

Licking Run Documents Are Signed

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Nearly 15 years after plans for the Cedar Run Watershed were conceived, the local co-sponsors gathered in Warrenton Friday to sign the documents that initiate the large—and expensive—project.

All members of both the Board of Supervisors and Fauquier's John Marshall Soil and Water Conservation District were present for the signing ceremonies that officially give the green light for the construction of the Licking Run Impoundment, the first of six dams planned in the 65,517-acre watershed. Representatives of the town of Warrenton, the third sponsor, were unable to attend the meeting.

The watershed is a federal project designed to alleviate problems caused by flooding and erosion. A study carried out by the sponsors indicates that average annual flooding and erosion damages of \$232,707 will be slashed 66 percent upon the completion of the watershed project. It also is expected to allow for the more effective use of about 3,000 acres of agricultural flood plain.

Federal funds recently were made available to finance the U.S. government's 89.5 percent share of the \$2 million Licking Run project. The remaining 10.5 percent of the construction costs, or about \$225,000, will be borne by the county. Fauquier already has expended \$265,000 for acquiring land surrounding just the Licking Run site.

Several representatives from the local and state Soil Conservation Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture were present to give the two boards a comprehensive look at the Licking Run project from beginning to end. While the SCS will be responsible for the actual construction, the regular operation and maintenance of the impoundment will be left to the county.

Site 4, as the Licking Run impoundment is known, is the largest of the three multi-purpose structures and three flood-control lakes included in the project. The dam will reach 62.5 feet into the air and will form a lake of 108 acres reaching as deep as 25 feet during periods of normal rainfall.

The SCS officials said they hope to advertise for bids around the first of March and award the contract sometime in June. The actual work on the structure, which is designed to withstand a 100-year storm (27 inches of rainfall), should begin shortly after a contractor is found.

As work on the Licking Run dam

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SCS To Reevaluate Dam Sites

(Continued from Page A-1) gets underway, the SCS will be reevaluating the five other dams now scheduled to be built on Turkey Run and Gupton Run, near Air-lie, and on Owl Run and near Auburn. During the reevaluation process, the SCS will study the feasibility and need for these remaining projects and then will present the alternatives to the sponsors. The SCS is now in the process of obtaining "work permits" to visit private land around the other sites to perform tests and lake measurements.

John B. Adams, chairman of the Board of Supervisors, suggested that the reevaluation be completed before the county buys any more land rights. And he indicated that buying land rights and obtaining easements in the future may be substantially more expensive because of "skyrocketing" land values.

Should the county be prepared to acquire the land rights for one or more of the other projects, Jim Michaels, assistant state superintendent for the SCS, says the money should be available.

"I think it's feasible that funds will be available, possibly as fast as we want to move," said Mr. Michaels in response to a question. "I could get the money right now (for another of the dams)," he said a few moments later. "But it's like a yo yo — you've got to be ready."