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LEGALS

Upper Maple River Watershed Plan (Site 2A) - Notice of Availability of Draft EIS and Public Meeting

Notice of Availability of Draft Watershed Plan - Environmental Impact Statement and Public Meeting April 30, 2026 for the Upper Maple River Watershed Plan sponsored by the Cass County Joint Water Resource District. The United States Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) announces the availability of a Draft Watershed Plan - Environmental Impact Statement (Draft Plan-EIS) for the Upper Maple River Watershed Plan. The Cass County Joint Water Resource District proposes to construct a multi-purpose, off-channel, dry dam with a drainage area of 59.7 square miles, embankment length of 2.3 miles, maximum height of 31 feet, and average height of 11 feet. The dam will provide 2,863 acre-feet of temporary flood storage at the auxiliary spillway crest elevation. The dam will reduce nutrient transport and flood damages on 658 acres of downstream cropland during the 100-year flood. Within the interior of the dry dam, the project will develop 264.3 acres of constructed wetlands managed with biomass harvest to optimize dissolved phosphorus removal. The project will result in a net increase of 245 acres of wetlands. A roadway grade raise on 21st Street SE would be completed and two low farmstead levees constructed in association with the project. The proposed improvements would be partially funded by NRCS through the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act of 1954 (Public Law 83-566).

You are invited to attend an in-person public meeting to provide input on this project.

Date: Thursday April 30, 2026 Time: 9:00 am Location: Cass County Highway Department, 1201 Main Avenue West, West Fargo, ND 58078

Comments on the Draft Plan-EA may be submitted during a public comment period starting April 10, 2026 and ending on May 29, 2026. The complete Draft Watershed Plan-EA can be accessed online at: <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/state-offices/north-dakota/upper-maple-river-watershed-plan>

A printed copy of the Draft Plan-EIS will also be available at the Cass County Water Resource Districts office located at 1201 Main Avenue West, West Fargo, ND 58078.

Comments may be sent to Erica Althoff, ND NRCS Acting State Conservation Engineer, erica.althoff@usda.gov, 220 E Rosser Ave, PO Box 1458, Bismarck, ND, 58502-1458.

(April 14, 21 & 28, 2026)

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ed in the NE ¼ of Section 13-142-57 in Grand Prairie Township. Marilyn Henderson, Madeline Luke, Aaron Henderson, Vicki Voldal Rosenau, Scott Ulmer, Gayle Burchill, and Jack Ertelt expressed concerns, some of which are regarding the company's presence in China, compacity of the Spiritwood Aquifer, locally owned grain purchases, results of fertilizer on soil, water quality downstream from facility, air pollution, diseases, cancer, forcing small family farms out, what happens when a breach takes place, maintenance of roads, property tax, set back area, asking to delay decision one month, antibody resistance, worn out welcome in other states, source and amount of water used. David Bullerman of Son-D-Farms and the Karges family would like to diversify their farm in order to keep this generation and generations to come on the family farm. To accomplish this, they have decided Pipestone Systems aligned best with their passion and goal of pig farming. Son-D-Farms value stewardship, animal care, and responsible farming and are asking for the approval of a Condition Use Permit for the hog farm being proposed. Nick Fitzgerald explained Pipestone would be the management company. The Bullerman family would still be the owner. Pipestone does interact internationally, with clients that raise pigs, including in China and Mexico in management of facilities. The farm would use approximately 40,000 gallons of water per day. They will consult with Barnes Rural Water and supplement with wells. They will be entering into road use agreements with the townships and county. Blackhawk Farms needs good roads for staff and freight so they will be responsible for the cost of maintaining and operating the roads. Cleaning takes place each day. Nathan Pesta explained that the structures are designed with Midwestern Client Service 36 and ACI 318 Structural Code. Concrete pits are designed to hold manure for up to 16 months storage. Proactive drain tile leak detection monitoring system around foundation of the pit providing real time integrity insurance. The structure is designed where runoff is captured and filtered and controlled on-site through divergent and storm water basin to control any storm water coming off. There are high standards of environmental stewardship and regulatory compliance and technological innovation. Tom Bodine with the ND Agriculture Department, Marty Haroldson with the ND Environmental Control, Tamra Heinz with the ND Pork Council, Amber Wood with the ND Livestock Alliance explained the strict standards that are applied including odor standards, annual manure nutrient compliance inspections, Nutrient Management Plans, Pollution Management, and how local and state standards are followed. Jennifer Feist, VC-BC Development Corporation supports Blackhawk Farms contingent that all state and local requirements are met. Terry Entzinger, dairy farm operator, explained the operations are very well policed and trucks do not enter the barns to get manure on the tires to pass on down the roads. Mike Clemens stated the value added to farms brings people back to farms and keeps them viable. Farmers benefit from having the manure applied to their fields. They have not had any problems with roads, and the aquifer will have no issues supplying the water needed. Casey Drege represents clients in like matters and stated the commission must render decision based on state law and facts or support evidence. Denial or delay needs to be articulated. Litigation can take years. Barnes County States Attorney, Tonya Duffy, agreed with Casey Drege's statements. Dwight Kiefert, District 24, serves on the ND Ag Committee. The main concerns that people have has been addressed at the state

