SECTION 319 NONPOINT SOURCE POLLUTION CONTROL PROGRAM
IMPLEMENTATION PROJECT

FINAL REPORT, SEGMENT 6
July 31, 2016

CONTINUATION OF THE UPPER BIG SIOUX RIVER WATERSHED PROJECT

City of Watertown, SD, Grant Sponsor
P O Box 910, 23 2nd St. NE
Watertown, SD 57201-0910

Roger Foote, Project Coordinator

Watershed Advisory Board Officers
Jeff DeVille, Chairman
John R. Little, Vice- Chairman
John G. Moes, Secretary

Project Period: June 10, 2012 – July 31, 2016
This project was conducted in cooperation with the South Dakota Department of Environment and Natural Resources and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 8**.**

Grant #C9-99818513-0

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

PROJECT TITLE: Segment 6 Continuation of the Upper Big Sioux River Watershed Project

Grant #C9-99818512-0

Initiation Date: June 10, 2012; Completion Date July 31, 2016

FUNDING REQUESTED	
Total EPA Grant: Cash	$518,180
Other Federal Funds	$252,095
Total Local Match	$1,233,709
TOTAL FUNDING	**$2,003,984**

ACTUAL EXPENDITURES	
Expenditures EPA Funds	$476,826
Expenditures – Other Federal	$379,825
Expenditures Local Funds	$1,044,497
ACTUAL TOTAL EXPENDITURES	**$1,901,148**

Project Activities Completed.

Best Management Practice	Milestones	Accomplished
Animal Nutrient Management	1 systems	1 systems
Manure Application Management	6 units	6 units
Grassed Waterways	14,000 linear feet	14,500 linear feet
Small Ponds	70 units	87 units
Riparian Grazing Management (revised)	3,500 acres	543 acres
Lake Shoreline Stabilization	1,000 linear feet	3,238 linear feet
Water Quality Testing	68 samples	46 samples
Information Education Activities	76 units	130 units

This segment continued the restoration effort initiated in 1994 for the Upper Big Sioux River Watershed and the immediate Lakes Kampeska and Pelican sub-basins. As shown in the project activities completed table, most milestones were surpassed by great margins. The milestones that were not reached can be attributed to numerous circumstances. Wet weather, changes in incentives, and changes in production practices combined to limit participation in the project.

As the weather changed in the watershed area, so did attitudes and perceptions on water quality. Future efforts will continue increased information and education activities, more local media exposure, and more opportunities with partners to promote the practices.

NPS PROJECT SUMMARY SHEET

AWARD FISCAL YEAR: FY2012_

PROJECT TITLE: CONTINUATION, UPPER BIG SIOUX RIVER WATERSHED PROJECT SEGMENT 6

NAME: CITY OF WATERTOWN_____ **ADDRESS**: 23 2ND ST NE, P O BOX 910

CITY WATERTOWN, SD **ZIP** 57201-0910

PHONE 605-882-5250_ **FAX** 605-882-5251 **EMAIL** rfoote@iw.net

PROJECT TYPE: WATERSHED
WATERSHED NAME: UPPER BIG SIOUX RIVER WATERSHED, LAKES KAMPESKA AND PELICAN SUBWATERSHEDS

LATITUDE: 44.9317 N **LONGITUDE**: -97.2033 W
HYDROLOGIC UNIT CODE: 10170201

HIGH PRIORITY WATERSHED:YES

POLLUTANT TYPE NUTRIENTS, SEDIMENT,AND BACTERIA

WA CATEGORY CATEGORY 1, WATERSHEDS IN NEED OF RESTORATION

TMDL DEVELOPMENT _YES__

TMDL IMPLEMENTATION __YES____

TMDL PRIORITY ___HIGH_____

WATERBODY TYPES: LAKES, RIVERS, STREAMS, WETLANDS

ECOREGION: NORTHERN GLACIATED PLAINS

PROJECT CATEGORY: AGRICULTURE

PROJECT FUNCTIONAL CATEGORY: BMP IMPLEMENTATION/DESIGN

GROUNDWATER PROTECTION: NO

§**319 FUNDED FULL TIME PERSONNEL** 1.75

GOALS: Segment 6 is a continuation program. The continuing goal of the project segment was to improve the quality of the water entering the Big Sioux River and Lakes Kampeska and Pelican, and to continue restoration of the full beneficial uses of the lakes and river by reducing phosphorus and sediment loads.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The project was designed to continue to improve water quality of the Big Sioux River and Lakes Kampeska and Pelican by reducing nutrient and sediment loads originating from grazing and animal feeding operations from crop ground and pasture lands, and from stream/river banks and lake shoreline erosion.

