

Ready Communities Implementation Grant Round 1 - Brown County Regional Sewer District | Studabaker, Clint

Applicant View

General Information

Applicant Contact Information

*Contact first name: Clint
*Contact last name: Studabaker
*Contact title: Board member
*Contact telephone number: 812-720-7003
*Contact email address: w.studabaker@comcast.net

Organization Contact Information

*Organization name: Brown County Regional Sewer District
*Mailing address: P.O. Box 1881
Mailing address line 2:
*Mailing city: Nashville
*Mailing state: Indiana
*Mailing zip: 47448
*Organization telephone number: 812-720-7003
*Organization website: n/a

Organization Eligibility

*Does your organization meet the definition of an exempt entity as defined by Internal Revenue Code ("Code") section 501(c)(3) and is it treated as a public charity described in Code section 170(b)(1)(A)? Yes

If you replied no to the above question, a fiscal sponsor is required. What exempt organization will serve as your fiscal sponsor?

Sponsor organization:

Sponsor contact first name:

Sponsor contact last name:

Sponsor address:

Sponsor telephone number:

Sponsor email address:

Organization Fiscal Information

*Upload a copy of your organization's (or sponsor's) tax determination letter. Scan0001.pdf
*Upload a copy of your organization's (or sponsor's) most recent 990. ROI 990 Tax letter.pdf
*What was the date of your organization's (or sponsor's) last audit? 1/01/2021

Project Proposal

*Project Name: BCRSD Wastewater Infrastructure Strategic Plan
*What county or counties will this project serve? Brown
*What priority from the solution section of the county's Quality of Place and Workforce Attraction Plan does your project address. Please state exactly as listed in the plan.

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Priority from Solution Section of BC Quality of Place and Workforce Attraction Plan:

1.1.2 Place Branding & Asset Promotion

Showcasing outdoor assets and creating a strategy for reaching target audiences.

1.2.1 Trail Enhancement & Connectivity

Increasing trail connectivity over intermittent streams, creek crossings.

2.1.1 STEAM Learning Initiatives

Research Best Practices for stream monitoring, data collection and analysis.

3.3.1 Housing

Provide resources and inform land-use policies. Gather rural land-use policies and Best Practices for agricultural surface water (run-off) management. Lower cost of housing due to community sewer service for numerous homes on smaller lots.

3.3.4 Environmental Education & Agritourism

Create increased standards of environmental protection and establish clean-up initiatives to secure the beauty of Brown County. Develop agritourism and heritage tourism asset management.

*Please explain how your grant project aligns with this priority.

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1.1.2 Place Branding & Asset Promotion

Showcasing Brown County's outdoor assets and the beauty of our natural environment, is key to enhancing our Place Branding. However, our natural beauty cannot withstand continued degradation from failing or under performing onsite septic systems. E. coli and other harmful bacteria, as well as numerous harmful chemicals, contaminate the soil, groundwater and surface waters if left untreated. The Quality of Place Plan clearly identified the need for "clean, usable, enjoyable, healthy, and safe natural environment as a high priority, #6 in the ranking of top initiatives. Another Initiative that received high ranking (#8) called for increasing community beautification efforts for a clean, natural, pristine environment. Regionally, natural assets provide improved quality of life and potential for tourism and recreation to diversify the economy. With clean water we can confidently market our unique environment.

1.2.1 Trail Enhancement and Connectivity

Brown County's trail network has grown from rough hiking trails through Brown County State Park and Yellowwood State Forest to a well-managed interconnected system traversing thousands of acres of wooded lands, crossing numerous intermittent streams and creeks across the County. Priority #5 of Initiatives calls for expanding and developing new trails. Many have recently been developed as mountain bike trails, adding greater variety for enjoying Brown's unique natural environment. But trails, and the streams they cross, must be protected from sewage contamination.

2.1.1 STEAM Learning Initiatives

This project can readily align with environmental science curriculum for both middle school and high school science classrooms. Data generated by this wastewater strategic planning project will provide current facts about water quality issues in Brown County. Data collected can be directly used by the AP Environmental Science program in High School, a discipline that teaches understanding of our complex natural environment and the impact that human influence creates. The project will provide a working example of a professional, detailed environmental study in the students' own backyard. It will provide an opportunity for ongoing assessment of stream sampling, monitoring, data collection and analysis by the next generation of young environmental stewards.

