

Contract No. 005-073
“Homme Dam Watershed 319 Project”
 Submitted by Walsh County Three Rivers Soil Conservation District
 Principal Investigator: Sarah Johnston
 Directives B, C

PARTICIPANTS

Sponsor	Cost Share	
Landowner (cash/in-kind)	\$131,500	
EPA (cash)	\$265,000	
Walsh County Three Rivers Soil Conservation District	<u>\$ 88,700</u>	
Subtotal Cost Share		\$485,200
North Dakota Industrial Commission	<u>\$ 65,000</u>	
Total Project Cost		<u>\$ 65,000</u> \$ 550,200

Project Schedule – 3.5 years
 Contract Date – 9/8/2015
 Start Date – 4/1/2015
 Completion Date – October 31, 2018

Project Deliverables:
 Status Report: December 31, 2015 ✓
 Status Report: June 30, 2016 ✓
 Status Report: December 31, 2016 ✓
 Status Report: June 30, 2017
 Status Report: December 31, 2017
 Status Report: June 30, 2018
 Final Report: October 31, 2018

OBJECTIVE/STATEMENT OF WORK:

Restore water quality and beneficial uses of recreation and aquatic life to the Homme Dam Reservoir in Walsh County through implementation of best management practices such as riparian vegetation cover, prescribed grazing systems, riparian forest buffers, streambanks/shoreline stabilization. The Commission stipulated that no Outdoor Heritage Fund dollars could be used for portable windbreaks.

STATUS:

Contract 005-073 - Has been fully executed.

12/29/2015 - Status report received. The status report states: There have been no BMP's implemented in this project period. We continue to work with partnering agencies such as NRCS to provide technical assistance to producers in the watershed. Follow up continues with producers who have expressed interest in best management practices in hopes of signing them up in 2016.

6/30/2016 - Status report received. The status report states: To date we have implemented two demonstration sites, one of which is a cover crop demonstration site, and the other is vegetation restoration demonstration in a riparian area. We have not expended specifically OHF grant funds on establishing these demonstration sites, however, we hope that good demonstration of Best Management Practices will interest residents in taking action and requesting implementation, which then would require the use of OHF funding. We continue to work closely with NRCS and partnering agencies to get as much conservation accomplished in this watershed, no matter whom is paying for it or facilitating the work.

On June 13, 2016, we sampled the first algae bloom at Homme Dam for the year. Two species of harmful algae were identified and advisories are posted for visitors at the swim beach and boat dock area. Last summer revealed extensive harmful algae blooms which impaired safe recreation on the reservoir. This summer unfortunately is off to an early start. The issue of water quality impairments is gaining ground in this community and landowners are becoming more aware of how they will be a big part of the solution. This process can be a slow process, however, having funding from OHF available to landowners is an important part of restoring water quality in this watershed.

12/28/2016 - Status Report received. The status report states: Adverse weather conditions have created many challenges for farmers in the Homme Dam watershed and throughout Walsh County this past summer and fall. Over 30 inches of rain fell between June and September, creating significant delays and at times impossible conditions for field work and harvest of cash crops. These extremely wet and cold conditions are said to have surpassed what was seen in 1993. As a result of these unfavorable circumstances, implementation of projects has been delayed until next year.

Two producers had a total of 300 acres of cover crops to plant in the watershed in September, however, they were unable to plant their cover crop due to saturated conditions. These producers will have cost share available to them again next year to plant these acres into cover crop after harvest. In addition to working with cover crops, we continue to consult with landowners to plan projects using best management practices that will improve water quality in this watershed. Everyone is hoping for drier and more favorable weather in 2017!

Updated 12/29/2016