INTRODUCTION

Water quality monitoring done in 2014 by the SD DENR shows low oxygen levels in the Big Sioux River from Ortley near the river headwaters to Lake Kampeska. The 2014 SD Integrated Report for Surface Water Quality Assessment ,(SDIRSWQA, Table 1) indicates that *Warm Water Semi-Permanent Fish Life Propagation* is impaired in Lake Pelican. The Upper Big Sioux River has an impaired *Warm Water Semi-permanent Fish Life Propagation* use and *Limited Contact Recreation* nonsupported designation. The Big Sioux River and Lake Pelican are included on the South Dakota Nonpoint Source Priority Waterbody List. Designated beneficial uses and impairment status of Lake Kampeska, Pelican Lake and the Big Sioux River have changed during the Upper Big Sioux River Watershed project implementation. Current status of designated uses listed in the 2014 SDIRSWQA shows project effectiveness by having uses removed from impaired status. (Table 1. Source: http://denr.sd.gov/documents/14irfinal.pdf)

Table 1. Designated Beneficial Uses of Lake Kampeska, Pelican Lake and the Big Sioux River

	Lake Kampeska		Lake Pelican		Big Sioux River	
Designated Use	Use	Impaired	Use	Impaired	Use	Impaired
Wildlife Propagation, Stock Water, Irrigation	YES	NO	YES	NO	YES	NO
Immersion Recreation	YES	NO	YES	NO	N/A	N/A
Limited Contact Recreation	YES	NO	YES	NO	YES	YES
Domestic Water Source	YES	NO	NO	N/A	NO	NO
Warm Water Permanent Fish Life Propagation	YES	NO	NO	N/A	N/A	N/A
Warm Water Semi-Permanent Fish Life Propagation	N/A	N/A	YES	YES	YES	YES

This segment was a continuation of a project to reduce phosphorus and sediment loads entering the Big Sioux River, Lakes Kampeska and Pelican. The goal was consistent with meeting targets set by the 1994 SD DENR Diagnostic/Feasibility Study, the 1995 Pelican Lake Assessment and the 2000 NRCS PL 566 River Basin Study.

Based on the studies, best management practices (BMPs) were recommended to help reduce sediment, nutrients and bacteria loads entering the Big Sioux River, Lakes Kampeska and Pelican from priority areas before attempting in-lake restoration activities such as sediment removal. The BMPs included:

- Lake shoreline stabilization/management
- Construction of small ponds
- Construction/repair of grassed waterways
- Filterstrips/grass seeding in riparian areas
- Construction of animal nutrient management systems
- Streambank stabilization
- Information/education programs
- Wetland restoration

- Promotion of Conservation Reserve programs
- Identification of failing septic systems at Pelican Lake
- Investigation of feasibility of river flow control structures
- Investigation of feasibility of new lake outlet
- Consideration of selective in-lake sediment removal

The Diagnostic/Feasibility Study (DENR, 1994) and the PL 566 River Basin Study (NRCS, 2000) identified two nonpoint source (NPS) pollutants, sediment and phosphorus, which became the project's focus. Sediment and phosphorus are in surface water runoff and also come from in-channel bank erosion in the watershed upstream from the receiving waters. Some coliform bacteria loading was found near animal feeding operations. While the bacteria were found most often in close proximity to livestock operations, they were periodically found in Lakes Kampeska and Pelican.

The Big Sioux River, from its headwaters near Summit, SD, south to and including Pelican Lake, drains a 245,399-acre watershed (USDA/NRCS 10/1996) in the Prairie Coteau region of northeast South Dakota. Waters in the Upper Big Sioux River watershed exist in linear, riverine, temporary, seasonal, semi-permanent and permanent wetlands. Most of these wetlands have a direct connection with the Big Sioux shallow aquifer (Appendix 3—aquifer) and water moves back and forth. Storm event runoff carries with it quantities of sediment, phosphorus and coliform bacteria. The origin of the pollutants has been identified as farming practices and livestock production in the watershed. (NRCS PL 566 Study, 2000)

Runoff drains to four tributaries on the eastern side of the watershed: Mud Creek, Mahoney Creek, Soo Creek and Indian River; and Still Lake on the west, through temporary or seasonal linear wetlands before entering the Big Sioux River. (Appendix 1 – Watershed and Subwatershed Maps)

Lake Pelican is located three miles south of Lake Kampeska. The major tributary to both lakes is the Big Sioux River.

