

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pocahontas County Conservation Board has applied for Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Public Assistance (PA) Program funding through Iowa's Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division (IHSEMD) as a sub-applicant.

Under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), federal actions must be reviewed and evaluated for feasible alternatives and for social, economic, historic, environmental, legal, and safety considerations. Under Executive Order (EO) 11988 and EO 11990, FEMA is required to consider alternatives, and to provide a public notice of any proposed actions in or affecting floodplains or wetlands. This notice may also fulfill requirements under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA).

Funding for the proposed project will be conditional upon compliance with all applicable federal, tribal, state, and local laws, regulations, floodplain standards, permit requirements and conditions.

Sub-Applicant: Pocahontas County Conservation Board

Project Title: 818412-Des Moines River Trestle Bridge Piling Damage, PA-07-IA-4796-PW-00892

Location of Proposed Work:

Des Moines River Trestle Bridge is over the Des Moines River at 406915 Pilot Creek Rd. Pocahontas, IA. Start GPS Latitude/Longitude: 42.80637, -94.43437; End GPS Latitude/Longitude: 42.80667, -94.43249

Special Flood Hazard Area Zone:

FEMA has not completed a study to determine flood hazard for this location and therefore in an unincorporated area. Per 44 CFR Part 9.7 and the best available information, the project is located within an A Zone, known as the area of 1% annual chance of flooding, per Humboldt County FIRM panel 190876.

Proposed Work and Purpose:

Pocahontas County Conservation Board proposes to use FEMA Public Assistance Grant funds to complete repairs and improvements to the Des Moines River Trestle Bridge. The Heavy rains increased the flow and amount of water in the Des Moines River causing the river to flood the surrounding area and damaging the Des Moines River Trestle Bridge. The project will not only restore the facility back to its state before the flooding event but will stabilize the bridge and reduce the damage from future flooding. Repairs to be completed include remove and replace 3 of the concrete bridge piers, 17 FT long x 7 FT wide x 16 FT high, by using 5-gauge steel sheet piles as part of the construction for mitigation.

Project Alternatives:

Alternative #1 (No Action): The no-action alternative would not be appropriate because it would leave trail stopped and unable to cross the Des Moines River, unsafe for pedestrian

traffic. Heavy rains and potential flooding would further undermine the damaged elements and create a larger issue for the public in the future.

Alternative #2 (Repair In-Kind): This is not the option being pursued by this grant. Retuning the Des Moines River Trestle Bridge back to pre-disaster, function would leave the facility at high risk of damage by future flooding. Repairing the Des Moines River Trestle Bridge to the design prior to the 2024 flooding event would cost the least money, however the cost of mitigating is likely less than the sum of costs from all future disasters.

Alternative #3 (Mitigation): Mitigation was applied to the Des Moines River Trestle Bridge which will extend the life of the structure and decrease future flood damage. The proposed mitigation will install additional point protection and strengthen of the piles. This scope of work for Des Moines River Trestle Bridge will allow for the bridge and trail to function properly and should result in less damage in the future and the public infrastructure will be more properly protected.

Comment Period:

This will serve as the final public notice regarding the above-described action funded by the FEMA PA program. All comments received can be submitted online, via email, Federal Emergency Management Agency Regional Environmental Officer at fema-r7-ehp-publiccomment@fema.dhs.gov. Please use the subject line: “**DR4796 PW892-Des Moines River Trestle Bridge Piling Damage Floodplain Comment.**”

Interested persons may also submit comments and questions in writing, or request a map of this specific project, by writing to the Federal Emergency Management Agency, 7 Regional Environmental Officer, 11224 Holmes Rd, Kansas City, MO 64131. Written comments should be sent with the subject line “**DR4796 PW892-Des Moines River Trestle Bridge Piling Damage Floodplain Comment**” to the above address within 15 days of the date of posting.

All comments are due by no later than 15 days of the posted date of this notice.

POSTED ON (insert date):

End of Notice