

**SHELBY COUNTY SOIL AND WATER
CONSERVATION DISTRICT
2519 SOUTHWEST AVE
HARLAN IA 51537
(712) 755-2417**

TO: Kevin Jacobsen, Chair
Watershed Improvement Review Board

FROM: Project 5008-004 Mill-Picayune (Manteno Lake)
Shelby County Soil & Water Conservation District
Donald Bladt, Chairperson

DATE: February 19, 2008

RE: Final Report for Watershed Improvement Fund Project

Financial Accountability

Watershed Improvement Funds			
Grant Agreement Budget Line Item	Total Funds Approved	Total Funds Expended	Available Funds
Grade Stabilization Structures	\$56,250.00	\$51,631.30	4618.70
Postage	\$0	\$71.12	-71.12
Notice to Bidders in Harlan Newspaper	\$0	\$99.58	-99.58
Excess Funds			4448.0

The project was approved for \$56,250.00 to build three grade stabilization structures. Only two of the structures were completed as the third was deemed unnecessary by engineering staff due to the location of the draw. The district paid the contractor \$51,631.30 as part of a bid submitted and approved by the district. The district received \$51,802 from the Watershed Review Board. A total of \$1,177 is being held by the Watershed Review Board until the final report is submitted and approved. The cost of posting the Notice to Bidders and the postage were not included in the original grant as the district was unaware of these necessary expenditures.

Example Summary: Total Project Funding

Funding Source	Cash		In-Kind Contributions		Total	
	Approved Application Budget (\$)	Actual (\$)	Approved Application Budget (\$)	Actual (\$)	Approved Application Budget (\$)	Actual (\$)
WIRB	56,250.00	51,802.00	0	0		51,802.00
NRCS	0	0	0	8,277.50		8,277.50
IDALS	0	0	0	802.20		802.20
County	15,000.00	14,256.99	3,750.00			18,006.99
Totals	71,250.00	66,058.99				78,888.69

Watershed Improvement Fund contribution: Approved application budget: 75 %
 Actual: 66 %

In the original application, staff time (in-kind contributions) including engineering, inspection, and administrative time was not calculated. The in-kind contributions listed in the table account for the staff time for two NRCS engineers, two NRCS inspectors, one NRCS CET, two NRCS conservationists, one state secretary, and three county conservation board employees.

Other differences in cost included: constructing two structures instead of the original three planned, additional costs on advertising the project and the bid-letting, survey, design, inspection, and seeding costs.

Environmental Accountability

Currently, water quality monitoring is facilitated by Iowa State University Limnology Department. The site is monitored annually but the annual visit has not occurred since the completion of the project in December of 2006.

DNR Fisheries Biologist Brian Hayes also monitors the water for fish quality.

Two grade stabilization structures were installed as planned. The third structure was deemed unnecessary by engineering staff due to the location of the draw and the ability of the two other structures to sufficiently reduce and control the sediment delivery. The land was originally due to come out of CRP in the fall of 2007 at which time grassed waterways and grass filterstrips would have been installed to reduce the sediment delivery from adjacent cropland to the new structures and Manteno Lake.

Because the landowner chose to re-enroll the acres for an additional ten years these practices were no longer needed. The 142.1 acres surrounding the grade stabilization structures will remain in CRP through the fall of 2017. The benefits of having all of the land remain in CRP far outweighs the utilization of grassed waterways and filterstrips in a row crop system. The environmental goals of the project were

obtained as the combination of the grade stabilization structures and long-term CRP cover significantly minimize the silt flow into the lake.

Example Summary: Practices and Activities

Practice or Activity	Unit	Approved Application Goal	Accomplishments	Percent Completion
Grade Stabilization Structures	No.	3	2	100
Grass Filterstrips	Ac.	~2 ac	0	100
Grassed Waterways	Ac.	~2 ac	0	100
General CRP	Ac.	0	142.1 ac	100

Program Accountability

As mentioned in the original grant, the Shelby County Conservation Board applied for and received a Fish Habitat Improvement Grant in the amount of \$10,000. This grant will provide funds to excavate 1200’ of the northern shoreline to improve the quality of fish habitat in the lake. Work started on this project in early February 2008. These improvements, along with other infrastructure improvements will serve as the catalyst for revitalizing a popular recreation area.

News articles detailing the project were published in the Harlan Newspaper, Shelby Soil & Water Conservation District Newsletter and Annual Report, and the Shelby County Conservation Board newsletter.

Due to the extreme delay in receiving the maintenance agreement for the WIRB project, this final report has also been delayed.

Recommendations for the future:

- More organization, as well as standardized forms, are needed in the application process.
- More guidance on the bidletting process.
- More information prior to application period so a good grant application can be submitted.
- Utilize a courteous and respectful attitude when dealing with partners. The field office staff does not work with these projects on a regular basis and are often unfamiliar with certain procedures and processes.