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level and sessions are open to the public. He also stated to be aware of special interest groups from out of state. Many letters of support were also submitted to the commission regarding the pros and cons of approving the hog farm facility. Tonya Duffy re-iterated that decision needs to be made based on meeting the standards and on factual findings.

Planning & Zoning

Discussion took place on a Conditional Use permit which was presented for Blackhawk Farms RE, LLP located in the NE ¼ 13-142-57 in Grand Prairie Township for establishing a hog farm of 8,511 pigs. Planning and Zoning Board approved the permit. Nick Fitzgerald stated 16 full-time employees will be on-site staff. Payroll for the on-site staff will be 1.221 million dollars with fully sponsored employer health care. The average payroll with the benefits and retirement plan is \$76,000.00 per team member. Entry level is \$50,000.00. Recruitment will be locally first. There will be no housing on site. Vicky Lovell is expressed concern if there will be an adequate water supply. Tonya Duffy explained that under state statute, there is a certain list of things that the county commissioners may not do. Commissioners cannot make findings that are not based on fact. There was no testimony received that there would be a water issue. Testimony and comments received were that if there is not enough water, the facility would not be built. The farm could not be sustained if water were not available. Testimony is that Barnes Rural Water will be used with a well as backup. Pete Paulson made a motion to go ahead with the CUP; Mike Schwehr seconded the motion. During discussion, read by Commissioner Carlblom, the six points made by statute for the CUP are as follows: 1) That the establishment, maintenance, or operation of the conditional use will not be detrimental to or endanger the public health, safety, morals, comfort, or general welfare. 2) That the uses, values, and enjoyment of other property in the area for purposes already permitted shall be in no foreseeable manner substantially impaired or diminished by the establishment, maintenance, or operation of conditional use. 3) That the establishment of the conditional use will not impede the normal and orderly development and improvement of the surrounding properties for uses permitted in the district. 4) That adequate utilities, access roads, drainage, and other necessary site improvements have been or are being provided. 5) That adequate measures have been or will be taken to provide ingress and egress so designed as to minimize traffic impact on the area. 6) That the conditional use shall substantially conform to all applicable regulations of the district in which it is located. The motion carried upon roll call vote with Commissioners Olauson, Paulson, Carlblom, and Schwehr voting yes. Commissioner Lovell voted no due her belief that the utility aspect of point 4 was not provided at the time of this meeting. A setback variance located in the NE ¼ 26-140-59 of Hobart Township was presented for Shawn and Karla Ranisate for an addition onto the south side of their house. Bill Carlblom made a motion to approve the variance; Shawn Olauson seconded the motion. The motion carried with all members voting yes upon roll-call vote. A setback variance located in Ashtabula Township, Lots 5 and 6 Jewett Beach Section 210 and 22-148-58 for a cabin located 5' from the south property line on Lot 5 and a shed 7' from the north property line on Lot 6. Shawn Olauson made a motion to approve the variance; Vicky Lovell seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously upon roll call vote with all members voting yes. Building permits were reviewed.

