

**PUBLIC HEARING TO DISCUSS THE PLEVNA LAGOON FACILITY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT - Monday, May 15, 2023, 7:00 p.m.**  
**Plevna Community Center.**

Mayor Thielen called the meeting to order at 6:59 p.m.

Council present: James Franson, Michelle Hillard and Michele Gray.

Also present: Jolene Boespflug, Clerk

Members of the public present: Shawn Sander, Wayne and Mary Mangold.

Mayor Thielen read the attached environmental checklist.

Public Comment:

Wayne wanted to know if the Town ever had a problem with discharging. Mayor Thielen told him no.

Shawn wanted to know how many valves would be replaced. He was told they all would be replaced.

Having no further public comment the meeting was adjourned at 7:24 p.m.

  
Clerk, Jolene Boespflug

  
Mayor, Gary Thielen

## ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW CHECKLIST

Prepared For:  
Plevna, Montana  
Lagoon Facility Improvements

Uniform Environmental Checklist

Prepared By:  
Brosz Engineering, Inc.

**Project Description:** This project is intended to improve the lagoon facilities within the town of Plevna. Scope of work includes rehabilitating the existing splitter manhole, replacing damaged and inoperable valves, and adding a manhole at the discharge end with a weir. Project is located south of Plevna, MT in Township 8 North, Range 58 East, Section 30. Project will allow the lagoon facility to operate properly and have the correct settling periods.

**Environmental Checklist Prepared  
By:**



5/1/2023

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Preparer

Shannon Hewson, P.E.; Project Engineer

**Key Letter: N** - No Impact; **B** - Potentially Beneficial; **A** - Potentially Adverse; **P**- Approval/Permits Required; **M**- Mitigation Required

**PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT**

<p><b>Key</b> <b><u>N</u></b></p>	<p><b>1. Soil Suitability, Topographic and/or Geologic Constraints (e.g., soil lump, steep slopes, subsidence, seismic activity)</b></p> <p><i>Comments and Source of Information:</i> Soils in and around the Town of Plevna are suitable for proposed construction. The project is located within a low-risk seismic zone.</p> <p><i>Information Sources:</i> NRCS soil maps; MDT As-builts; Field Inspections.</p>
<p><b>Key</b> <b><u>N</u></b></p>	<p><b>2. Hazardous Facilities (e.g., power lines, toxic chemicals and gases, hazardous materials, contamination, radioactive substances, acceptable distance from explosive and flammable operations and hazards including chemical/petrochemical storage tanks, underground fuel storage tanks, and related facilities such as natural gas storage facilities and propane storage tanks.)</b></p> <p><i>Comments and Source of Information:</i> Project will have no impact on local utilities. Prior to construction a One Call will be made to mark the appropriate utilities, care will be taken to ensure these will not be impacted.</p> <p><i>Information Sources:</i> Field Observations – BEI; Local Utility Companies</p>
<p><b>Key</b> <b><u>N</u></b></p>	<p><b>3. Effects of Project on Surrounding Air Quality or Any Kind of Effects of Existing Air Quality on Project (e.g., dust, odors, emissions)</b></p> <p><i>Comments and Source of Information:</i> This project will have minor impacts on air quality through point source fugitive emissions and dust created by construction equipment. This can be controlled by implementing proper construction methods. Impacts to air quality will be minimal during construction and will return to normal conditions after the project is complete. No odors or emissions will be present with work being completed.</p> <p><i>Information Sources:</i> BEI; Town of Plevna</p>
<p><b>Key</b> <b><u>N</u></b></p>	<p><b>4. Ground Water Resources and Aquifers (e.g., quantity, quality, distribution, depth to ground water, sole source aquifers)</b></p> <p><i>Comments and Source of Information:</i> Source water for the Town of Plevna lies in a confined aquifer at a depth of 1075ft. The project will have no effect on aquifer. Provisions for groundwater control will be included within the project specifications.</p> <p><i>4. Continued: Information Sources:</i> BEI; MBMG</p>
<p><b>Key</b> <b><u>B</u></b></p>	<p><b>5. Surface Water, Water Quality, Quantity and Distribution (e.g., streams, lakes, storm runoff, irrigation systems, canals, Wild and Scenic Rivers listing)</b></p> <p><i>Comments and Source of Information:</i> Project will have no impact on surface water, storm runoff or irrigation systems as none are in the project limits. Sandstone Creek,</p>

