



TO: Fort Belknap Indian Community Council.

FROM: Andrew Werk, President, Fort Belknap Indian Community Council *AW*
Steve Becker, P.E., COR, NRCS State Conservation Engineer
C. John Healy Sr., Director, Tribal Transportation Program *C.J.H.*
Jay Springer, NECI

DATE: November 1, 2018

RE: Lake 17 Project Plan-EA FBIC Council Orientation

The Fort Belknap Indian Community Council, Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) and NECI invite you to attend a stakeholder orientation meeting for the Lake 17/Little Suction Creek Project.

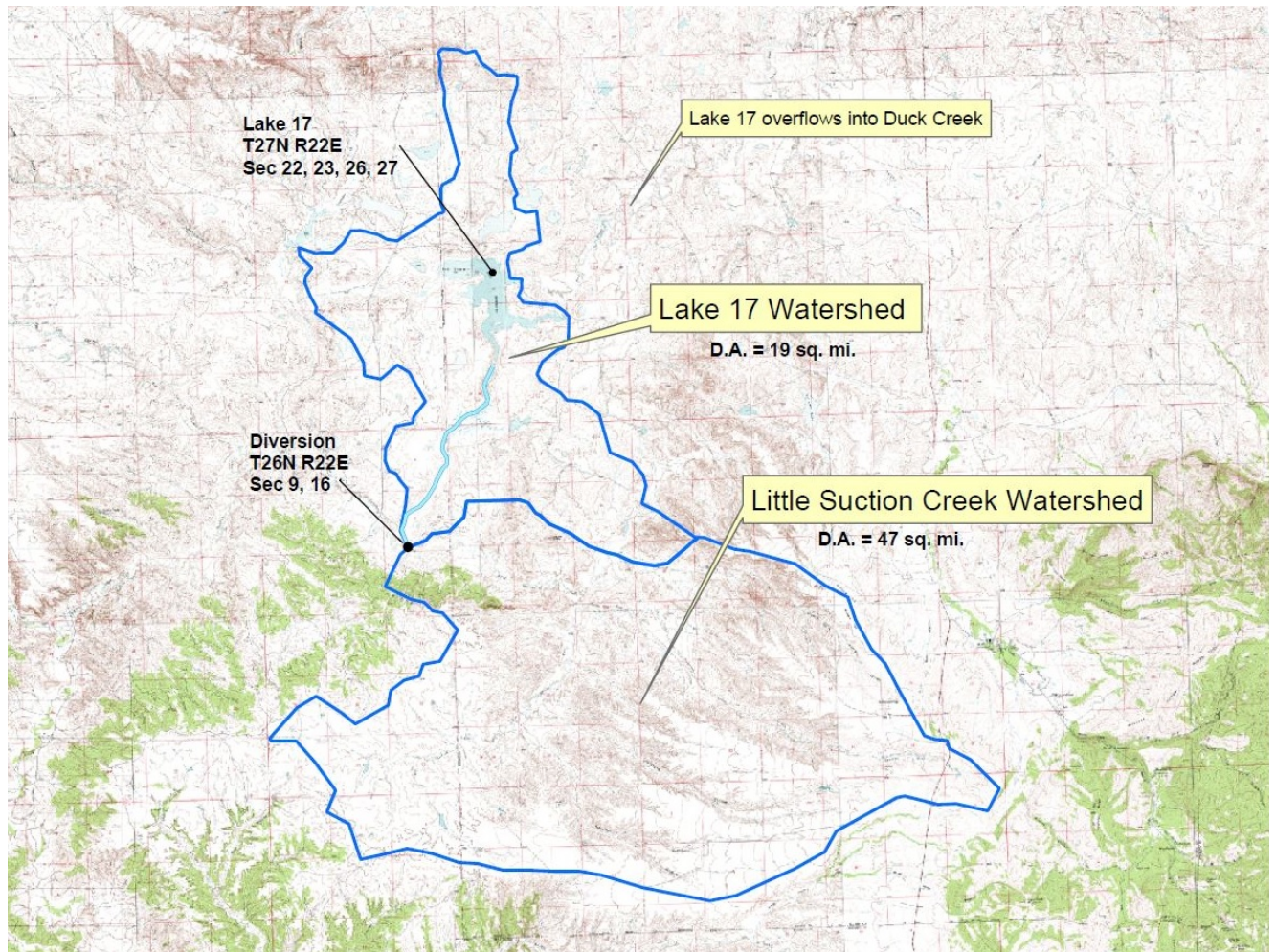
The meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 14th at 9 am in the Fort Belknap Indian Community Council Chambers, 656 Agency Main Street, Harlem, MT. This meeting will provide more detail on the information on the project. A Community Awareness Meeting will in the afternoon in Hays, a flyer will be forthcoming with the location & time.

The **Lake 17/Suction Creek Project** is being undertaken by the NRCS together with the project sponsor, the Fort Belknap Indian Community,

Lake 17 is an artificial impoundment formed by the combination of a dam at the lake itself, and a diversion dam south of the lake. Both the diversion dam and main dam at the lake were constructed in the 1920's with the intended purpose of supplying water for a planned irrigation system. For nearly a century, the large, shallow impoundment has provided critical open water and wetland habitat for a variety of wildlife including birds, mammals, reptiles, and amphibians.

Operation and maintenance of the Lake 17 Dam is an asset to the success of the Fort Belknap Indian Community Little Suction Creek Diversion and Lake 17 Dam Project. NECI has been contracted by the NRCS to develop and evaluate all reasonable hydraulic alternatives and their impacts and to prepare a physically, environmentally, socially, and economically sound project plan environmental impact statement (Plan-EA) for the NRCS in cooperation with the Tribe and applicable federal agencies.

The project and watershed area are shown as follows:



Items to be discussed at the stakeholder orientation meeting include:

- Anticipated schedule for preparation of the Plan-EA
- Synopsis of preliminary investigations to identify the type of cooperation and information from the Tribal departments and the community, including land access permissions, field schedules for data collections, etc.
- Discussion to develop a comprehensive list of potential stakeholders
- Strategy for conducting the public participation/scoping process, which will occur after the preliminary investigation is completed.

To further discuss the project or obtain additional information, please contact the following:

Consulting Engineer:

Jay Spinger, PE
Project Manager
Northern Engineering &
Consulting, Inc. (NECI)
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Tribal Champion:

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Responsible Federal Official:

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