3.3.1 Housing

As a bedroom community, we need to give homeowners a clean environment, safe for children, families and tourists alike to live and recreate without risk from enteric diseases caused by polluted soils, surface waters and groundwater. In addition, lack of housing is a regional development barrier. Existing homes and new homes need effective, reliable wastewater management. Thoughtfully planned and technically proficient community sewer collection and treatment systems promote targeted clusters of affordable new housing developments and the commercial amenities that accompany a growing residential population.

3.3.4 Environmental Education and Agritourism

\$42.7 million in tourism was generated in 2017 throughout Brown County (2017 Economic Impact of Brown County Tourism, Rockport Analytics). The #2 Priority Ranking of Initiatives in the Quality of Place Plan/assessment stated that youth-friendly recreational activities needed to be developed. High on the activities list is clean water for recreational usage. Water free of bacteria for kayaking, fishing, and swimming is critical for usable, safe, and exciting recreational activities. E. coli from poorly operating or failing septic system must be identified and alternatives developed to eliminate untreated human sewage from entering our natural environment, including our soils, surface waters and groundwaters. The #4 Priority Ranking of Initiatives for expanding nature conservancy has a direct connection to efforts for addressing our impaired water bodies and removing untreated residential wastewater. Planning for wastewater collection and management means much less impact on the natural Brown County environment that we all enjoy.

*Please upload a description of your grant project (up to 3 pages). #3 Description Scope of work.docx

*Describe why this project is needed and/or provide evidence to support how the project would address a community need.

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Issues such as poor soils, small lot sizes, hilly terrain, pollution of surface and ground water, improper on-site septic system design and old septic installations have led to multiple studies to determine the need for community sewers versus onsite wastewater management. The first investigation was with R.W. Armstrong in January 2001, followed by Ladd Engineering in September 2003, and another by Ladd Engineering in September 2009. Each of these studies included public hearings, which drew in residents of the proposed service areas around the communities of Helmsburg and Bean Blossom. These early studies, however, did not incorporate other, larger geographic areas of Brown County.

Many areas have already been identified where onsite septic systems are not working properly or are non-existent. Community-wide sewage collection and treatment would help reduce untreated human waste from entering the soil, groundwater and surface water streams. Septic systems that are not working properly pose serious public health problems, including the potential spread of disease from high E. coli or other bacteria that can harm individuals, their families, and the water in the area. Community-wide sewer systems are often the best solutions when local soil conditions (clay material, shallow to bedrock soils and steep slopes conditions found in Brown County) are not well suited for properly operating onsite septic lateral fields. Homes and businesses that are numerous and close together often have older septic systems needing repair or replacement. Throughout Brown County, many of these properties do not have the available land area or conditions to complete needed repairs under the current guidelines of the Indiana State Department of Health. This situation usually means that a central sewer system is more economically feasible.

In recent years two significant studies were made in Brown County. In 2008 a Community Needs and Assessment study was completed by the Brown County Community Foundation (BCCF). The BCCF study included a written survey that questioned what the County's residents considered the most pressing concerns. The number one concern was understandably jobs. However, the number two concern was effectiveness of septic systems and sewers. When asked to prioritize their issues, 61% of the citizens said their number one priority was "to improve the sewer and water systems", and with good reason. The need for improvement is grounded on scientific basis. The Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH) has reported that several diseases are caused by bacteria and parasites found in sewage or sewage contaminated water. These include Campylobacteriosis, the most common diarrheal illness in America. Another disease is Cryptosporidiosis caused by a microscopic parasite and is the most common waterborne disease in the United States. And a disease of particular concern to young children and the elderly is caused by a strain of Escherichia coli (E. coli). E. coli bacteria is found in water contaminated with feces from warm-blooded animals, including humans.

In 2009, the Brown County Vision 2020 Plan was released. The Brown County Vision 2020 Plan had similar findings. The Plan concluded that clean air and water, including our streams and lakes, were health priorities for Brown County. The 2020 Plan matched with the previous BCCF study stating that 52% of our citizens said that the County needed to "promote the County's environmental aspects". Effective water and sewer systems are a major part of this calling and need to be developed and maintained.