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	<p>the most significant surface water in the planning area, is approximately 300-feet from the lagoon at its closest point, no impact is expected.</p> <p><i>Information Sources:</i> USGS; MTDEQ; BEI</p>
<p><b>Key</b></p> <p><b><u>N</u></b></p>	<p><b>6. Floodplains and Floodplain Management</b></p> <p><i>Comments and Source of Information:</i> No impact to floodplains is expected. The Town of Plevna does not participate in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) therefore no FEMA map exists for this jurisdiction. Care will be taken to ensure that any potential floodplains are not disturbed by relegating construction and mobilization to only that of the lagoon and returning any disturbances to conditions prior to construction.</p> <p><i>Information Sources:</i> BEI</p>
<p><b>Key</b></p> <p><b><u>N</u></b></p>	<p><b>7. Wetlands Protection</b></p> <p><i>Comments and Source of Information:</i> No wetlands will be disturbed as none lie within the project limits. Wetlands are located directly downstream of the lagoon and will benefit from water quality improvement.</p> <p><i>Information Sources:</i> U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service – National Wetlands Inventory</p>
<p><b>Key</b></p> <p><b><u>N</u></b></p>	<p><b>8. Agricultural Lands, Production, and Farm Land Protection (e.g., grazing, forestry, cropland, prime or unique agricultural lands)</b></p> <p><i>Comments and Source of Information:</i> No agricultural lands will be disturbed as none lie within the project limits.</p> <p><i>Information Sources:</i> USGS; USDA/FSA</p>
<p><b>Key</b></p> <p><b><u>N</u></b></p>	<p><b>9. Vegetation and Wildlife Species and Habitats, Including Fish (e.g., terrestrial, avian and aquatic life and habitats)</b></p> <p><i>Comments and Source of Information:</i> Vegetation to be disturbed has minor benefit to wildlife species. Measures will be taken to ensure regrowth upon the completion of construction.</p> <p><i>Information Sources:</i> Montana Natural Heritage Program</p>
<p><b>Key</b></p> <p><b><u>N</u></b></p>	<p><b>10. Unique, Endangered, Fragile, or Limited Environmental Resources, Including Endangered Species (e.g., plants, fish, or wildlife)</b></p> <p><i>Comments and Source of Information:</i> No federally or state listed sensitive species were observed during field investigations. Prior to completion of the Fallon County's Baker Lake project in 2017 an Endangered Species Act and Sensitive Species Evaluation was completed, and findings were as follows: The MTNHP reported one</p>

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	<p>threatened species in the vicinity of the Baker Lake project area, piping plover (<i>Charadrius melodus</i>) (MTNHP 2017b). Eighteen species of concern (SOCs), were identified by the MTNHP as potentially occurring within the evaluation extent of the Baker Lake project area (MTNHP 2017b and MTNHP 2017c). Species of concern that have been identified as having breeding areas within the evaluation extent include: Baird's Sparrow (<i>Ammodramus bairdii</i>), Brewer's sparrow (<i>Spizella breweri</i>), chestnut-collared longspur (<i>Calcarius ornatus</i>), Ferruginous Hawk (<i>Buteo regalis</i>), greater sage-grouse (<i>Centrocercus urophasianus</i>), loggerhead shrike (<i>Lanius ludovicianus</i>), Sprague's pipit (<i>Anthus spragueii</i>), and black-tailed prairie dog (<i>Cynomys ludovicianus</i>) (MTNHP 2017d and MTNHP 2017e). Additional SOCs that may potentially occur within the evaluation extent, include: American white pelican (<i>Pelecanus erythrorhynchos</i>), black tern (<i>Chlidonias niger</i>), burrowing owl (<i>Athene cunicularia</i>), Caspian tern (<i>Spizella breweri</i>), Clark's grebe (<i>Aechmophorus clarkii</i>), common loon (<i>Gavia immer</i>), Forster's tern (<i>Sterna forsteri</i>), golden eagle (<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>), great blue heron (<i>Ardea herodias</i>), and raceme milkvetch (<i>Astragalus racemosus</i>) (MTNHP 2017b and MTNHP 2017c).</p> <p>Proposed project limits are 13 miles west of Baker Lake within Fallon County. The area between consists of uniform plains, so it is reasonably expected that no additional species of interest will be found in the proposed project limits. As the project limits lie outside habitat/wetland areas, no adverse impacts to any threatened, endangered, or candidate species is expected.</p> <p><i>Information Sources:</i> Montana Natural Heritage Program; Endangered Species Act and Sensitive Species Evaluation – Fallon County; BEI; USACE</p>
<p><b>Key</b></p> <p><b><u>N</u></b></p>	<p><b>11. Unique Natural Features (e.g., geologic features)</b></p> <p><i>Comments and Source of Information:</i> No unique natural features are known or thought to be present.</p> <p><i>Information Sources:</i> Montana Natural Heritage Program; Town of Plevna; BEI Site Survey</p>
<p><b>Key</b></p> <p><b><u>N</u></b></p>	<p><b>12. Access to, and Quality of, Recreational and Wilderness Activities, Public Lands and Waterways, and Public Open Space</b></p> <p><i>Comments and Source of Information:</i> Project will have no impact on Recreational or Public Open Space.</p> <p><i>Information Sources:</i> Town of Plevna; BEI</p>

