

Bureau of Water
Watershed Management Section
1000 SW Jackson, Suite 420
Topeka, KS 66612-1367



Phone: 785-296-4195
Fax: 785-296-5509
nps@ks.gov
www.kdheks.gov/water

Robert Moser, MD, Secretary

Department of Health & Environment

Sam Brownback, Governor

Kansas Water Pollution Control Revolving Loan Fund

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

SEP - 6 2011

To: **All Interested Government Agencies and Public Groups**

In accordance with procedures for implementing the Kansas Water Pollution Control Revolving Loan Fund Act (K.S.A. 65-3321 to 65-3329, K.A.R. 28-16-110 to 28-16-138 effective May 29, 1989 and K.A.R. 28-16-137 effective October 26, 1989, and T-28-16-137 amended October 17, 1989, and the Kansas Environmental Review Procedure for the Kansas Water Pollution Control Revolving Loan Program dated February 2003), an environmental review has been performed on the proposed agency action below:

Project Applicant: **Glacial Hills Resource Conservation and Development Region, Inc.**

SRF Project No.: **C20 1881 01**
Green Infrastructure / Non-Point Source Pollution Control Project
City of Holton Urban Stormwater Management Project

Project Total: \$239,138
Loan Amount: \$191,310
Principal Forgiveness: \$191,310

The State Fiscal Year 2011 Intended Use Plan (September 16, 2010 Final) scheduled a low interest Kansas Water Pollution Control Revolving Fund (KWPCRF) loan for this project. The entire loan amount dedicated to this project will come from KWPCRF funds allocated to the State of Kansas.

Glacial Hills Resource Conservation and Development Region, Inc. is a nonprofit organization that has received funding to implement a green infrastructure/nonpoint source pollution control project in the City of Holton. The City of Holton is located in Jackson County in northeastern Kansas with a population of approximately 3,330. This project will implement green infrastructure/nonpoint source pollution control practices within the city limits of Holton. These practices will consist primarily of stabilization of a stormwater ditch, construction of a bioretention cell, and a community rain garden.

Project Location, Description, and Purpose

The City of Holton lies within the Delaware River Watershed (HUC 10270103) which is part of the Kansas-Lower Republican River Basin. Glacial Hills Resource Conservation and Development Region, Inc. is sponsoring the project, and has served as the sponsor for the

Delaware River Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategy (WRAPS) group. The project being implemented begins at the corner of 3rd and Nebraska Streets where stormwater from the streets exits the below ground system and begins overland flow, and extends for approximately 2,100 linear feet through a residential area, terminating just upstream of the confluence with Banner Creek near the corner of Banner Creek Rd. and Iowa Street (Old Hwy 75). The total watershed area is approximately 124 acres. The project is located within a residential area in southwest Holton, and addresses erosion problems associated with an unstable stormwater drainage ditch in the area.

The City of Holton Urban Stormwater Management Project will implement stormwater best management practices to control stormwater runoff and abate urban non-point source pollution, including a reduction in sedimentation. The primary stormwater related components of the project include:

1. Stabilization of an existing stormwater drainage ditch along portions of its reach, which consists of a series of rock vanes, rock riprap lining, geotextile fabric and turf reinforcement to control erosion. Streambanks will be reshaped and lined or revegetated with native plant materials.
2. The project consists of a bioretention cell at the upstream end of the project. The bioretention cell will include native vegetation to help filter the stormwater, removing nutrients and other pollutants from the runoff prior to the runoff entering the newly stabilized stormwater ditch.
3. A community rain garden and vegetated swale will also be constructed as part of this project. The rain garden will be located east of the drainage ditch at the west end of Clements Drive, and will outlet to a vegetated swale.
4. Native vegetation will be used throughout the project area to reduce dependence on fertilizers and irrigation, help stabilize bank areas and enhance natural infiltration.

The primary environmental impacts during the construction of this project include the noise of heavy construction equipment and slight erosion of exposed soil. Measures to control construction erosion and other impacts will be employed as required by the necessary permits from applicable state and federal agencies. Land, materials, fuels and other forms of energy utilized in construction will be irretrievably committed to the project.

