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Contract Arrangements

***Implementing
Water Resources Planning
through***

**Your West River
Conservancy
Sub-District**

**Cooperative Extension Service
South Dakota State University, Brookings
U.S. Department of Agriculture**

Implementing Water Resources Planning through the West River Conservancy Sub-District Contract Arrangements

By
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Conservancy Sub-District.

A number of possible contract arrangements are pending with respect to ways and means by which the West River Conservancy Sub-District can assist with the implementation of the State Water Plan. Some of these depend upon the granting of "Contracting Authority" by the electorate of the sub-district. The Directors of the sub-district believe the need for contracting authority will arise many times. However, only the most pressing needs for the authority are listed here:

A—Shadehill Irrigation Unit

The Shadehill Dam on the Grand River was completed in 1951 by the Bureau of Reclamation. The dam provides storage for 73,800 acre-feet of water reserved for "conservation use" which can include irrigation use, in addition to storage for flood control, recreation, and other uses.

In 1963 the Bureau of Reclamation completed its design and studies of an irrigation unit to use the "conservation storage" of the reservoir and to apply the water to 6,700 acres of land. For various reasons, the potential irrigators objected to the plan. As a re-

sult an irrigation district, necessary to serve as the legal contracting agent, was not formed.

In order to encourage the use of a valuable water resource, the West River Conservancy Sub-District has explored, with the irrigators and the Bureau, the possibilities of development under a plan that is acceptable to all. A contract proposal to do this is currently being negotiated.

Legal counsel for the Bureau is of the opinion that the conservancy sub-district will qualify as the contracting agent, providing they can meet the requirements of the state laws. The state law requires the sub-district to obtain contracting authority by vote of its electorate to participate in the proposed contract.

The Board of Directors of the sub-district anticipates that little, if any, tax monies will be needed to implement the contract. The water users will pay for services received.

(Continued next page)

Shadehill reservoir and dam near Lemmon. Bureau of Reclamation photo.



B—Domestic Water Systems

Many areas in the West River Conservancy Sub-District are lacking in water of satisfactory quantity or quality for domestic uses. These uses include water for household use, irrigating lawns and gardens, and for livestock. Many families are currently hauling water to meet the minimum needs for household use and are severely restricted for water for the other uses. As a result, much interest has developed in community water systems as the most practical method of providing water for these uses. People in three areas in the sub-district have organized to try to remedy the situation. Interest is developing in three more areas.

The conservancy sub-district has requested federal assistance in determining the best sources of water for these water-short areas.

With contracting authority, the sub-district may be able to help furnish delivery systems storage for water for domestic purposes. Storage for such systems might be provided through the addition of space in reservoirs that may be constructed in the future, such as a reservoir on the Little White River. Such projects would be required to show economic feasibility. It is anticipated that these projects would pay their own way through user fees, thus little, if any, tax money would be required for this activity.

C—Ground Water Surveys

An area in Tripp and Gregory Counties has a rather large area with shallow ground water supplies. A survey is needed to determine how much use can be made of this water source without overdrawing the supply. The sub-district will need contracting authority to enter into a survey of this magnitude.

The sub-district is currently participating in a ground water survey in a small portion of Corson and Dewey Counties. This area is so small that contracting authority is not needed for this survey.



Construction of a rural domestic water supply through a community water system project in Lincoln County.

The South Dakota Water Plan is being prepared in accordance with the newly enacted South Dakota Water Resources Management Act. This publication is informational material being presented to inform the public of actions and authorities that are related to the South Dakota Conservancy District's role in the implementation of the State Water Plan.

Issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension work, Acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914, in cooperation with the United States Department of Agriculture. Duane Acker, Director of Extension, South Dakota State University, Brookings.
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