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<b>HUMAN POPULATION</b>	
<b>Key</b>  <u><b>N</b></u>	<b>1. Visual Quality - Coherence, Diversity, Compatibility of Use and Scale, Aesthetics</b>  <i>Comments and Source of Information:</i> Project will have no impact on coherence or compatibility of use. Temporary visual quality impacts are expected during construction but will be short term as the project vicinity will be returned to conditions prior to construction.  <i>Information Sources:</i> BEI; Town of Plevna
<b>Key</b>  <u><b>N</b></u>	<b>2. Nuisances (e.g., glare, fumes)</b>  <i>Comments and Source of Information:</i> No nuisances are expected.  <i>Information Sources:</i> BEI; Town of Plevna
<b>Key</b>  <u><b>N</b></u>	<b>3. Noise Abatement and Control - suitable separation between housing and other noise sensitive activities and major noise sources (aircraft, highways and railroads.)</b>  <i>Comments and Source of Information:</i> Noise level increases during construction but will be minor and short term. The contractor will be required to comply with all local ordinances and reduce the chances of disturbing the public.  <i>Information Sources:</i> BEI; Town of Plevna
<b>Key</b>  <u><b>N</b></u>	<b>4. Historic Properties, Cultural, and Archeological Resources</b>  <i>Comments and Source of Information:</i> No impacts will occur as project is located adjacent to the existing lagoon where existing infrastructure is located and being replaced.  <i>Information Sources:</i> BEI; Montana Historic Preservation Office; Town of Plevna
<b>Key</b>  <u><b>N</b></u>	<b>5. Changes in Demographic (Population) Characteristics (e.g., quantity, distribution, density)</b>  <i>Comments and Source of Information:</i> No impacts will occur.  <i>Information Sources:</i> BEI; Town of Plevna
<b>Key</b>  <u><b>N</b></u>	<b>6. General Housing Conditions - Quality, Quantity, Affordability</b> <i>Comments and Source of Information:</i> The project does not locate or cause the location of lower income households into unacceptable areas.  <i>Information Sources:</i> BEI; Town of Plevna

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<b>Key</b> <b><u>N</u></b>	<b>7. Displacement or Relocation of Businesses or Residents</b>  <i>Comments and Source of Information:</i> No businesses or residences will be relocated.  <i>Information Sources:</i> BEI; Town of Plevna
<b>Key</b> <b><u>N</u></b>	<b>8. Public Health and Safety</b>  <i>Comments and Source of Information:</i> The project will be completed following MUTCD guidelines for traffic operations and OSHA standards for trench excavation. When the project is complete, no public health and safety concerns are expected.  <i>Information Sources:</i> BEI; Town of Plevna
<b>Key</b> <b><u>N</u></b>	<b>9. Lead Based Paint and/or Asbestos</b>  <i>Comments and Source of Information:</i> No lead based paint or asbestos is expected to be encountered during construction of new portion of sanitary sewer. The Contractor shall be required to conform to state and federal regulations for any removal and disposal, if encountered.  <i>Information Sources:</i> BEI; Town of Plevna; EPA; NESHAP
<b>Key</b> <b><u>N</u></b>	<b>10. Local Employment and Income Patterns - Quantity and Distribution of Employment, Economic Impact</b>  <i>Comments and Source of Information:</i> The project would provide some temporary positions within the Community but have no long term benefit.  <i>Information Sources:</i> BEI; Town of Plevna
<b>Key</b> <b><u>N</u></b>	<b>11. Local and State Tax Base and Revenues</b>  <i>Comments and Source of Information:</i> The project will have no effects.  <i>Information Sources:</i> BEI; Town of Plevna
<b>Key</b> <b><u>N</u></b>	<b>12. Educational Facilities - Schools, Colleges, Universities</b>  <i>Comments and Source of Information:</i> No impacts or changes to existing educational facilities are expected.  <i>Information Sources:</i> BEI; Town of Plevna
<b>Key</b> <b><u>B</u></b>	<b>13. Commercial and Industrial Facilities - Production and Activity, Growth or Decline</b>  <i>Comments and Source of Information:</i> Project will help to ensure longevity of public infrastructure within the scope of the project.  <i>Information Sources:</i> BEI; Town of Plevna