The primary environmental benefits after construction include stormwater management that will reduce the amount of sediments, organics, oil and grease, nutrients, metals and litter entering downstream surface waters within the watershed. Water quality benefits to be achieved with this project include a reduction in sediment loading to Banner Creek, the Delaware River and Perry Lake. Sediment is the highest priority issue identified in the Delaware River Watershed. Contaminant reductions will be accomplished through increased absorption and filtering of stormwater, stabilization of the stormwater ditch, reduction in frequency of high flows, and decreased volume of stormwater delivered to Banner Creek.

The project will have no known adverse impact on rare or endangered species, sensitive ecosystems, unique environmental features, critical archeological or historic sites, parks,

wetlands, groundwater quality, open space and recreation opportunities, prime farmland or air quality. No relocation of residences or other buildings will be required.

The project was coordinated with the U.S. Department of Interior Fish & Wildlife Service, Kansas Department of Health and Environment, Kansas Department of Wildlife & Parks, Kansas State Historical Society, State Department of Agriculture Division of Water Resources, State Conservation Commission, Kansas Biological Survey, Kansas Corporation Commission, and Kansas Geological Survey. All agencies provided clearance for the project and did not have any concerns of adverse consequences of the project. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Natural Resource Conservation Services and the Kansas Water Office were also contacted to participate in review of this project. However, no responses were received from these agencies.

A public meeting and public hearing for the project were held on September 3. No opposition to the project was expressed during the public meeting or hearing.

The project is estimated to cost \$239,138. The Glacial Hills RC&D has received a \$191,310 loan from KWPCRF Non-Point Source Pollution Green Project Reserve funds. The Glacial Hills RC&D will receive 100% principal forgiveness on the loan amount up to a maximum of 80% of the total project cost. The Glacial Hills RC&D will utilize other funding sources for the remaining 20% of the project cost.

After considering both short-term and long-term environmental effects of the project, it has been determined that any short-term adverse impacts during construction will be surpassed by the long-term benefits derived from the improved stormwater quality and other environmental benefits derived from the project.

This action is taken on the basis of review of the project management plan, the environmental information document, the environmental assessment and other supporting documentation. These are available for public scrutiny upon request. A copy of the environmental assessment document is attached. Persons wishing to comment on this Finding of No Significant Impact may submit comments to the Kansas Department of Health and Environment during this period to the attention of Kerry Wedel, Chief, Watershed Management Program.

Sincerely,



John W. Mitchell, Director
Division of Environment

attachments:
Environmental Assessment Document
Distribution List
Project Map

Environmental Clearance Documents – Distribution List
Green Infrastructure / Non-Point Source Pollution Abatement Project
Finding of No Significant Impact and Environmental Assessment

Kansas Dept. of Wildlife & Parks
Environmental Services Section
512 SE 25th Avenue
Pratt, Kansas 67124-8174

State Conservationist
Natural Resources Conservation Service
760 South Broadway
Salina, Kansas 67401

Executive Director
Kansas State Historical Society
6425 SW 6th Ave
Topeka, Kansas 66615

Kansas Geological Survey
KU – 1930 Constant Ave
Campus West
Lawrence, KS 66047

Kansas Biological Survey
University of Kansas
2041 Constant Ave
Lawrence, Kansas 66047-2906

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
700 Federal Building
601 E. 12th Street
Kansas City, Missouri 64106

Kansas Water Office
901 S. Kansas Avenue
Topeka, Kansas 66612

Kansas Dept. of Agriculture
Division of Water Resources
109 S.W. 9th Street
Topeka, Kansas 66612

Kansas Corporation Commission
130 S. Market - 2nd Floor
Wichita, Kansas 67202

U.S. Dept. of the Interior
Fish & Wildlife Service
Ecological Services/
Partners for Fish & Wildlife
2609 Anderson Avenue
Manhattan, Kansas 66502-2801

Kansas Dept. of Agriculture
Division of Conservation
109 S.W. 9th Street, Suite 2A
Topeka, Kansas 66612

US EPA, Region 7
NPDES & Facilities Management
901 N. 5th Street
Kansas City, KS 66101