Watershed General Information (Appendix 1—Watershed and Subwatershed Maps) The entire Prairie Coteau, including Lakes Kampeska and Pelican, are of glacial origin. Groundwater moves to and from the lakes by gravel channels that were formed by the retreating glacier melt. These gravel channels form the shallow Big Sioux Aquifer, which is exposed to the surface in some areas. The Big Sioux River, as it winds through the watershed, directly connects the surface water and the aquifer and gathers the drainage from the subwatersheds. **(**Appendix 3—Aquifer)

During flood periods the lakes receive water from the Big Sioux River via their inlets/outlets, when the level of the river is higher than that of the lakes. When the water level of the river drops below that of the lakes, the reverse occurs and the lakes discharge water back into the river. The river high flow periods carry volumes of sediment and nutrients. These pollutants settle out and remain in the lakes while the cleaner water is discharged back into the river. Thus the pollutants accumulate in the lake. Both lakes have weir structures that divert low flow events downstream past the lakes.

The watershed contains mostly small- to medium-sized family farms. Many operators farm all available property, even in environmentally sensitive areas. At the beginning of the project, most cultivated lands were planted to wheat; currently these same fields are planted mostly to row crops of corn and beans. Producers who have enrolled in CRP programs in the past now farm the land as those contracts expire.

Average annual precipitation is 21-23 inches per year with an average evaporation of 41 inches per year. (http://efotg.sc.egov.usda.gov/references/public/SD/averageannlprecip.pdf) Actual rainfall amounts vary widely. Irrigation systems within the watershed area are center pivot systems that pump out of the shallow Big Sioux aquifer. As an example of how intimately connected the river and aquifer are, it is possible to watch the river levels drop over a couple of days when the irrigation pumps are running. The last year of the grant, 2016, saw a severe drop in rainfall and water levels (Lake Kampeska 31" below full in August, 2016).

Animal agriculture is a large part of the business in the watershed area. Cattle producers are mostly cow/calf enterprises with background feeding of calves and some finishing operations. The producers who feed cattle exclusively tend to be in the 300-500 animal range; however, the trend is to increase numbers up to and exceeding the 999 Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO) animal unit threshold. With the current market value of lamb, the expectation is a rise in numbers of the few sheep operations in the watershed. Equine trends are mainly recreational with a few specific training and breeding facilities. (Appendix 2—Tier 1 Feeding Operations and Water Sampling Sites)

Range condition is a concern in the watershed area. Currently conditions can be rated fair to poor with a few excellent exceptions. The rental price of pasture acres is driving the decline of range conditions. Producers are unsure whether they will be outbid for the rental of pastures in the following year; as a result, they over-utilize pastures to recoup perceived value. Conversion of pasture to row crops is increasing, driven by commodity prices.

Table 2. Project Area Land Ownership (NRCS PL 566 Study, 2000)

Subwatershed	Total Acres	Private	Federal	State	Tribal
Upper Sioux	43,911	41,767	979	280	885
Indian River	24,972	24,872	100	0	0
Soo Creek	19,811	19,771	0	40	0
Mahoney Creek	15,206	15,072	0	134	0
Mud/Gravel	44,763	44,658	0	105	0
Middle Sioux	34,774	33,858	399	277	240
Still Lake	6,940	6,741	80	119	0
Lower Sioux	15,351	14,822	0	506	23
Lake Kampeska	17,278	17,223	0	55	0
Pelican Lake	17,326	16,426	0	900	0
Watertown	5,067	5,007	0	60	0
Totals	245,399	240,217	1,558	2,476	1,148

Table 3. Land Use (NRCS PL 566 Study, 2000)

Subwatershed	Acres	Crop Land		Range Land		Pasture Hay		CRP		Wood Land		Other	
		%	Acres	%	Acres	%	Acres	%	Acres	%	Acres	%	Acres
Upper Sioux	43,911	55.5	24,371	25.7	11,286	4.8	2,107	7.6	3,337	0.9	395	5.5	2,415
Indian River	24,972	56.4	14,084	27.3	6,817	4.9	1,224	6.1	1,523	0.7	175	4.6	1,149
Soo Creek	19,811	63.4	12,560	24.7	4,893	5.5	1,090	0.3	59	1.3	258	4.8	951
Mahoney Creek	15,206	74.6	11,344	12.2	1,855	6.5	988	0.3	46	1.2	183	5.2	790
Mud/Gravel	44,763	62.7	28,066	23.8	10,654	5.5	2,462	1.0	448	2.0	895	5.0	2,238
Middle Sioux	34,774	65.9	22,916	17.4	6,051	5.7	1,982	5.1	1,773	1.0	348	4.9	1,704
Still Lake	6,940	59.7	4,143	18.3	1,270	5.2	361	4.9	340	0.8	56	11.1	770
Lower Sioux	15,351	69.1	10,608	14.4	2,211	6.0	921	0.4	61	1.0	153	9.1	1,397
Lake Kampeska	17,278	52.8	9,123	24.8	4,284	4.6	795	1.1	190	1.3	225	15.4	2,661
Pelican Lake	17,326	64.4	11,158	15.0	2,599	5.6	970	2.0	347	1.0	173	12.0	2,079
Watertown	5,067	26.6	1,348	31.7	1,608	2.3	117	1.0	52	1.4	70	37.0	1,872
Totals	245,399	61.0	149,721	21.8	53,528	5.3	13,017	3.3	8,176	1.2	2931	7.4	18,026

Land use in the study area was inventoried for each subwatershed and the entire study area.