*Which of the following categories does your project fall within? Connectivity and Infrastructure Development
 Check all that apply. Community Cohesion and Support

*Who will this grant project serve?

The impact of water quality in Brown County reaches well beyond the borders of county lines. When evaluating the larger watershed of the Indiana Uplands area, Brown County is upstream of the remaining Indiana Uplands ten (10) counties. The major streams flowing through Brown County are the Bean Blossom Creek and the Salt Creek. Bean Blossom Creek and its tributaries flow into Lake Lemon and eventually into the Lower White River basin. Salt Creek and its tributaries flow into Lake Monroe and into the Lower East Fork of the White River. Both the Lower White River watershed and the Lower East White River watershed encompass all or parts of Monroe, Owen, Greene, Lawrence, Daviess, Dubois, Martin, Orange, and Washington counties. The overall environmental quality of the entire watershed is impacted by what happens in Brown County.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, there were 15,035 residents in Brown County in 2017. This project will serve and include all of Brown County. Septic records for all residential and commercial properties will be investigated during this project. Since Brown county is upstream of Lake Monroe which serves as the drinking water source of Bloomington, this project will indirectly serve most of Monroe County residents as well.

*How many people will it serve directly? 15035

*How many people will it serve indirectly? 146986

*Please provide a general timeline for your project.

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| Task | Timeline |
|--|----------------------------|
| Submit Grant Application | April 15, 2019 |
| Receive Grant Award | June 2019 |
| Prepare RFP | April - May 2019 |
| Submit RFP to select Engineering firms | Early May 2019 |
| Receive RFPs | Mid May 2019 |
| Review and Evaluate RFP Submittals | Early June 2019 |
| Award Engineering Study Contract | Mid June 2019 |
| Phase 1: Benchmarks | Mid June - Early July 2019 |
| Phase 2: Internal Research | Mid June- Mid July 2019 |
| Phase 3: External Research | July - August 2019 |
| 1st Report | Mid August 2019 |
| Phase 4: Analysis and Tracking | August - Mid October 2019 |
| 2nd Report | Early November 2019 |
| Phase 5: Strategic planning | November - December 2019 |
| Phase 6: Campaign Development | December - January 2020 |
| 3rd Report | Late January 2020 |
| Phase 7: Roll out Communication Campaign | February - April 2020 |

Project Funding

*What is your total project budget? 108000
 *What percentage of the total project budget are you requesting from ROI? 72.2
 *Will other funding partners participate? Yes

If yes, please provide their name(s), organization(s), and project role(s).

A grant application under the Indiana Finance Authority, State Revolving Fund's Regional Assistance Program (RAP) has been submitted to supplement this work effort. The RAP grant application is for \$30,000.00. If the RAP grant application is initially approved, Phases 1, 2 and 3 of the internal and external research through the 1st report will be completed.

*If you do not receive the full amount you are requesting, will you be able to move forward with the project? Please explain.

\$78,000.00 is requested from ROI.

If the RAP grant application is initially approved, Phases 1, 2 and 3 of the research through the 1st report will be completed. However, it is very important for the project to continue through the preparation of the countywide strategic plan. Because Brown's residents need to understand the value and impact of their personal roles in onsite wastewater management, the campaign for communication and education will be essential to gather "buy-in" from the community. Incomplete funding will require a significant modification to the project scope of work.

*Please upload a project budget that includes all sources of funding #15 budget and funding sources.docx for the project. Attach a narrative to provide clarification, if needed.

Project Partnerships

*Please detail other organizations that will participate in this project and what they will contribute to the project.

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The Brown County Health Department (BCHD), acting under the direction of the Brown County Health Officer, is mandated to administer the requirements of Rule 410 IAC 6-8.3, Residential On-site Sewage Systems. In that capacity, the BCHD maintains records on the installation and repair of residential septic systems. Recorded information includes the age of septic systems, soil characteristics, depth of trenches for lateral fields, and depth to groundwater. All of these parameters are critical to assure that septic systems are providing adequate treatment of residential sewage prior to the wastewater entering the natural environment. The BCHD will provide information on the completeness of individual septic records, or the lack thereof, and will provide ongoing support to categorize local conditions. Numerous local residents have already volunteered to assist in the collection of surface water samples from area lakes and creeks and streams. Through IU's School of Public and Environmental Affairs, students studying environmental sciences will be encouraged to assist in water sampling, data collection, and analysis activities. Volunteer training will be provided by Hoosier Riverwatch members. The Indiana State Department of Health Environmental Laboratory will perform analysis of water samples for investigation of E. coli levels from both human and animal sources and other chemical compounds directly related to human activity.

