

From: [Heather Luinstra](#)
To: [Mohr, Jason](#)
Cc: [Stephanie Ler](#); [DNRC Richland CD](#); [Mandi Nay](#); [Judy Lapan](#); [Forrest Mandeville](#)
Subject: WPIC potential Case study - Richland County
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Attachments: [WPIC Request for Information.pdf](#)

Jason,

Thank you for speaking with me the other day regarding the Water Policy Interim Committee's request for potential water availability and supply case studies. Attached, please find two examples of projects that are specific to Richland County. The first case is an effort to demonstrate what has not worked while the second case attempts to demonstrate a success story.

I appreciate the opportunity to present these projects to you and the Committee. I hope that you find these individual cases valuable and beneficial to the Committee's goals.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Heather Luinstra, RS
Richland County Sanitarian
406-433-2207
hluinstra@richland.org

WPIC REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

Case 1. Thiel Valley View Water Users' Association Richland County, Montana

The Richland County Valley View Water Users' Association (RCVWUA) was created in the late 1970's to serve potable water to Thiel Valley View Subdivision (created in 1974) and the River View Subdivision (created in 1984). The original Montana Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) approval for the water users' association consisted of 35 single family lots located within the Thiel Valley View Subdivision. In 1984 an additional 19 single family lots in the River View Subdivision were approved for connection to the RCVWUA with conditions that upgrades to the system be made per approved plans and specifications (Engineering West, 2015). Shortly after the decline of the oil boom in 1984, demand for the additional real estate suddenly ceased. Upgrades and improvements to the RCVWUA by the developer of the River View Subdivision were never completed.

In the past few years Thiel Valley View and River View Subdivision have become developed again, as a result of the Bakken Oil Boom. The water system currently has approvals for 54 single family residential lots based upon DEQ records and the RCVWUA boundary description. To date, 9 lots within the Riverview Subdivision have undergone Certificate of Subdivision Approval (COSA) rewrites and 2 additional lots will be rewritten in the near future for uses other than that of the water users' association. This would bring the water system demand down to 45 single-family residential lots and potentially down to 43 single-family residential lots if proposed COSA rewrites are completed.

However, with a water system that was originally designed for only 35 single family lots and an association board left with few economic resources to assist in completing the original phase II water plans the current system is being strained. The precise demands and capacities of the system are unclear. It is obvious that the system may be supplying water to lots that are not approved or that may be inconsistent with the approvals. Therefore, it has become abundantly necessary to provide a clear plan of what the system can currently provide and what deficiencies must be upgraded to adequately serve the population at hand.

***Case 2. Dry-Redwater Regional Water Authority
Richland County, Montana***

Dry-Redwater Regional Water Authority (DRWA) is a public water and wastewater system currently active in Richland County. DRWA is a legal entity formed in 2005 with the intention of providing safe and reliable regional water to the population. Since forming, DRWA has been working with the Federal Bureau of Reclamation through the exceedingly complicated processes of the Rural Water Act of 2006. Due to the bureaucratic red tape involved in those processes, DRWA had been unsuccessful in actually constructing pipeline and providing much needed services to the users in the service area.

In 2013, however, DRWA received an opportunity to partner with Richland County and the City of Sidney to construct pipeline and provide water and wastewater services to users outside the City of Sidney limits. As a result of these partnerships, there is pipeline constructed south of Sidney, using the City of Sidney as an interim source. DRWA provides both water and wastewater services to the users on the “DRWA Sidney South Line”. The first DRWA users officially came online in late 2014 and water and wastewater services are being provided without incident.

Two additional extensions near Sidney are being planned with construction expected to begin in 2016. The first extension will extend to the Yellowstone River and provide services to both commercial and residential users. The other extension will extend service to the Sidney Circle Subdivision and Goss Homesites. These two extensions have the potential to provide services for over 300 users, both residential and commercial. Without DRWA, users outside Sidney City limits would not have access to a public water and wastewater systems.