Type of Watershed Quality Problem

Sediment and phosphorus were identified as the major pollutants of the Big Sioux River and Lakes Kampeska and Pelican ((D/F Study, DENR, 1994 and PL 566, NRCS, 2000). The reports stated that lake loads were largely the result of agricultural activities in the watershed.

Subwatersheds Contribution (Appendix 1 Maps—Subwatersheds) According to watershed analyses completed during the 1989-2006 time period, the Upper Sioux River subwatershed contributes the greatest suspended solids load. However, because of its distance from the lake, it was not identified as a high priority subwatershed for restoration efforts. The analyses also indicated large loadings of suspended sediment from the Mud Creek subwatershed. A majority of these loadings do not enter Lake Kampeska, because Mud Creek joins the Big Sioux slightly below the Kampeska inlet/outlet. However, Mud Creek flows have an impact on Lake Pelican. The Middle Sioux subwatershed contributes the highest sediment and nutrient load which reaches Lake Kampeska. Mahoney Creek, Soo Creek, Indian River and the Upper Sioux subwatersheds are all confluent in the Middle Sioux subwatershed.

Water quality monitoring during 2011 showed dissolved oxygen levels in the Big Sioux River often at low to impaired levels. Work is continuing to identify the sources of this low oxygen, so that best management practices can be developed to correct impairments.

Phosphorus currently trapped in Lake Kampeska has no natural escape from the lake. As the flood waters advance and recede in the spring, the lake acts as a large settling basin for the river system. This process causes nutrients and sediment to build up within the lake. The phosphorus that is not dissolved is trapped in the sediment layer or is utilized by the naturally-occurring algae. As wind churns the lake, as low oxygen levels occur and as the algae die, much of the phosphorus becomes available again and the cycle repeats. Along with changes in concentrations due to water volume changes the cycles can be seen on the Kampeska phosphorus concentration trend graph (Appendix 6—Phosphorus Trends).

PROJECT GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND TASKS

Environmental

Restore and/or maintain beneficial uses of Lakes Kampeska, Pelican and the Upper Big Sioux River by reducing nutrient and sediment loads that contribute to their over-enrichment.

Programmatic (BMPs)

This project is a continuation of a project to reduce phosphorus and sediment loads entering the Big Sioux River, Lakes Kampeska and Pelican. The goal is consistent with meeting targets for recommended BMPs in the 1994 SD DENR Diagnostic/Feasibility Study, the 1995 Pelican Lake Assessment and the 2000 NRCS PL 566 River Basin Study.

Table 4 Planned v. Implemented Milestones

Best Management Practice	Unit	Total Planned	Total Implemented
Ag Nutrient Mgt. System	units	1	1
Grassed Waterways	feet	14,000	14,500
Manure Application Management	6units	6	6
Small Ponds/Dams	units	70	87
Riparian Grazing Management	acres	3,500	543
Shoreline Stabilization	feet	1,000	3,238
Water Quality Monitoring	samples	68	46
Information & Education	units	76	130

OBJECTIVES AND TASKS

Objective 1. Reduce nutrient loads entering Lake Kampeska and Pelican Lake

Task 1. Reduce nutrient loading to Lake Kampeska and Pelican Lake by reducing loads originating from grazing and animal feeding operations

Products

1. Animal Nutrient Management Systems - 1 system (Amendment #2 June 10, 2015). Priority construction sites were selected from those systems with a 50+ AGNPS feedlot rating in the Upper Big Sioux River

Watershed. Landowners were responsible for 25% of the total cost of the systems.

Total Cost: $28,472 319 Funds: $ 0
Local Cash/In-kind: $6,417

Milestones:	Planned	1 System
	Completed	1 System
	Outcome	Costs rose considerably during this grant period. Additionally, higher feed costs and low animal value combined with a reduction of cost share virtually eliminated the number of willing volunteer participants toward the end of the grant period.