Kansas Department of Health & Environment
1000 SW Jackson Street, Suite 400
Topeka, KS 66612

Mr. Gary Satter
Glacial Hills RC&D
P.O. Box 130
Wetmore, KS 66550

Mr. Brock Emmert
The Watershed Institute, Inc.
1200 SW Executive Dr.
Topeka, KS 66615

Mr. John Browning
Browning Environmental Solutions, Inc.
16377 S. Kaw Street
Olathe, KS 66062

The Holton Recorder
109 W. Fourth St.
Holton, KS 66436

Holton City Hall
430 Pennsylvania
Holton, KS 66436

Glacial Hills RC&D

Holton Stormwater Stabilization Project Holton, Kansas

Project No.: C20 1881 01

Project Type: Green Project Reserve / NPS

Loan Amount: \$191,310

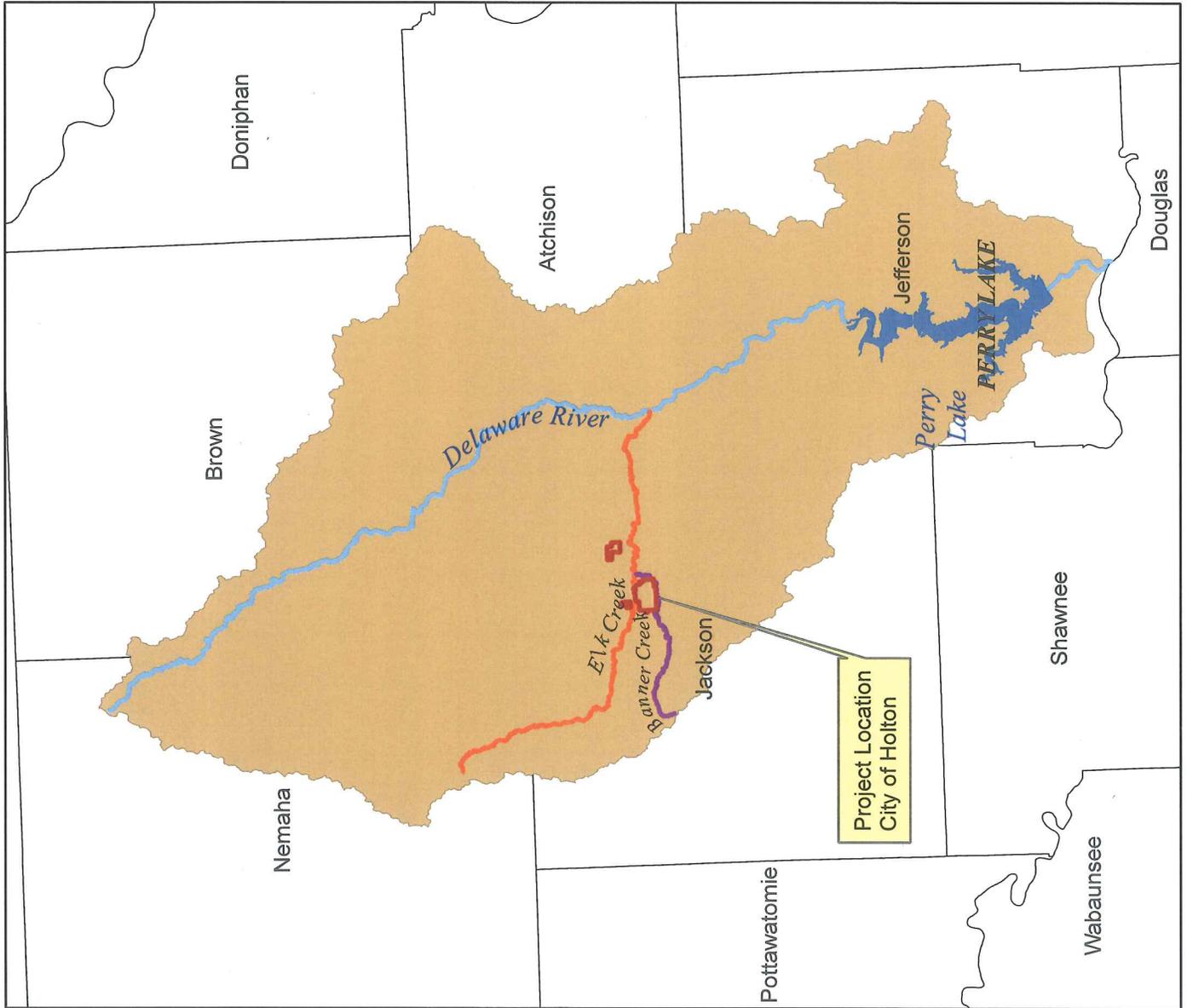
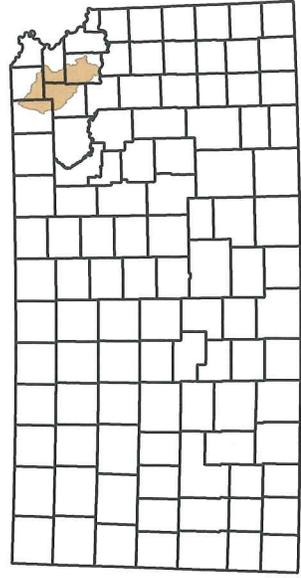
Map Legend

