

## RING DIKE COST SHARE POLICY

I. **Purpose.** The purpose of this Policy is to encourage and promote the installation of ring dikes to protect agriculture property from flood damage in the Bois de Sioux Watershed District (the "District"). This Policy is administered by the District and includes the Red River Watershed Management Board ("RRWMB") and NRCS USDA as potential fundings partners. Final decisions on project cost share are dependent upon approvals and contingencies by the District and funding partners.

II. **Relationship to Joint Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan.** Ring dikes can be used to reduce flood risk. The Bois de Sioux River & Mustinka River Watersheds Joint Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan (the "Plan") identifies private flooding as one of the District's top twelve issues and specifies the use of ring dikes to reach related long and short-term goals. As stated in the Plan, measurable goals include:

*Private Flooding, Long-Term Goal: Flood risk reduction is provided against the Atlas 14 100-year, 24-hour event for all rural homesteads and against the Atlas 14 10-year, 24-hour event for other private infrastructure.*

*Private Flooding, Short-Term Goal: Farmsteads and private infrastructure most at risk are identified and prioritized with 50% protected with ring dikes as needed.*

III. **Policy Definitions.** All capitalized terms used and not otherwise defined herein have the meanings given to them in the Plan, and as defined in this section, unless a different meaning clearly applies from the context.

1. "Farmstead Footprint" means the footprint of an agriculture operation consisting of the rural home(s) and farm infrastructure, structures, and buildings, within a defined location capable of being protected by a ring dike.
2. "Farmstead Ring Dike" means a ring dike intended to protect the rural home(s) and farm infrastructure, structures, and buildings, within the farmstead footprint. Typically, farmstead ring dikes are constructed at a minimum of two feet (2') of freeboard over the flood of record, or one foot (1') above the administrative 100-year flood, whichever is greater.
3. "Rural Ring Dike" means (1) a ring dike intended to protect rural residential homes not within a farmstead footprint; or (2) a ring dike intended to protect grain bins, machine sheds, and other storage buildings not within a farmstead footprint.

IV. **Cost Share Program Requirements.** The following requirements and considerations apply when determining cost share eligibility:

1. Applications are limited to new ring dikes or upgrades to existing ring dikes, including engineering costs; repair and maintenance costs are ineligible.

2. Only property within the District’s geographical area is eligible for cost share funds under this Policy.
3. The applicant must demonstrate the need for cost share funding including evidence of past flooding issues and damages to the property and structures. Evidence may include, but is not limited to, photographs, insurance records, engineering records, and NRCS data.
4. Total current market value of the property to be protected must be submitted based on the most recent information from the county assessor where the proposed project is located.

**V. Cost Share Priority.** The following is a list of priorities used in determining who may receive cost share funds:

1. Priority is given to landowners, who are farmers/ranchers, that pay taxes to local governments, specifically, to the District.
2. Property with a history of severe and repeated flooding has preferential consideration for cost share eligibility.
3. Priority will be given to protecting homes and farm infrastructure within a farmstead footprint. Secondary priority will be given to rural residential homes not within a farmstead footprint. Grain bins, machine sheds, and other storage buildings outside of a farmstead footprint will be given lower priority.
4. Priority will be given to property located in High and Medium Planning Regions, in accordance with the Plan’s Private Flooding Goal, and within ½ mile of a Priority River or Stream Channel, in accordance with the Plan’s Unstable Channels Goal.

**VI. Allocation of Cost Share Funding.** Cost share approval will be granted by the District and funding partners, on a case-by-case basis, depending on availability of funds. The District and funding partners have complete and final discretion as to the allocation of cost share funds. Cost share funds will be allocated during the term of the District permit for the project, similar to progress payments, upon request from the applicant to the District.

Type of Cost	District	RRWMB	Landowner/Other
Engineering and Construction	25%	50%	25%

**VII. Use of Cost Share Funds.** Cost share funds are only to be used for the construction of new ring dikes or upgrades to existing ring dikes, including engineering costs; repair and maintenance costs are ineligible. Cost share funds must be used within one (1) year or within the term of the District permit for the project, whichever occurs later.

**VIII. Effective Date.** Approved this 21<sup>st</sup> day of October, 2021.