A grant application under the Indiana Finance Authority, State Revolving Fund's Regional Assistance Program (RAP) has been submitted to supplement this work effort. The RAP grant application is for \$30,000.00.

Provide letters of support from other organizations collaborating or providing funding on the project, if applicable. ROI 3 Letters of support.pdf

Project Outcomes

*How will your project contribute to workforce retention, attraction, or development in your community and the Indiana Uplands region?

Workforce attraction means promoting new businesses, providing varied affordable housing, and offering recreational and entertainment venues for all ages. New sustainable growth can only come by first understanding the basic infrastructure needs for families and businesses alike. Individual home ownership for families must have environmentally safe onsite wastewater management options and/or community-wide sewer systems. Housing costs for single family and multi-family units can be shared and adequately served by community sewage treatment systems.

Businesses and commercial facilities often cannot operate with onsite septic systems. Businesses such as service stations, laundromats, and restaurants need the treatment capabilities of wastewater treatment plants. A recent article (October 30, 2018) in the Brown County Democrat newspaper identified a popular restaurant in the Bean Blossom area called Brownies that had to close due to inability to treat its wastewater through a conventional onsite septic system. Bill Monroe Music Park has also expressed concerns over lack of available, adequate wastewater treatment. Understanding the value and need for a community sewer system and wastewater treatment plant would address this type of commercial need. Future commercial operations should not be limited by inadequate wastewater management. Economic growth for new business ventures will be enhanced with planned wastewater infrastructure improvements. If we cannot provide basic infrastructure, we cannot attract new businesses. And, we may not retain existing businesses. Tourists and residents need confidence in the health and safety of recreational activities. Traditional pastimes such as kayaking, canoeing, swimming, fishing and other water sports cannot be enjoyed by individuals or families if water bodies are impaired. People move to Brown County for our natural beauty. If we cannot conserve it, we cannot attract new residents.

*How might your project advance community and economic prosperity in the region?

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"The county needs a comprehensive assessment that includes health statistics related to private septic systems, outlines the benefits of consolidating Brown's three regional sewer districts, and provides options and recommendations for wastewater infrastructure improvement projects that would enable the county to strategically manage residential growth and understand the return on investment associated with property values." - Quality of Place and Workforce Attraction Plan dated February 2019.

Brown County's natural environment is a major asset for residents and visitors alike. But that natural beauty also creates limitations for development and new construction. Thin soils and steep hillsides do not promote easy development. Understanding how to manage wastewater, particularly with community-wide sewer systems, or improved onsite technologies will allow residential and commercial growth in areas that have been geographically challenged in the past. Managed neighborhoods with smaller lot sizes and more dense housing on smaller land areas, such as apartment buildings, create less impact on the environment.

The beauty and recreational usage of the natural environment is essential for locals and tourists alike. Tourism is the biggest single economic driver to Brown County's future. Tourism in 2017 produced \$42.7 million in economic value in Brown County. Economic prosperity in Brown County will always be linked to a healthy environment to live, work, and play.

Beyond Brown County's border (downstream) lies Monroe County and Lake Monroe. As stated in Monroe's Quality of Place study, the number three reason for its residents to stay is access to outdoor recreation and the enjoyment of Monroe County's own natural beauty. 6,648 jobs are directly or indirectly attributed to outdoor recreation. As Brown County better understands how to improve wastewater management and positively impact our surface waters, both Brown and Monroe will experience job creation associated with outdoor recreation in the parks and forests, along the streams and creeks, and on the numerous small lakes to Indiana's largest man-made Lake Monroe.

How will this project integrate or support other initiatives that are ongoing in the county and region?