 Banner Creek

 Elk Creek

 Delaware River

 Delaware Watershed HUC 10270103



Environmental Assessment Document

A. Project Identification:

Project Applicant: **Glacial Hills RC&D**
Project Name: City of Holton Urban Stormwater Management Project
Project No.: **C20 1881 01**
Project Type: Urban Stormwater Management
Project Total: \$239,138
Loan Amount: \$191,310
Principal Forgiveness: \$191,310

B. Community Description:

Location: The City of Holton lies within the Delaware River Watershed (HUC 10270103) which is part of the Kansas–Lower Republican River Basin. Glacial Hills Resource Conservation and Development Region, Inc. is sponsoring the project, and has served as the sponsor for the Delaware River Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategy (WRAPS) group. The project being implemented begins at the corner of 3rd and Nebraska Streets where stormwater from the streets exits the below ground system and begins overland flow, and extends for approximately 2,100 linear feet through a residential area, terminating just upstream of the confluence with Banner Creek near the corner of Banner Creek Rd. and Iowa Street (Old Hwy 75). The total watershed area is approximately 124 acres. The project is located within a residential area in southwest Holton, and addresses erosion problems associated with an unstable stormwater drainage ditch in the area.

Population: The City of Holton has an estimated 2010 population of 3,329 people.

C. Project Description:

Purpose: The purpose of the project is to reduce sediment and associated pollutant loadings to downstream surface waters within the watershed. Water quality benefits to be achieved with this project include a reduction in sediment loading to Banner Creek, the Delaware River and Perry Lake. Sediment is the highest priority issue identified in the Delaware River Watershed. Contaminant reductions will be accomplished through increased absorption and filtering of stormwater runoff, stabilization of the stormwater ditch, reduction in frequency of high flows, and decreased volume of stormwater runoff delivered to Banner Creek.

The City of Holton Urban Stormwater Management Project will implement stormwater best management practices to control stormwater runoff, and abate urban non-point source pollution, including a reduction in sedimentation. The primary stormwater related components of the project include:

1. Stabilization of an existing stormwater drainage ditch along portions of its reach, which consists of a series of rock vanes, rock riprap lining, geotextile fabric and turf reinforcement to control erosion. Streambanks will be reshaped and lined or re-vegetated with native plant materials.
2. The project consists of a bioretention cell at the upstream end of the project. The bioretention cell will include native vegetation to help filter the stormwater, removing nutrients and other pollutants from the runoff prior to the runoff entering the newly stabilized stormwater ditch.
3. A community rain garden and vegetated swale will also be constructed as part of this project. The rain garden will be located east of the drainage ditch at the west end of Clements Drive, and will outlet to a vegetated swale.
4. Native vegetation will be used throughout the project area to reduce dependence on fertilizers and irrigation, help stabilize bank areas and enhance natural infiltration.

