

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

DAVID HOGAN  
DISTRICT 1, PRESIDENT

SHARON A. THOMPSON  
DISTRICT 2

BURKETT ROSS  
DISTRICT 3

RODERICK WOULLARD  
DISTRICT 4, VICE PRESIDENT

CHRIS BOWEN  
DISTRICT 5



641 MAIN STREET  
P. O. BOX 1310  
HATTIESBURG, MISSISSIPPI 39403-1310

PHONE (601) 545-6000  
FAX (601) 545-6095

DAVID B. MILLER  
ATTORNEY

JENNIFER SLADE  
COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

Dear Rawls Springs /Eatonville Residents,

Flooding and drainage have long been issues within the community. I have personally made it a priority to address those issues within the Rawls Springs community. Recently, the county has been awarded funding to mitigate such issues. The funding was received from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). The funds received will lead to a two-part process: planning and construction. The former will be addressed first and will require your input. Thus, the creation of this letter and subsequent appeal of you and others to attend our first public meeting. The meeting will be held **Tuesday, November 28<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m.** This meeting will be held at the Rawls Springs Community Center (50 Rawls Street).

I would like to emphasize the purpose of the project which is the protection and/or rehabilitation of the existing resources and flooding problems within this watershed. Alternatives under consideration to reach these objectives include the most technically, economically, socially, and environmentally defensible alternatives for channel modification, watershed restoration, retention/detention, or other best management practices as determined in consultation with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and the Mississippi Soil and Water Conservation Commission (MSWCC). Our goal is to protect you from further/future flooding by utilizing sound scientific/engineering methods and focusing upon this from a watershed approach.

I encourage you to attend the meeting and give input that will ultimately provide relief to the community. A program description is attached for your review. If you have questions regarding information on the proposed action or the scoping meeting, contact Kurt Readus, State Conservationist, at 601-863-3957.

Sincerely,

Sharon Thompson, District 2 Supervisor

Enclosures (2)

## Rawls Springs Community Meeting

### Purpose:

To discuss a proposed Watershed Plan and Environmental Assessment for the Big Creek-Bouie River Watershed.

### Date:

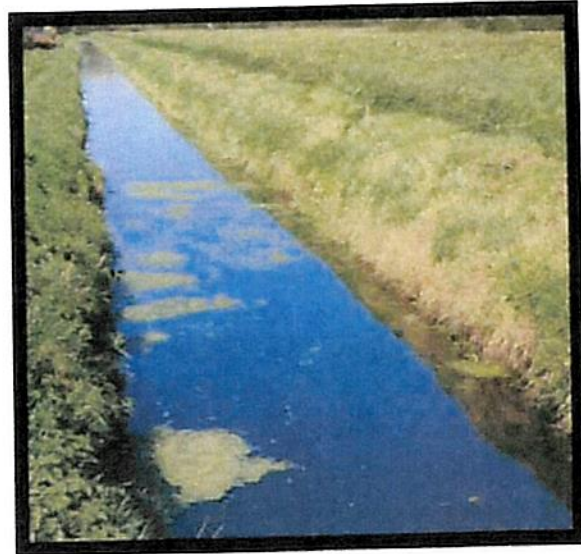
Tuesday, November 28, 2023

4:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m.

### Location:

Rawls Springs Community Center

50 Rawls Street



### Why you should attend?

To provide feedback in regard to flooding and drainage issues within your community. ***Your participation is imperative to the execution of this \$2.4M project.***

### How will the information be used?

To assist engineers and scientists for the protection and rehabilitation of existing resources within the watershed. These professionals will also utilize information provided by you to formulate alternatives to address flooding/drainage.

### What agencies are leading this effort?

United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)

The Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS)

### For more information, contact:

Contact Kurt Readus, State Conservationist at 601-863-3957.

**YOUR OPINON MATTERS!!**



United States Department of Agriculture

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE

**Big Creek-Bouie River Watershed, Forrest and Lamar Counties, Mississippi**

**AGENCY:** Natural Resources Conservation Service

**ACTION:** Notice of Intent to Prepare a Supplemental Watershed Plan and Environmental Assessment (Plan-EA).

**SUMMARY:** Pursuant to section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969; the Council on Environmental Quality Guidelines (40 CFR Part 1500); and the Natural Resources Conservation Service Guidelines (7 CFR Part 650); the Natural Resources Conservation Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, give notice that Supplemental Watershed Plan and Environmental Assessment (Plan-EA) is being prepared for the Big Creek-Bouie River Watershed, Forrest and Lamar Counties, Mississippi.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Kurt Readus, State Conservationist, Natural Resources Conservation Service, 100 W. Capitol Street, Suite 1321, Jackson, Mississippi, 39269, telephone: 601-863-3957.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The environmental assessment of this federally assisted action indicates that the project may cause significant local, regional, or national impacts on the environment. As a result of these findings, Kurt Readus, State Conservationist, has determined that the preparation and review of a supplemental watershed plan and environmental assessment is needed for this project.

The project concerns are the protection and or rehabilitation of the existing resources and flooding problems within this watershed. Alternatives under consideration to reach these objectives include the most technically, economically, socially, and environmentally defensible alternatives for channel modification, watershed restoration, retention/detention, or other best management practices as determined in consultation with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and the Mississippi Soil and Water Conservation Commission (MSWCC).

A draft supplemental watershed plan and environmental assessment will be prepared and circulated for review by agencies and the public. The Natural Resources Conservation Service invites participation and consultation of agencies and individuals that have special expertise, legal jurisdiction, or interest in the preparation of the draft supplemental watershed plan and environmental assessment. Meetings will be held at 4 p.m., Tuesday, November 28, 2023, in the Rawls Springs Community Center, Hattiesburg, Mississippi, to determine the scope of the evaluation of the proposed action. Comments received, including the names and addresses of those who comment, will be considered part of the public record on this proposal. Further information on the proposed action or the scoping meeting may be obtained for Kurt Readus, State Conservationist, at the above address or telephone 601-863-3957.

Kurt Readus, State Conservationist  
October 25, 2023

(This activity is listed in the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance under No. 10.904 – Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention – and is subject to the provisions of Executive Order 12372, which requires intergovernmental consultation with State and local officials.)

Note: Detailed information on preparing Federal Register notices can be found in the Federal Register Document Drafting Handbook at [www.federalregister.gov](http://www.federalregister.gov)

USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service  
Suite 1321, Federal Building, 100 West Capitol Street, Jackson, MS 39269  
Voice 601.863.3922

An equal opportunity provider, employer and lender.