A Brown County wastewater management strategic plan is the first link in the chain to develop affordable housing. Monroe County recognized this concern in their own Quality of Place study. Monroe's Tier 1 Priority is to increase affordable housing supply by first revising county policies on water and sewer line extensions in the county. Monroe also stated the need to build communities around existing, unused water and sewer infrastructure. This BCRSD project will provide planning data, including cost analysis for additional community sewer systems in Brown County to complement existing sewage collection and treatment systems in Helmsburg, Nashville, Graw Bone and the proposed Bean Blossom Regional Wastewater Treatment facility. This major Brown County planning effort will ultimately support development in down-watershed counties, most directly Monroe County. As the Monroe Quality of Place study clearly states, "infrastructure drives development".

Lawrence County also identified that their top three initiatives relate to improving recreational opportunities and enhancements to their existing park system. By seeking to improve Brown's soil and water quality, sustainable downstream environmental impact will support both Monroe and Lawrence efforts to improve quality of place and enhance the natural environment.

Project Evaluation

How will you define success for your project?

1. Completion of a countywide needs assessment for onsite wastewater improvements;
2. Creation of environmental protection standards for onsite wastewater management;
3. Expansion of cooperative partnerships with State and County agencies;
4. Determination of the costs and the benefits of improved onsite wastewater management;
5. Completion of analysis for consolidating multiple sewer districts;
6. Completion of publicly-focused educational material on environmental quality issues.

What metrics will you use to measure impact?

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Record keeping metrics:

- Identify number of properties connected to a community sewer.
- Identify number of properties served by onsite wastewater treatment.
- Identify number of homes with onsite wastewater treatment modifications or improvements.
- Identify number of onsite maintenance activities including records from contractors of septic tanks inspected and cleaned.

Water quality metrics:

- Human generated E. coli counts in Bean Blossom Creek and its tributaries.
- Human generated E. coli counts in Lake Lemon.
- Human generated E. coli counts in Salt Creek.

Education/informational metrics:

- Track number of homeowners attending workshops and educational sessions developed and presented during this project.
- *Please provide your baseline for each metric you identified.

According to Brown County Health Department, there are approximately 8400 households in Brown County. Only 700 households are served by community sewer systems, leaving approximately 7,700 households served by onsite septic systems, if at all. Water quality studies of Lake Lemon, Bean Blossom Creek, Salt Creek and various tributaries have been completed over the previous 20 years by IDEM, IU's School of Environmental and Public Policy (SPEA), BCHD, and other organizations. Based on sampling results, IDEM has placed Bean Blossom Creek on Clean Water Act Section 303(d) list of impaired streams.

Record keeping baseline:

- Approximately 700 properties are served by community sewers and wastewater treatment plants.
- Approximately 7,700 properties require onsite wastewater management.
- BCHD preliminary review indicates as many as 40% of properties may not have records of installed septic systems.
- BCHD records of onsite maintenance activities including records from contractors of the number of septic tanks inspected and cleaned.

Water quality baseline:

- E. coli counts in Bean Blossom Creek exceed the IDEM Total Maximum Daily Limits (TMDL) standards of 125 colony forming units (cfu's) per 100 ml expressed as the geometric mean of 5 samples equally spaced over 30 days.
- Measured E. coli counts in Lake Lemon exceeding IDEM single sample limits of 235 cfu's/100 ml have been reported in bi-annual reports prepared by IU's SPEA group.
- Multiple sampling locations along Salt Creek by Hoosier Riverwatch.

Education/informational baseline:

- Number of homeowners attending workshops and educational sessions.
- *What other sources of evidence, quantitative or qualitative, will you use to gauge the project's success and effectiveness?
 - 1.Active engagement of local volunteers to sustain water sampling programs;
 - 2.Actual reduction of E. coli levels in Bean Blossom Creek and its tributaries, Salt Creek and its tributaries, and Brown County lakes;
 - 3.Removal of Bean Blossom Creek from IDEM's list of "impaired" streams;
 - 4.Safe recreational use of Lake Lemon for full-body contact.

Project Capacity and Sustainability

- *What, other than funding, will be required to ensure your project is successful?

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Cooperative partnerships with local and state governmental agencies and non-governmental organizations will ensure the success of this project:

Brown County Commissioners:

Leadership support is critical for the development and implementation of a countywide comprehensive wastewater strategic plan from Brown County's primary governmental agency. Regulatory revisions, if identified, and political will to manage difficult cultural and economic issues will be required.