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<b>Key</b> <b><u>N</u></b>	<b>14. Health Care - Medical Services</b>  <i>Comments and Source of Information:</i> No impacts to medical services are expected.  <i>Information Sources:</i> BEI; Town of Plevna
<b>Key</b> <b><u>N</u></b>	<b>15. Social Services - Governmental Services (e.g., demand on)</b>  <i>Comments and Source of Information:</i> No impacts to governmental services are expected.  <i>Information Sources:</i> BEI; Town of Plevna
<b>Key</b> <b><u>N</u></b>	<b>16. Social Structures and Mores (Standards of Social Conduct/Social Conventions)</b>  <i>Comments and Source of Information:</i> No impacts to social structures and mores are expected.  <i>Information Sources:</i> BEI; Town of Plevna
<b>Key</b> <b><u>N</u></b>	<b>17. Land Use Compatibility (e.g., growth, land use change, development activity)</b>  <i>Comments and Source of Information:</i> No impacts to land use compatibility are expected.  <i>Information Sources:</i> BEI; Town of Plevna
<b>Key</b> <b><u>N</u></b>	<b>18. Energy Resources - Consumption and Conservation</b>  <i>Comments and Source of Information:</i> No impacts to energy resources.  <i>Information Sources:</i> BEI; Town of Plevna
<b>Key</b> <b><u>N</u></b>	<b>19. Solid Waste Management</b>  <i>Comments and Source of Information:</i> No impacts to solid waste management are expected.  <i>Information Sources:</i> BEI; Town of Plevna
<b>Key</b> <b><u>B</u></b>	<b>20. Wastewater Treatment - Sewage System</b>  <i>Comments and Source of Information:</i> Improvements will benefit the existing system by meeting effluent discharge standards set forth by the DEQ.  <i>Information Sources:</i> 2022 Lagoon Facility Improvements PER - BEI; Town of Plevna



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<b>Key</b>  <b><u>B</u></b>	<b>21. Storm Water - Surface Drainage</b>  <i>Comments and Source of Information:</i> Improvement of Plevna's lagoon facilities will ensure continued proper surface drainage of storm water and will improve adjacent streams located downstream.  <i>Information Sources:</i> BEI; Town of Plevna
<b>Key</b>  <b><u>N</u></b>	<b>22. Community Water Supply</b>  <i>Comments and Source of Information:</i> The proposed project will have no effect.  <i>Information Sources:</i> BEI; Town of Plevna
<b>Key</b>  <b><u>N</u></b>	<b>23. Public Safety - Police</b>  <i>Comments and Source of Information:</i> No impacts to public safety are expected. Signing will be required and conform with MUTCD  <i>Information Sources:</i> BEI; Town of Plevna
<b>Key</b>  <b><u>N</u></b>	<b>24. Fire Protection - Hazards</b>  <i>Comments and Source of Information:</i> The proposed project will have no effect.  <i>Information Sources:</i> BEI; Local Fire Department
<b>Key</b>  <b><u>N</u></b>	<b>25. Emergency Medical Services</b>  <i>Comments and Source of Information:</i> No impacts to emergency medical services are expected.  <i>Information Sources:</i> BEI; Town of Plevna
<b>Key</b>  <b><u>N</u></b>	<b>26. Parks, Playgrounds and Open Space</b>  <i>Comments and Source of Information:</i> No long term impacts to parks, playgrounds and open space are expected.  <i>Information Sources:</i> BEI; Town of Plevna
<b>Key</b>  <b><u>N</u></b>	<b>27. Cultural Facilities, Cultural Uniqueness, and Diversity</b>  <i>Comments and Source of Information:</i> No impacts to cultural facilities, cultural uniqueness, and diversity are expected.  <i>Information Sources:</i> BEI

