

Exhibit A - Executive Summary

State of Kansas

ExhibitAExecutiveSummary.pdf

Exhibit A: Executive Summary¹

Once an obscure waterway, Wildcat Creek has become a nightmare that now regularly menaces the people of Riley County, Kansas and the City of Manhattan. Flooding has always happened on Wildcat Creek, but standard floods that came every few decades are now regularly occurring disasters. Major floods have crippled the City of Manhattan and the southern part of Riley County in 2007, twice in 2010, and again in 2011. The latter giving rise to a presidential major disaster declaration (DR-4010)(“Qualifying Disaster”). Like many watersheds in the State of Kansas, the Wildcat Creek Watershed is a combination of hundreds of miles of tiny farmland streams feeding into a narrowing wooded (riparian) channel that eventually flows through more densely populated communities. Over decades, development pressures in these communities have enabled mostly lower income neighborhoods to propagate on land that all the while remained floodplains. Recent flood disasters along Wildcat Creek have been a potent reminder that this development pattern is neither sustainable nor resilient. Moreover, it is resulting in a crushing burden among the citizens that can least absorb such impacts and distress.

The Wildcat Creek Watershed Resiliency Program (WCWRP) introduces a series of holistic watershed based approaches to reduce flood risk along Wildcat Creek; enable vulnerable populations along its banks to be more safe and secure; and establish the waterway as a centerpiece and model for sustainable development, environmental quality, and water management. In so doing, WCWRP projects will serve as a conduit for

¹ All figures and appendices are available on our website for download and linked within the document. See, http://www.agriculture.ks.gov/KS_HUDapplication.

Pursuant to "Content and Form of Application Submission" Guidance in the NOFA, pg.21, the application totals 77 pages in length, which reflects permitted additional 5 pages of content per separate projects (4) being proposed as part of the Wildcat Creek Watershed Resilience Program.

collaborative state-local and public-private partnerships among more than a dozen governmental, academic, and public interest partners with collective expertise in community equity, housing, community engagement, hydrology, engineering, water management, recreational development, and other disciplines. In all, WCWRP will play out over the entire length of the 100 square mile watershed to address both lingering unmet recovery needs from the Qualifying Disaster and prior flood events and long term resilience challenges within the Watershed. This will be done through coordinated investments and initiatives focused on the social, housing, infrastructure, and environmental stressors that are deteriorating the physical health of watershed and disproportionately impacting socioeconomically vulnerable citizens residing in low-lying neighborhoods. Intended projects include strategic property acquisitions and relocation assistance; strategic land use planning and policymaking; urban greenspace development; Kansas State University backed greenspace performance monitoring and research; and streambank fortification and detention pond installation.

Finally, given the replicable nature of these proposed projects and the statewide reach and networks among WCWRP's partners, the goal is that NDRC funding can be a catalyst for an initiative that will not only restore the damaged communities along Wildcat Creek but to also serve as blueprint for similar safeguards in other watersheds in Kansas and the Midwest Region in which socioeconomically vulnerable populations reside in flood prone areas.