2. Manure Application Management - 6 units. Priority was given to producers innovative in using animal waste application practices in environmentally sensitive areas. Landowners applied nutrients based on plant uptake needs to avoid over application. Tools and training were provided to help landowners best apply animal nutrients, using nutrient soil tests and heavy-duty scales

Total Cost: $ 0 319 Funds: $0 Local Cash/In-kind: $ 0

Milestones:	Planned	6 landowners
	Completed	6 landowners
	Outcome	Most new manure application machinery have built-in scales, so the producer has more accurate information on applying manure. Scales were used annually by SDSU for yield measurement at the research farm.

3. Riparian Grazing Management – 3,500 acres. This practice was to buffer waterways, riparian zones and lands between cropland and wetlands. Its purpose was to contain silt and nutrients from sheet erosion. In partnership with the NRCS Continuous CRP program and also as an alternative for landowners who did not want to participate in CRP. The North Central Big Sioux Watershed and Northern Prairies Land Trust have shown that there is interest in riparian management if there is incentive provided. This was an attempt to see how much interest might be shown.

Total Cost: $304,380 319 Funds: $130,000 Other Fed $379,825
Local Cash/In-kind: $684,205

Milestones	Planned	3,500 Acres
	Completed	543 acres
	Outcome	The ‘Riparian Area Management’ approach in conjunction with CRP, is a new program and interest is developing.

Objective 2. Reduce Sediment Loadings to Lake Kampeska and Pelican Lake

Task 2. Reduce sediment loading by reducing sediment originating from crop and grazing lands, stream/river banks and lake shoreline.

Products

4. Grassed Waterways – 14,000 linear feet. Priority was given to critical cells identified by AnnAGNPS producers who are integrating other erosion control measures on contributing cropland fields, and sites where gully erosion and ephemeral erosion were evident on cropland in the priority subwatersheds. Focus was especially on withdrawn CRP fields.

Total Cost: $44,366 319 $19,842 Local Cash/In-kind: $24,524

Milestones	Planned	14,000 linear feet
	Completed	14,500 linear feet
	Outcome	A combination of wet weather, contractor availability and compliance applications through the US Corps of Engineers delayed construction.

5. Small Ponds - 70 units. This practice intent was to contain sediment runoff as well as provide water sources to keep livestock from direct contact with the Big Sioux River and its tributaries. The ponds serve as silt traps and also provide livestock and wildlife watering facilities.

Total Cost: $248,092 319 Funds $41,328 Local Cash/In-kind: $206,764

Milestones	Planned	70 units
	Completed	87 units
	Outcome	Dugouts and dams were in demand during dry seasons or years. During wet years there was minimal demand.

6. Riparian Grazing Management This practice was to buffer waterways, riparian zones and lands between cropland and wetlands. Its purpose was to contain silt and nutrients from sheet erosion. In partnership with the NRCS Continuous CRP program and also as an alternative for landowners who did not want to participate in CRP. The North Central Big Sioux Watershed and Northern Prairies Land Trust have shown that there is interest in riparian management if there is incentive provided. This was an attempt to see how much interest might be shown.

7. Lake Shoreline Stabilization – 1,000 linear feet. This practice cost shared at the rate of rock riprap with landowner options for abutments. Additional costs per foot for abutments were the responsibility of the property owner. Priority was based on assessments of high erosion areas.

Total Cost: $298,381 319 Funds: $0 Local Cash/In-kind: $298,381

Milestones:	Planned	1,000 linear feet

	Completed	3,238 linear feet
	Outcome	Low water levels allowed for access to endangered shorelines.

Objective 3. Information and Education

Task 5. Information and Education—86 Units

130 units of Information and Education activities took place to keep watershed stakeholders, taxpayers, residents and others informed on progress of and educated about the water quality improvement in the Upper Big Sioux River Watershed.

Products

8. Water Quality Monitoring - 68 tests. SD Game, Fish and Parks routinely tests one public beach on Lake Kampeska and one public beach on Pelican Lake to determine safety levels for swimming. On Lake Kampeska, the City of Watertown tests one public beach and Codington County tests one public beach.

Scheduled project in-lake testing and major runoff events were monitored at the lake inlet structure and the Big Sioux River at the Florence gauging station. (Appendix 2—Water Sampling Sites) Analytical measurements were: pH, dissolved oxygen, suspended solids, total Kjeldahl nitrogen, total phosphorus, total dissolved phosphorus and eColi bacteria. Analysis was completed by the South Dakota State Health Lab located in Pierre, South Dakota.