Indiana State Department of Health:

Alternative technologies for cost-effective onsite wastewater management, including technologies new to Indiana (TNI), may be identified in this project. Cooperative review and prompt approval of alternative collection and treatment systems will provide needed support for project implementation. In addition, the ISDH Environmental Laboratory will perform a key role in water analysis and data production.

Indiana Department of Environmental Management:

IDEM permitting support for alternative solutions approved by ISDH, such as cluster collection and small-scale wastewater treatment technologies, may be needed. As an integral member of the project team, technical support by IDEM staff will also assist in identifying sampling and analytical protocols, allowable standards for water quality, and environmental impact.

Brown County Health Department:

The Brown County Health Department is crucial link in understanding the condition of residential onsite wastewater management systems. The BCHD administers permitting and inspection for new installations and repairs to existing systems. BCHD staff provides technical expertise for local, site specific issues and maintains ongoing recordkeeping for wastewater management in the county.

Providing existing data and continuing to develop new information on the condition of onsite wastewater management systems will be needed for the success of preparation of a comprehensive strategic plan.

Local volunteers:

Collection of water samples, under management by the BCHD, will continue to be accomplished by volunteers from the Brown County area.

The Brown County League of Women Voters will host a planned "community conversation" to introduce local residents to onsite wastewater (septic) management issues.

*Describe your ability to implement this project and provide examples of past successes.

The Brown County Regional Sewer District successfully completed a recent project titled "Preliminary Engineering Report for Bean Blossom, Woodland Lake, Little Fox Lake, and Freeman Ridge Wastewater Facilities – March 2018". The Preliminary Engineering Report (PER) was produced under contract with Ladd Engineering, Inc., a consulting engineering contractor from Lebanon, Indiana. This project required extensive oversight by the Regional Sewer District to insure contracted resources were fiscally and technically managed properly. The scope of contracted work met the requirements for future Indiana Finance Authority State Revolving Fund (SRF) Loan Programs for financing the design and construction of a community wastewater collection and treatment facility. The Regional Sewer District's proposed project is currently ranked #1 on the SRF list for funding in its current 2019/2020 funding cycle.

The Brown County Regional Sewer District (BCRSD) board members are well positioned to implement this project. Included on the BCRSD Board is a retired Civil/Environmental Professional Engineer and multi-discipline Project Manager; a retired Professional Soil Scientist and Project Manager; a registered builder/contractor; a real estate agent; and an IT expert experienced in municipal wastewater treatment plant operation. This team of volunteer experts has many years of professional experience in technical projects and managing complex teamwork and deliverables.

*How will impact be sustained?

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This research and planning project is extensive by design. Brown County is served primarily by onsite septic systems. The Brown County Health Department (BCHD) estimates that 90% of the residents have some type of onsite septic systems, but little is known about the condition or effectiveness of many systems. According to BCHD, a substantial percentage of those onsite systems have no information on file at the Department. Yet Brown County is upstream of the other 10 counties in the Indiana Uplands. Simply put, wastewater flows downhill.

This project will produce a strategic plan with usable data and action items for both near and long-term solutions to residential wastewater management. Brown is not a wealthy county. In fact, Indiana Tax Returns for 2014 stated 52.5% of residents reported less than \$30,000 per year income. Overall, Brown County's per capita income is below the State's average (US Bureau of Economic Analysis). Subsequently, improvements to residential wastewater management for individual homeowners will require patience and innovation. The Brown County Regional Sewer District will incorporate the findings of this project into priority action steps for future community sewer development projects.

This project will also help identify septic issues in the county. The Brown County Board of Health, through the administrative effort of the Brown County Health Officer and Health Department is revising the Brown County Septic Ordinance. The revisions will update the Septic Ordinance to comply with the Indiana Code and the Indiana State Department of Health regulations. This strategic planning project, coupled with the revised Septic Ordinance will provide Brown residents with cost effective, environmentally sustainable solutions to wastewater management. The strategic planning document will provide a factual basis for obtaining future grant funding to implement the actual physical construction of wastewater collection and treatment facilities in Brown County. These steps are necessary to identify and secure low interest loans and grants to provide sustainable wastewater management systems at reasonable residential rates.