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<b>Key</b> <b><u>N</u></b>	<p><b>28. Transportation Networks and Traffic Flow Conflicts (e.g., rail; auto including local traffic; airport runway clear zones, accident potential zones - avoidance of incompatible land use in airport runway clear zones)</b></p> <p><i>Comments and Source of Information:</i> No roads are required for closure; traffic will not be impacted.</p> <p><i>Information Sources:</i> BEI; Fallon County Road Department; Town of Plevna</p>
<b>Key</b> <b><u>N</u></b>	<p><b>29. Consistency with Local Ordinances, Resolutions, or Plans (e.g., conformance with local comprehensive plans, zoning, or capital improvement plans)</b></p> <p><i>Comments and Source of Information:</i> The proposed improvements are modifications to existing facilities and are compliant with local regulations and zoning.</p> <p><i>Information Sources:</i> BEI; Town of Plevna; Local Planning Department</p>
<b>Key</b> <b><u>N</u></b>	<p><b>30. Is There a Regulatory Action on Private Property Rights as a Result of this Project? (consider options that reduce, minimize, or eliminate the regulation of private property rights).</b></p> <p><i>Comments and Source of Information:</i> No regulatory actions on private property rights will result from the proposed project.</p> <p><i>Information Sources:</i> BEI; Town of Plevna</p>

### Environmental Review Form

On a separate piece of paper, please answer the following as they apply to your proposed project:

1. Alternatives: Describe reasonable alternatives to the project.
2. Mitigation: Identify any enforceable measures necessary to reduce any impacts to an insignificant level.
3. Is an EA or Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) required? Describe whether or not an EA or EIS is required, and explain in detail why or why not.
4. Public Involvement: Describe the process followed to involve the public in the proposed project and its potential environmental impacts. Identify the public meetings -- where and when - the project was considered and discussed, and when the applicant approved the final environmental assessment.
5. Person(s) Responsible for Preparing: Identify the person(s) responsible for preparation of this checklist.
6. Other Agencies: List any state, local, or federal agencies that have over-lapping or additional jurisdiction or environmental review responsibility for the proposed action and the permits, licenses, and other authorizations required; and list any agencies or groups that were contacted or contributed information to this Environmental Assessment (EA).

\_\_\_\_\_  
(1) Authorized Representative, Project Engineer  
Brosz Engineering, Inc.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Town of Plevna

\_\_\_\_\_  
(2) Mayor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\* If an authorized representative (1) completes the checklist and this form, a chief elected official (2) must also sign authorizing acceptance of the review process. Explanation or statement of how/why that representative was authorized should also be included.

1. Three alternatives were considered for the project.

- 1) No Action
- 2) Construct a new Total Retention Cell
- 3) Rehabilitation and Lining of Existing Cells

Town of Plevna looked at alternatives which can be completed to repair the failing infrastructure. 1) No Action was not feasible due to age and condition of lagoon facilities. 2) Constructing a new total retention cell was not preferred as the cost is ~2000% of proposed projects cost. 3) Rehabilitation and lining of existing cells would entail all rehabilitations proposed in original plan with additional dredging and lining of existing cells, this was not preferred as this alternative would cost ~500% of proposed projects cost.

2. No mitigation is planned at this time as the proposed project will be repairing/replacing existing infrastructure.
3. An environmental assessment (EA) or an environmental impact statement (EIS) are not required for the project as the project will not have an impact on environmental resources as shown within the Environmental Checklist completed.
4. Public input meeting was held \_\_\_\_\_ to obtain public comment. Advertisement of meeting was placed in Fallon County Times May 5 and May 12 of 2023.
5. Brosz Engineering, Inc. has completed the checklist and believes that it accurately identifies the environmental resources in the area and the potential impacts that the project could have on those resources. Brosz Engineering was hired by Town of Plevna for the design and construction engineering of the project.
6. The following state, local, and federal agencies have additional jurisdiction over the proposed action and were contacted regarding permitting and this Environmental Review.
  - Montana Department of Environmental Quality – Required to review and approve 318 permit and approve plans.
  - Local Floodplain – Floodplain permit required if any work lies within the floodplain.
  - Montana Fish, Wildlife, & Parks – Required to review and approve 124 permit.
  - Montana Sage Grouse Habitat Conservation Program – Required to review projects within General Habitat Management Areas.
  - US Army Corps of Engineering – Required to review and approve 404 permit requests.