Total Cost $7,593		319 Funds $6,587
Milestones:	Planned	68 samples
	Completed	46 samples
	Outcomes	10 years of water sampling (current and previous segments) document that the Big Sioux River and Lake Kampeska show a progressive decline in nutrients in the water. (Appendix 5—P Trends)

9. Three newsletters. Three project newsletters chronicled project progress with cooperating producers in the watershed and were distributed to approximately 13,000 households. A fourth publication, *Beyond Bluegrass: soft alternatives for soil stabilization,* was distributed in 2012. A fifth publication as a 16-page insert in the July 29, 2016 *Watertown Public Opinion Newspaper* circulated to over 17,000 readers.

10. Student education contacts included 5 public and 4 private elementary school sixth grade classes participated annually in a riparian education outdoor education format. Ongoing partnership with the Bramble Park Zoo brought many more opportunities for education, including Roots 'N Shoots groups, Conservation Connection Saturday, Farm fun Day, 4th Grade Students, Camp Chance, and individual tours which included an introduction to the watershed and water quality issues. The RiverQuest program was held once in conjunction with the Watertown Boys & Girls Club.

11. Six group tours of the watershed practices were completed. These targeted stakeholders including sponsoring organization personnel and city council, along with volunteer board members, DENR and EPA staff, and interested landowners from the

watershed. Several groups toured the phosphorus plant, including the SD Municipal League and the SD Board of Water and Natural Resources.

12. Public Outreach included news releases, live and recorded radio, webpage / twitter / FaceBook electronic updates, advertisements, pamphlets, and presentations. Service club presentations and partnership activities were given in partnership with other agencies such as the SD Association of Conservation Districts. Annual *Watertown Winter Farm Shows*, and the *Mike Williams Annual Lecture Series* were included in this practice. *Fifty Shades of Grass* seminar and *Fifty Shades of Wetlands* presentation targeted city council representatives and residents and landscapers/contractors. Purchased ads in news service agencies included newspaper and radio media.

Total Cost $23,995 319 Funds $14,535 Local Cash/In-kind Match $9,461

Objective 4. Reports

1. GRTS (Government Report Tracking System) Reports were made annually.
2. Final GRTS report and this final Narrative Summary will be submitted to SD DENR.

EVALUATION OF GOAL ACHIEVEMENTS

As shown by the outcomes of each task, the overall achievements of this segment show a mixed result. The small number of animal nutrient management system milestones was driven by market conditions and a perceived need for increased incentives. The success of grassed waterways was the result of producers' need to access the fields. While the numbers of Best Management Practices were not reached in all tasks, progress has been made in *all* tasks of the project.

LONG TERM RESULTS IN TERMS OF BEHAVIOR MODIFICATION, STREAM/LAKE QUALITY, GROUND WATER AND/OR WATERSHED PROTECTION CHANGES

Strength of local support is manifest in the twenty plus years of this continuing locally-sponsored watershed project. Program staff at SD Department of Environment and Natural Resources has cited (promoted) the Upper Big Sioux River Watershed Project as an example of strong local sponsorship, which included local coordination, project development and implementation accomplished through the project advisory committee. (Appendix 5—Support)

Project staff developed and implemented outreach programs that conveyed information and participation opportunities to targeted segments of the area's population through partnerships, the project website/electronic media and local newspaper and radio. A mini-grant through SD Discovery Center 319 Information & Education Project enabled outreach to a larger regional area which included seven area lakes.

Behavior Modification: a striking modification was shown by the interest in planting alternative turf grasses and native plants. The project promoted the widespread use of filter fabric for erosion control which is now common practice and a "known" thing to

use. A livestock producer contact helped him realize animals in the drainage were causing pollution and worked with the project to find a solution even though his site would not accommodate a full animal nutrient management system. The landowner has become a well-spoken advocate of Riparian Area Management. Riparian Grazing Management has not been the most popular program available, although 543 acres have been enrolled. Producers would be more willing to enroll in RAM if some of the acre restrictions were modified.

Stream/Lake Quality, Ground Water and/or watershed protection changes are evident in the 2014 SDIRSWQA removing all but 3 items of impairment in the two lakes and Upper Big Sioux River. Ground water protection is not included under this Segment Implementation Plan, but does need to be considered in future development, due to drainage and large Confinement Animal Feeding Operation developments.

BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES DEVELOPED/REVISED

- Manure application management responsibility rests with landowner. Improved landowners' equipment replaced the need for cost share for the practice
- Riparian Area Management developed to replace streambank stabilization, in cooperation with NRCS CP30 program
- Phosphorus Removal Facility

COORDINATION EFFORTS

STATE INVOLVEMENT

- The SD Discovery Center: I&E Minigrant promoting information about land stabilization
- The SD Department of Environment and Natural Resources: project administration and funding resources
- The SD Game, Fish and Parks: permits, educational opportunities and project partners
- South Dakota State University: study of phosphorus and duckweed, consultation, and educational opportunities.
- SD School of Mines and Technology – study of the types of algae in the Phosphorus removal facility.