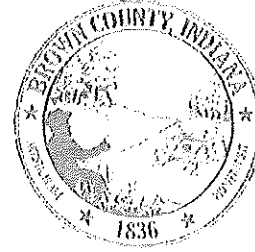
Certification Statement

*Do you certify that all information provided is accurate to the best of your knowledge? Yes

*Signature of representative requesting grant: Clint Studabaker 4/15/2019 2:36 PM

Julia Reeves
Brown County Auditor

201 Locust Lane
P.O. Box 37
Nashville, IN 47448
Phone (812) 988-5485
Fax (812) 988-5487



To Whom It May Concern:

The Brown County Regional Sewer District (BCRSD) serves under the not-for profit umbrella of Brown County as an instrument of government. Their Budget is approved by the County Council and members are appointed by both the County Council and County Commissioners. Therefore, the BCRSD is considered governmental and tax exempt pursuant to Code Section 115(1)".

Respectfully,
Julia Reeves

Julia Reeves
Auditor
812-988-5485
reevesj@browncounty-in.us

Serving Brown County with a commitment to excellence!
www.browncounty-in.us

Brown County Regional Sewer District

P.O. Box 1881

Nashville, IN 47448

April 15, 2019

To: ROI Ready Communities Implementation Grant

The Brown County Regional Sewer District (BCRSD) serves under the not-for-profit umbrella of Brown County as an instrument of government. The budget of the BCRSD has been appropriated by the Brown County Council. The BCRSD is considered governmental and tax exempt pursuant to Code Section 115(1). Therefore, an Income Tax Form 990 has not been completed.

The Brown County Regional Sewer District EIN is #13-4368193.

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The Brown County Regional Sewer District (BCRSD) is seeking a grant to fund a wastewater strategic management plan. BCRSD will undertake an engineering evaluation of existing onsite septic treatment systems and study the technical and economic feasibility of regional wastewater collection and treatment options throughout Brown County. Brown County currently has three existing municipal wastewater sewer districts comprising of the Town of Nashville and the communities of Helmsburg and Gnaw Bone.

However, Brown County has many areas that are not currently served by sewers. Most areas are on individual septic systems, many of which may not be functioning adequately to serve individual homeowners or to protect public health and the environment. The BCRSD desires to study the options for improving wastewater management of residential and commercial operations throughout Brown County. The proposed project area includes all of Brown County not currently served by public sewers.

The scope of work for this project will encompass seven (7) major phases described as follows:

Phase 1: Benchmarks

- Investigate other Counties
- Identify Benchmarks and Metrics

Phase 2: Internal Research: Assess the proficiency of onsite sewage systems (OSS) throughout Brown County

- Interview key regulators and stakeholders
- Collect and review Brown County Health Department (BCHD) onsite septic system data
- Collect and review Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH) data
- Collect and review Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) water quality data
- Collect and review previous Watershed studies

Phase 3: External Research: Collect targeted data:

- Identify and collect additional environmental information
- Identify relevant Technology New to Indiana (TNI)

1st Report - Key Findings

Phase 4: Analysis and Tracking

- Leverage analytical tools
- Interpret Internal and External data
- Identify alternative onsite wastewater treatment technologies
- Identify community sewer opportunities
- Develop cost factors for evaluating wastewater infrastructure improvements

2nd Report - Detailed Analysis

Phase 5: Strategic Planning

- Build goals
- Prioritizing onsite improvements and community sewer services
- Categorize doable projects
- Build cost basis for project planning

Phase 6: Campaign Development

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- Develop communication media formats
- Create educational program
- Establish videos, social media, town hall forums

3rd Report - Summation and Roll-out

Phase 7: Roll out communication campaign

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| <u>Task</u> | <u>Budget</u> |
|--|---------------------|
| Phase 1: Benchmarks | \$5,000.00 |
| Phase 2: Internal Research | \$5,000.00 |
| Phase 3: External Research | \$10,000.00 |
| 1st Report | \$1,000.00 |
| Phase 4: Analysis and Tracking | \$30,000.00 |
| 2nd Report | \$1,000.00 |
| Phase 5: Strategic planning | \$30,000.00 |
| Phase 6: Campaign Development | \$15,000.00 |
| 3rd Report | \$1,000.00 |
| Phase 7: Roll out Communication Campaign | \$10,000.00 |
| | |
| Total Project Budget | \$108,000.00 |

\$30,000.00 funded by Indiana State Revolving Fund, Regionalization Assistance Programs (RAP).