MIS Department

Information was presented for chang-

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ing the system the county uses to backup various Windows servers with a package called Datto which includes local hardware backups in the cost. This system will enable bringing a server online on its own in the event of a hardware failure and has automated checks of the backups. Restores are faster and this system provides added protection against malware using immutability. The cost is \$5,490.45 per month for a total of \$65,885.40 annually. There is a one-time setup fee of \$810.00 which would be split 50/50 with the City of Valley City. The City of Valley City will be billed monthly for their portion of the cost. Vicky Lovell moved to approve the Datto system; Mike Schwehr seconded the motion. The motion carried with all members voting yes upon roll call vote.

Corrections

Jeremy Wolff is requesting to attend the Law Enforcement Training Academy. This is a twelve-week training course which he would be attending if the commissioners approved. By passing this course, he would be able to be a backup for a sheriff's deputy in the Sheriff's Office if needed. Corrections is short one correctional officer. The commissioners felt at this time that Jeremy's time is too valuable to be gone for a 12-week period of time. They may reconsider the decision at a later time.

Auditor's Office

Mike Schwehr moved to approve the March 3, 2026 minutes as presented. Shawn Olauson seconded the motion. Motion carried upon roll call vote with all members voting yes. The Barnes County Water Resource District is short on funds to make their bond payment and are requesting release of the balance of their covid dollars funding for the Little Dam project. The balance is \$265,694.61. Shawn Olauson made a motion to release the covid dollar request; Vicky Lovell seconded the motion. Motion carried upon roll call vote with all members voting yes. The publishing Barnes County Water Resource agenda was discussed. Barnes County Water Resource is not required by law to publish their meeting agendas. Shawn Olauson made a motion to rescind the motion made years ago stating that the Barnes County Water Resource publish their meeting agenda; Vicky Lovell seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously upon roll call vote with all members voting yes.

Commission Discussion

Pete attended the Hazard Mitigation Meeting. Eldred Knutson informed Pete that the State VA has three vans up for sale. Two are old and have high mileage and one is a 2017 Ford transit van with 40,000 miles and they are asking \$30,000.00. These options do not fit our needs. Shawn Olauson gave an update on Clausen Springs Dam and Browns Dam. Upper Sheyenne River Joint Water Resource is holding their meeting at the Eagles. Snagging and Clearing is finished for this year. The museum is getting showcases from Sargeant County Museum. The board raised the wage for Wes. Mike Schwehr gave an update on City County Health District. They are remodeling the check-in area to make it more private. A Versa grant was received for the project. Vicky informed us applications for CVDG grants open on May 28th and Energy Conservation Grant applications are open until May 14th through the Department of Commerce called Innovate ND. Bill Carlblom gave an update on pipe and Asbestos removal from the pipe running from the tunnel in the courthouse basement to the jail. Funding for the HVAC system was discussed. With no further business, Vicky Lovell made a motion, seconded by Shawn Olauson, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously, with all members voting aye and the meeting was adjourned at 10:06 a.m.

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Bill Carlblom, Chairman Barnes County Commission Julie Mindt Barnes County Auditor

(April 14, 2026)

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Probate No. 02-2026-PR-00007

IN DISTRICT COURT STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA COUNTY OF BARNES SOUTHEAST JUDICIAL DISTRICT

In the Matter of the Estate of Madonna Katherine Peterson a/k/a Madonna Peterson, deceased

Notice is hereby given that the undersigned has been appointed personal representative of the above estate. All persons having claims against the deceased are required to present their claims within three months after the date of the first publication or mailing of this notice or the claims will be forever barred. Claims must either be presented to Patricia L. Peterson, personal representative of the estate, at 8300 Creekside Circle, Bloomington, MN 55437 or filed with the Court. Dated March 22, 2026 /s/ Patricia L. Peterson Personal Representative

(April 7, 14 & 21, 2026)

IN THE STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA, COUNTY OF BARNES, IN THE DISTRICT COURT, SOUTHEAST JUDICIAL DISTRICT

NewRez LLC d/b/a Shellpoint Mortgage Servicing, Plaintiff,

v.

Alexia R. Laughlin and Alexander Jeffrey Smith and First National Bank of Omaha and DCI Credit Services Inc., and any person in possession, Defendants.

NOTICE OF REAL ESTATE SALE

CIVIL NUMBER: 02-2025-CV-00177

1. Judgment in the amount of \$266,500.42, having been entered in favor of Plaintiff and against Defendants, which Judgment was filed with the Clerk of Courts of Barnes County, North Dakota, on December 8, 2025, for the foreclosure of a real estate mortgage.