FEDERAL AGENCY INVOLVEMENT

Partnerships with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service for developing CRP contracts in conjunction with the Riparian Area Management program. US Army Corps of Engineers in approving Riparian Area Management project and mitigation site.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL AND OTHER GROUPS

The Upper Big Sioux River Watershed Project has enjoyed strong local support from the outset, and continues to build on that support. Support is evident in the upcoming Phase 7 continuation segment by the willing and generous support of the three local financial partners: City of Watertown, Watertown Municipal Utilities and Kampeska Water Project District. Other groups that took an active part in the project included the Lake Pelican Water Project District through financial assistance for small ponds and dams, Lake Area

Technical Institute through student interns and consultation on environmental technologies and meeting space for seminars. Kampeska Water Project District continued to be a prime sponsor, but also has been involved with other water quality projects such as selective dredging and phosphorus removal. The Codington and Hamlin Conservation District partnered on education activities such as the *Fifty Shades of Grass* and *Fifty Shades of Wetlands* seminars, along with the SD Discovery Center. Local chapter involvement of the Isaac Walton League of America continued through educational seminars for the public and opportunities for hands-on outdoor experiences for area youth.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Public involvement in the project has been a driving factor for many of the best management practices that were installed. Every contact, whether for shoreline stabilization or cleaning out a stock pond, provided the opportunity to expand the conversation beyond the immediate need to the overall goals of the project. Many calls received from the public were for news and information regarding watershed issues and advice on installing practices and impacts to the area water quality. Contact and outreach came by way of volunteer advisory board members, from invitations by the area service groups, and visibility at public events. The public wants to know what is being done for water quality and how they can help.

There has been strong interest and participation in education events throughout this segment. Staff received numerous requests to help with related water topics and presentations. Constant approaches made by the public for information about the water in the area, and feedback from what people see happening with the lakes and river. One RAM participant specifically comes to mind. He is strongly connected with the agriculture and business communities, and an excellent, well-spoken advocate for protecting surface water from contamination.

ASPECTS OF THE PROJECT THAT DID NOT WORK WELL

Riparian Grazing Management has not been the most popular program available, although 543 acres have been enrolled. Producers would be more willing to enroll in RAM if some of the acre restrictions were modified. One producer offered many more acres than the project would be allowed to enroll.

Water monitoring has been weather driven. Low flow in the river has limited testing.

These two areas are the milestone targets that were not reached or exceeded.

RESULTS AND FUTURE ACTIVITY RECOMMENDATIONS

Phase 6 has been an interesting time period for the Upper Big Sioux River Watershed Project. As always, the climate shifts with no regard to watershed project planning. Below average snowpack contributed limited runoff throughout the Big Sioux drainage system. As the limited runoff contributed to lower lake levels, it also provided opportunities to complete projects in some areas that are traditionally wet.

The Animal Nutrient Management system completed this phase provides separation of animals from Indian River. Components include a clean water diversion, dedicated rock crossing areas, assorted fencing, vegetated treatment area and shelterbelt.

14,500 linear feet of grassed waterways have been completed, thanks to optimum crop rotation and dryer field conditions. 87 small ponds have been created or cleaned of their sediments opening capacity for additional silt and nutrients in the years to come. Riparian Grazing Management has not been the most popular program available, although 543 acres have been enrolled. Producers would be more willing to enroll in RAM if some of the acre restrictions were modified.

Access to damaged shorelines has been good with work continuing. With 3,238 linear feet completed, those who remember the high water years are now prepared. The Phosphorus Removal Facility has reached the end of the experimental program. The gathered data is being analyzed and additional procedures are being explored. SDSU and SDSMT have both been involved with the process and are furthering research and assisting in plant configurations and nutrient removal efficiencies.

Educational efforts continue as a vital part of the program. Involvement of LATI students for hands-on training at the Phosphorus Removal Facility has been successful, along with tours of the plant. 6th grade days at BPZ, Conservation Connections, tours and activities with high school science and biology classes are all part of the yearly calendar.

Although Lake Kampeska is no longer on the 303d impaired water body list, Lake Pelican and the Big Sioux River are still considered impaired for *Warm Water Semi-Permanent Fish Life Propagation*, and the Big Sioux River is still considered impaired for *Limited Contact Recreation.* (Table 1. Source: http://denr.sd.gov/documents/14irfinal.pdf). Our recommendation for future activities should center on the immediate Lake Pelican watershed, with additional BMPs promoted and installed. Efforts should continue throughout the watershed area with emphasis on grassed waterways and riparian area management.