Design Factors: Stabilization of the stormwater ditch will be accomplished through the use of a combination of rock vanes, riprap lining and stone-toe protection, and turf reinforcement in order control erosion. The constructed bioretention cell will provide filtration of the stormwater through the use of native soils and vegetation.

Financial: The project is estimated to cost \$239,138. The Glacial Hills RC&D has received a \$191,310 loan from KWPCRF Non-Point Source Pollution Green Project Reserve funds. The Glacial Hills RC&D will receive 100% principal forgiveness on the loan amount up to a maximum of 80% of the total project cost. The Glacial Hills RC&D will utilize other funding sources for the remaining 20% of the project cost.

D. Alternatives Considered:

Various methods of stormwater management and non-point source pollution controls were considered, with several practices incorporated into the stormwater stabilization project as previously described.

E. Environmental Impact Summary:

Primary:

- a. Construction: noise of heavy construction equipment and slight erosion of exposed soil can be expected during construction.
- b. Environmental: The project will reduce the amount of sediments, organics, oil and grease, nutrients, metals and litter entering downstream surface waters within the watershed. Control of runoff entering downstream channel will help

to reduce channel and bank erosion, protect aquatic life and reduce sediment loading to Banner Creek, the Delaware River and Perry Lake.

Secondary:

- a. Population: This project will not adversely impact the population of the City of Holton. Holton citizens will benefit from stormwater best management practices that will improve water quality, reduce erosion, and protect aquatic habitat.
- b. Land Use and Trends: Continued urban development is anticipated. This development will further increase impervious surfaces within the watershed while simultaneously altering natural hydrologic regimes, requiring the use of stormwater best management practices to protect water quality.
- c. Environmental: No known adverse impacts are anticipated on rare or endangered species, sensitive ecosystems, groundwater, unique environmental features, critical archaeological or historic sites, parks, wetlands, or air quality.

Mitigation Measures Necessary: Measures to control construction erosion and other impacts will be employed as required by the necessary permits from applicable state and federal agencies. The project will comply with best management practices for mitigating impacts of construction runoff and properly storing and disposing of construction materials.

Irreversible and Irretrievable Commitment of Resources: Land, materials, fuels and other forms of energy utilized in construction will be irretrievably committed to the project.

F. Measures Taken to Insure Environmental Soundness:

Public Involvement: A public meeting and hearing were held on September 3, 2009.

Public Opposition or Opinions: No public opposition to the project was raised during the public meeting or public hearing.

Coordination and Documentation with Other Agencies and Special Interest Groups: Project information was distributed to the following State and Federal agencies for review and comment:

- a. United States Department of Interior Fish & Wildlife Service
- b. United States Army Corps of Engineers
- c. US Dept of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service
- d. Kansas Department of Wildlife & Parks
- e. Kansas Biological Survey
- f. Kansas Corporation Commission

- g. Kansas Water Office
- h. Kansas Department of Agriculture
- i. Kansas Geological Survey
- j. Kansas State Historical Society
- k. State Conservation Commission

No objections to the proposed project were received from the reviewing agencies.

G. Positive Environmental Effects to be Realized from the Project:

The primary environmental benefits after construction include stormwater management that will reduce the amount of sediments, organics, oil and grease, nutrients, metals and litter entering downstream surface waters within the watershed. Water quality benefits to be achieved with this project include a reduction in sediment loading to Banner Creek, the Delaware River and Perry Lake. Sediment is the highest priority issue identified in the Delaware River Watershed. Contaminant reductions will be accomplished through increased absorption and filtering of stormwater, stabilization of the stormwater ditch, reduction in frequency of high flows, and decreased volume of stormwater delivered to Banner Creek.

H. Reasons for Concluding No Significant Impacts:

The City of Holton Urban Stormwater Management Project will not adversely impact population densities and land use patterns within the City of Holton or the State. No known adverse impacts are anticipated on floodplains, wetlands, groundwater, or other environmentally sensitive areas. Minor, temporary, negative impacts associated with construction stormwater runoff will be offset by the long-term benefits of the project.



Reviewer

8.26.2011

Date