2. Notice is hereby given pursuant to said Judgment that the real property described as:

Lot Four (4), in Block One (1), of Rosseland and Thompson's Addition to the City of Valley City, Barnes County, North Dakota, according to the certified plat thereof on file and of record in the Office of the Register of Deeds in and for said County and State.

Real Property address: 1224 Central Ave N, Valley City, ND 58072. The above real property is the subject of the Mortgage dated August 12, 2022, which Mortgages, Alexia R. Laughlin, Alexander Jeffrey Smith, executed and delivered to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as Mortgagee, as nominee for First International Bank & Trust, its successors and assigns and recorded in the office of the Clerk and Recorder of Barnes County, North Dakota, on August 15, 2022, Instrument Number 297466, which is subject to the entered Judgment. Said Mortgage was assigned to Plaintiff, its successors or assigns, by Assignment of Mortgage recorded January 17, 2025, Instrument Number 302036.

3. In order to realize the amount of \$266,500.42, as of December 8, 2025, plus interest accruing thereafter on said amount as awarded by the court, together with the costs and expenses of sale, will be sold subject to redemption as provided by law as one parcel of land at public auction, subject to the lien for unpaid real estate taxes and assessments of Barnes County, North Dakota, and easements and restric-

LEGALS

tions of record, to the highest bidder for cash under the direction of the Sheriff of Barnes County, North Dakota, at the main entrance of the Barnes County Courthouse located at 230 4th Street NW, Valley City, North Dakota 58072-0774, on May 26, 2026 ("Sale Date"), at 10:00 AM.

4. If the sale is set aside for reason, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled only to a return of the deposit paid. The purchaser shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagor, the Mortgagee or the Mortgagee's attorney.

DATED this 9th day of April, 2026.

SHERIFF OF BARNES COUNTY Randy McClaffin

By: Randy McClaffin Sheriff / Deputy Sheriff of Barnes Halliday, Watkins & Mann, P.C. By /s/ Tyler S. Wirick Tyler S. Wirick Attorneys for Plaintiff 376 East 400 South, Suite 300 Salt Lake City, UT 84111 Tel: 801-355-2886 Email: tylerw@hwmlawfirm.com

(April 14, 21 & 28)

Tressie C. Brazil (ND Atty ID # 06077) Brazil Law Office, PLLC 4201 38th Street Southwest, Suite 105 Fargo, North Dakota 58104 701.373.7860 (T) // 701.373.7862 (F) tressie@tbrrazilaw.com Attorney for Dean Hoffmeyer Probate File No.: 02-2026-PR-00012

Notice to Creditors

State of North Dakota in District Court County of Barnes

In the Matter of the Estate of Shirley E. Hoffmeyer

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned has been appointed as Personal Representative of the above estate. All persons having claims against the deceased are required to present their claims within three months after the date of the first publication or mailing of this notice or the claims will be forever barred. Claims must either be presented to the Attorney for the Personal Representative, Tressie C. Brazil, Brazil Law Office, PLLC, 4201 38th Street Southwest, Suite 105, Fargo, North Dakota 58104, to the Personal Representative, Dean Hoffmeyer, 2206 5th Street, Wheatland, North Dakota 58079, or filed with the Court.

Signed on Apr 1, 2026, in the State of North Dakota, County of Cass. /s/ Dean Hoffmeyer Dean Hoffmeyer, Personal Representative

(April 14, 21 & 28, 2026)

Public Notice

Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA) Section 324 of the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act, aka SARA Title III (Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act) states public notice shall be made annually, informing the public of the means to access information about Extremely Hazardous Substances that are manufactured, stored, and used within their community. Follow-up emergency notices may subsequently be issued.

Therefore, information concerning LEPC meetings, SARA Title III hazardous materials planning which includes our Barnes County LEPC Hazardous Materials Emergency Response Plan (ERP's), safety data sheets (SDS), hazardous chemical inventory forms (Tier II), listing extremely hazardous substances manufactured, stored, or used within Barnes County can be obtained during normal business hours by contacting Jessica Jenrich, Emergency Manager at 230 4th St NW Room 300 Valley City ND 58072 or (701)845-8188.

(April 14, 2026)