UPPER BIG SIOUX RIVER WATERSHED PROJECT
GRANT #7 (SEG 6) FY12

TOTAL EXPENDITURES

PRACTICE	EPA 319	USFWS	EQIP	SRF	CITY	MUNICIPAL UTILITIES	KAMPEKSA WATER PROJ	OP $$
ANIMAL NUTRIENT MGT	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 3,522.63	$ 18,532.72	$ -	$ 6,417.00
GRASSED WATERWAYS	$ 19,841.74	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 13,508.49	$ 11,015.77
INFORMATION/EDUCATION	$ 14,534.56	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 2,451.16	$ 3,555.21	$ 3,454.49	$ -
MISC OPERATING EXP	$ 25,335.00	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 7,368.26	$ 6,508.62	$ 1,014.88	$ -
P PLANT SALARY/OPS	$ 89,200.03	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 1,420.00	$ -	$ 20,000.00	$ -
RIPARIAN AREA MGT	$ 130,000.00	$ -	$ 379,825.00	$ -	$ 27,273.85	$ 8,102.01	$ 1,482.43	$ 137,521.82
SALARY	$ 112,500.00	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 47,430.56	$ 114,252.17	$ 50,757.29	$ -
SHORELINE	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 19,265.17	$ 66,935.82	$ 11,872.00	$ 200,307.77
SMALL PONDS	$ 41,328.00	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 24,111.07	$ 34,096.51	$ 2,500.00	$ 55,392.37
TECH (ADMIN)	$ 37,499.00	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 20,035.94	$ 17,706.94	$ 15,014.42	$ -
WATER TESTING	$ 6,586.72	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 299.99	$ 310.00	$ 396.00	$ -
TOTAL	$ 476,825.05	$ -	$ 379,825.00	$ -	$ 153,178.63	$ 270,000.00	$ 120,000.00	$ 410,654.72
BUDGET	$ 518,180.35	$ -	$ 202,095.00	$ 50,000.00	$ 151,420.00	$ 270,000.00	$ 120,000.00	
BALANCE	$ 41,355.30	$ -		$ 50,000.00		$ -	$ -	

UPPER BIG SIOUX RIVER WATERSHED PROJECT
GRANT #7 (SEG 6) FY12

TOTAL EXPENDITURES

PRACTICE	PELICAN WATER PROJ.	FED TOTAL	LOCAL TOTAL	TOTAL
ANIMAL NUTRIENT MGT	$ -	$ -	$ 28,472.35	$ 28,472.35
GRASSED WATERWAYS	$ -	$ 19,841.74	$ 24,524.26	$ 44,366.00
INFORMATION/EDUCATION	$ -	$ 14,534.56	$ 9,460.86	$ 23,995.42
MISC OPERATING EXP	$ -	$ 25,335.00	$ 14,891.76	$ 40,226.76
P PLANT SALARY/OPS	$ -	$ 89,200.03	$ 21,420.00	$ 110,620.03
RIPARIAN AREA MGT	$ -	$ 509,825.00	$ 174,380.11	$ 684,205.11
SALARY	$ -	$ 112,500.00	$ 212,440.02	$ 324,940.02
SHORELINE	$ -	$ -	$ 298,380.76	$ 298,380.76
SMALL PONDS	$ 90,664.11	$ 41,328.00	$ 206,764.06	$ 248,092.06
TECH (ADMIN)	$ -	$ 37,499.00	$ 52,757.30	$ 90,256.30
WATER TESTING	$ -	$ 6,586.72	$ 1,005.99	$ 7,592.71
TOTAL	$ 90,664.11	$ 856,650.05	$ 1,044,497.46	$ 1,901,147.51
BUDGET				
BALANCE				

BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICE BUDGET DETAILS
UPPER BIG SIOUX RIVER WATERSHED PROJECT
GRANT #7 (SEG 6) FY12

BMP PRACTICE	FED TOTAL	LOCAL TOTAL	TOTAL
ANIMAL NUTRIENT MGT	$ -	$ 28,472	$ 28,472
GRASSED WATERWAYS	$ 19,842	$ 24,524	$ 44,366
INFORMATION/EDUCATION	$ 14,535	$ 9,461	$ 23,995
P PLANT SALARY/OPS	$ 89,200	$ 21,420	$ 110,620
RIPARIAN AREA MGT	$ 509,825	$ 174,380	$ 684,205
SHORELINE	$ -	$ 298,381	$ 298,381
SMALL PONDS	$ 41,328	$ 206,764	$ 248,092
WATER TESTING	$ 6,587	$ 1,006	$ 7,593
TOTAL	$ 681,316	$ 764,408	$ 1,445,724