



APPLICATION FORM

Regionalization Assistance Program (RAP)

Return completed form and an additional copy to:

SRF Administrator

100 North Senate Avenue, Rm. 1275

Indianapolis, IN 46204

www.srf.in.gov

Section I. APPLICANT INFORMATION

- A. Applicant name (political subdivision): Helmsburg Regional Sewer District
- B. Name of Project: Northern Brown County Sewer Regionalization Project
- C. Type of Applicant (circle one): City, Town, County, Conservancy District, Regional Sewer District, Other.
- D. Location of the Proposed Project: City / Town: Unincorporated Area of Helmsburg and other areas in Brown County
(If project lies in multiple towns/cities, please specify percentage of project being constructed in each town or city; should equal 100%)
- E. Civil Township(s) : Southern Jackson USGS Quadrangle Map Name (s) , Township (s) , Range (s) , Section(s) : _____
- F_a. State Representative District: 60 & 65 F_b. State Senate District: 40 F_c. Congressional District: 9
- G. Indicate the Watershed in which the Project is located: _____ (see Appendix A, B)
- H_a. Service Area Population¹: 500 - 2000 H_b. Population Trend²: 500 - 2000
- I. Median Household Income for Service Area³: \$56,323 (County) NOTE: A county-wide income survey in 2017 identified a Low to Moderate Income (LMI) level of 53.1 percent.
- J. Equivalent Dwelling Units (EDU): (current) _____ (proposed) 200-800
- K. Number of Connections: (current) 63 (post project) 200 - 800
- L. Current User Rate/6,000 gallons: _____ Estimated Post User Rate/6,000gallons: \$50.00 to \$92.50
- M. Available Treatment Provider: Current septic systems and Helmsburg RSD Proposed: Helmsburg RSD
- N. Treatment Facility Name: Helmsburg RSD Address: 4856 Helmsburg Rd, Nashville, IN 47448
- O. Applicant's Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number⁴: _____

1 Census data is available at http://factfinder.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/community_facts.xhtml (Enter community and State)

2 Population Trend: http://factfinder.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/community_facts.xhtml (Annual Population Estimates. Note if increasing or decreasing)

3 MHI: <http://factfinder.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/index.xhtml> "Selected Economic Characteristics" 2009-2013 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

4 DUNS Number: http://www.in.gov/ifa/srf/files/DUNS_Memo_4_19_13.pdf

Section II. CONTACT INFORMATION:

Authorized Signatory

Name: **Denise Broussard**

Title: **President**

Telephone # (include area code): 812-606-0661

Address: 2392 Main St

City, State, Zip Code Nashville, IN 47448

E-mail: **denisebroussard8971@msn.com**

Local Counsel

Contact: John Young

Firm: Young and Young Law

Address: 40 W Court St D

City, State, Zip Code: Franklin, IN 46131

Telephone # (include area code): 317-736-7117

Fax: _____

E-mail: _____

Section III. PROJECT INFORMATION

- A. Current Need: Please describe the need to create a regional plan for your area including documentation from county health department or other. (Additional recommendations for the proposed study may be set forth in Attachment A)**

Helmsburg is a Regional Sewer District (HRSD) that has a successful and operational wastewater treatment plant with room to expand. The adjoining property owner would also support an expansion within the allotted area already owned by the Sewer District.

Brown County has many areas that currently are unserved by sewers and are on individual septic systems. The HRSD intends to prepare a study evaluating the sanitary sewage needs and the estimated cost of providing sanitary sewage service to all areas that can be served by the Helmsburg RSD. This would include the Lake Lemon Conservancy, the Bean Blossom Creek watershed, and areas currently served by the Helmsburg sewer system, as well as areas included in the Brown County Regional Sewer District's territory.

The loss of the For Bare Feet Sock Factory in 2011 had a significant impact on the economic viability of the Helmsburg RSD. With a customer base of only 63 customers, Helmsburg had to recently raise the monthly rate to \$92.50. Helmsburg needs more customers and an effective strategy for expanding the customer base as much as possible and lowering rates. Representatives from the Lake Lemon Conservancy have recently identified that they have at least 80 residences that desire service from the Helmsburg RSD.

B. Identify Regional Solutions

Briefly describe potential regional solutions to the need identified above in Section III A.

By evaluating wastewater collection and treatment needs over a broad area of the county, regional solutions - instead of individual solutions - can be evaluated.

A regional approach to wastewater collection and treatment will allow a wider base of customers to benefit from economies of scale. Costs of construction, operation and maintenance for larger, more centrally located sewage systems designed to serve multiple areas, could lower the cost for sewer service per customer. This grant will pay for the cost of a technical and economical evaluation for regionalization opportunities in the northern part of Brown County.

This study will also evaluate sending Helmsburg RSD's flow to Brown County RSD for treatment as well as for Brown County RDS's flow to Helmsburg for treatment.

Helmsburg has the only county approved economic development area (EDA) and associated economic plan. Further, Helmsburg has the first ever citizen-led Community Development Corporation (501c3) that

supports community and economic development. The Helmsburg CDC supports upgrades and expansion of the existing plant. Helmsburg requires that the study include the following:

- A plan for the Helmsburg RSD that will allow for expansion to accommodate as many new customers as possible with a target monthly rate of \$65.00 – \$85.00 a month *or lower*. The Gnaw Bone RSD has a current rate of less than \$60.00.
- Expanding the Helmsburg RSD board from three members to five to include representative (s) from the new areas to be served. This could include the Lake Lemon Conservancy, Trevlac, and Bean Blossom areas.
- A plan to consider a phased approach to include immediate support for the Lake Lemon/Trevlac and Bean Blossom watershed area.
- A plan that will include maintenance, management and administrative support.

C. Description of existing technical and organization status:

Describe how your organization plans to provide assistance and how other organizations (if any) will be included.

Helmsburg RSD is currently organized as a regional sewer district. The Helmsburg RSD intends to evaluate *any area* that can be served by the Helmsburg RSD. This would include northern portions of Brown County to determine the most economical way to provide sanitary sewage service to populations in and around these areas, now and in the future.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: Helmsburg's plant has been operational for approximately 18 years and has only received one citation from IDEM due to excessive weed growth near the perimeter of the plant.

It is believed the plant operates at approximately 12% capacity.

HRSD entered into a partnership with Gnaw Bone RSD to purchase billing software so the Districts can do their own billing, and executed a 5-year contract with a new billing agent. HRSD has decreased its monthly per customer billing charge with this change from \$20.50 per customer to \$8.50 per customer.

HRSD also have legal support that has been with the Helmsburg RSD from its establishment, as well as accounting support.

Section IV. COST INFORMATION

A. Project Cost Estimate:

Estimate of the total cost to develop a Regionalization Planning Document: \$ 30,000

Note: The RAP Grant amount will be shared between the Helmsburg RSD and the Brown County RSD.

Section V. SIGNATURE

I certify that I am legally authorized by the legislative body of the applicant to sign this application. To the best of my knowledge and belief, the foregoing information is true and correct.

Signature of Authorized Signatory (Community Official)

JENNY K. AUSTIN

Printed or Typed Name

Title of Authorized Signatory

7-15-19

Date