed to encourage regionalization and build a lake.**
- 2003 – Water system master plan and feasibility study
- 2005 – Congressional authorization to build ELCR
- 2007 – Environmental Impact Study (EIS) published and Record of Decision to proceed (7 MGD)
- 2009 – Land Acquisition Begins
Permitting Timeline Continued

- **2010–2012** – Corps of Engineers (COE) requires that a 404(b) alternatives analysis be done because the NEPA alternatives analysis is inadequate. A supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) becomes necessary.
- **2014** – Funding available for permitting activity
- **2014–2015** Jurisdictional Determinations
- **2015** – First sections of SEIS submitted for COE
- **2016** – Endangered Species surveyed and Indiana and Northern Long Eared bats found in lake bed.
- **2017** – Land acquisition Complete
- **2017–2018** – Biological Assessment submitted to USFWS
- **2019** – SEIS submitted for COE review
Streams & Wetland Mitigation

Impacts

- Estimated 42 miles of Jurisdictional Stream
- 360 Acres of Wetland
- Purchase mitigation credits
  Estimated at around $50 Million Dollars
- In Project Mitigation
- Lower Grand Conservation Opportunity Area
The “Road” Ahead

Federal Nexus

- **USACE**
  - 404 Permit
  - Stream and Wetland Mitigation
    - Mitigation Flexibility & Collaboration
      - Opportunity to intervene in decades long eco-system degradation of prized Lower Grand River Basin, if mitigation credits can be flexibly assessed to align with watershed priorities.
      - Efforts to promote win/wins between Corps, USFWS, EPA, MDNR & MDC are hampered by Corps Regulatory firewall
      - Corps Planning has the expertise to advise where the greatest environmental lift could occur, and soon, to address ongoing and impending disasters in the Lower Grand

- **USFWS**
  - Biological Assessment/Biological Opinion January 2020
  - Endangered Species (Bat) Mitigation January 2020
The “Road” Ahead

**Federal Nexus**

**NRCS**
- NEPA - Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement – Record of Decision – Spring 2020
- Federal share of construction funding – over $40 million
- Authorization to begin Construction Access construction
- Authorization to begin Tree Harvest and Clearing
- Authorization to begin Shoreline Protection construction

**USDA-RD**
- Loan $43 million, Grant $10 million
  - Obligation of funds
  - Approval of Loan & Grant
Project Funding

- **Projected Funding**
  - Federal Grant: $56,500,000 (51%)
  - Local / Misc.: $10,000,000 (9%)
  - State Grant: $7,500,000 (7%)
  - Gap Funding: $36,000,000 (33%)

- **Currently Invested**
  - Federal: $40,377,179 (63%)
  - Local (Sullivan County): $16,500,000 (26%)
  - Gap Funding: $64,042,179

- **USDA-RD Loan**
  - (Local): $24,500,000 (22%)
  - (State): $11,500,000 (11%)
Little Otter Creek Lake
Caldwell County, MO
Reservoir Construction:
Caldwell County & USDA-NRCS
Project Purposes
- Provide a dependable long-term water supply to meet a projected 50-year demand for Caldwell County municipalities and residents
- Provide water-based recreation to meet the unmet demand for Caldwell County
- Reduce flood damages on 3.8 miles of Little Otter Creek between County Route 131 and the confluence with Otter Creek

Water Treatment & Distribution:
Little Otter Creek Wholesale Water Commission (LOCWWC)
LOCWWC Members:
City of Baybryar
City of Hamilton
Caldwell Co. PWSS #1
Caldwell Co. PWSS #2
Caldwell Co. PWSS #3

Legend
- 54.5 mile radius service from well
- Sampled water transmission line
- County boundary
- City limits
- Township
- Census tract
- Census block
- Census block group

nrcs.usda.gov/
**Little Otter Creek Reservoir**

Caldwell County, MO

Projected Permitting Timeline
1/15/2019

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