\$78,000.00 requested from ROI.

If the RAP grant application is initially approved, Phases 1, 2 and 3 of the research through the 1st report will be completed. It is very important for the project to continue through the preparation of the countywide strategic plan. Because residents need to understand the value and impact of their personal roles in onsite wastewater management, the campaign for communication and education will be essential to gather "buy-in" from the community.

Indiana State
Department of Health
An Equal Opportunity Employer

Eric J. Holcomb
Governor

Kristina Box, MD, FACOG
State Health Commissioner

April 15, 2019

Clint Studabaker
Brown County Regional Sewer District
Nashville, IN 47448

Re: Letter of Support

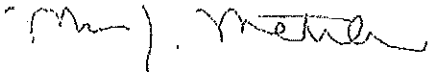
Dear Mr. Studabaker,

On behalf of the Indiana State Department of Health, please accept this letter in support of the Regional Opportunities Initiative Ready Communities Implementation Grant project proposed by the Brown County Regional Sewer District. The purpose of the project is to develop a county-wide wastewater strategic plan.

Onsite sewage systems (aka septic systems) serve approximately 38% of the state's population. That is a significant percentage of the state's wastewater infrastructure. Of those residences and businesses utilizing septic systems it is estimated that roughly 30% are in failure or are a direct discharge. It is imperative that sewage disposal management in the Brown County community be addressed. Any further delays could add to a decline in water quality, decrease property values, and hinder further development in this area.

We fully support this project and appreciate your efforts in taking a regional approach to this matter.

Sincerely,

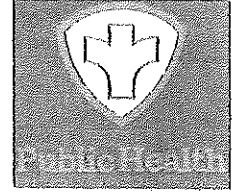


Michael Mettler, REHS
Director
Environmental Public Health Division
100 N. Senate Ave., N855
Indianapolis, IN 46204



Brown County Health Department

P.O. Box 281 201 Locust Lane
Nashville, IN 47448
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www.browncountyhealthdept.org
bchealth@browncounty-in.us



Norman Oestrike, MD
Brown County Health Officer

April 11, 2019


To Whom It May Concern,

Protection of public and environmental health and implementation of the State of Indiana's residential septic rules and regulations is a major responsibility of the Brown County Department of Health. As part of our oversight mandate, the Brown County Department of Health has been supporting work proposed by the Brown County Regional Sewer District (BCRSD). The BCRSD is seeking grant funding from the Indiana Uplands Regional Opportunities Initiative through the ROI Ready Communities Implementation Grant to develop a Brown County Wastewater Strategic Plan.

Brown County recently completed a *Quality of Place and Workplace Attraction Plan*. The Plan identified a critical need for a comprehensive assessment of Brown's wastewater infrastructure to enable the county to manage strategically residential growth and to understand the return on investment associated with improved wastewater management.

Please consider the BCRSD proposal for ROI grant funding to develop a Brown County Wastewater Strategic plan.

Sincerely,



Norman Oestrike, MD
Brown County Health Officer



County of Brown, Indiana
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201 Locust Lane
Nashville, Indiana 47448

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Fax: 812-340-0979
E-mail: commissioners@browncounty-in.us

April 9, 2019

To whom it may concern:

The Brown County Commissioners are pleased to support work proposed by the Brown County Regional Sewer District (BCRSD). The BCRSD is seeking grant funding from the Indiana Uplands Regional Opportunities Initiative through the ROI Ready Communities Implementation Grant. The proposed project is titled the Brown County Wastewater Strategic Plan.

Brown County recently completed a *Quality of Place and Workplace Attraction Plan*. The Plan identified a critical need for a comprehensive assessment of Brown's wastewater infrastructure to enable the county to manage strategically residential growth and to understand the return on investment associated with improved wastewater management. The project proposed by the BCRSD is designed to accomplish that task.

We encourage thoughtful consideration of the BCRSD proposal to develop a Brown County Wastewater Strategic Plan.

Kindest Regards,

Ms. Diana Biddle
County Commissioner