

## Pond Clean Out Notes

Dick Purcell NRCS State Conservation Engineer

- NRCS does not have a Pond Clean Out Standard.
- Manpower is limited when making a site visit to evaluate a pond for clean out.
- NRCS would have to take into consideration the amount of water and silt buildup in pond.  
There is no approved method for measuring silt amounts or sediment removal amounts at this time.
- Material from pond pool will need to be dried before adding to pond dam. May take months for this to happen, depending on the soil type that has silted in the pond.
- Differences in soil types in different areas of state. Certain soil types are easier for successful pond clean out than others.
- Differences in way ponds were originally built. Some were never cored and just pushed up.
- Trees growing on bank are a conduit for water to leave the pond even when trees are removed the roots will cause the pond to leak when they deteriorate. This will require any dam that has trees growing on it to be rebuilt or a fabric or clay liner placed on the inside of the pond to prevent future leaking.
- Cannot promise that pond will hold water after reconstruction.
- Designs for reconstruction are harder due to not knowing how much sediment needs to be removed.

Jeff Lance, Land Contractor, Mo Land Improvement Contractors Association

- Where do you place the material while reconstructing the pond?
- Usually material will need to be moved twice during a reconstruction due to the water content of the material.
- If you break the seal on the dam, you may not get the dam resealed.
- Old galvanized pipes may be over looked in the reconstruction and may start a leak after reconstruction completion.
- You never know how much extra work you will have in a reconstruction project.
- If it starts raining during reconstruction, it may be 3 to 6 months before you are back to complete the project.
- Any experienced contractor will refuse to give a cost estimate before starting a pond clean out.

Comments:

John \_\_\_\_ (district employee)

1. Clean out can be very expensive
2. Cheaper to build the dam higher than clean out
3. Need to put waterline and fence around the cleaned out pond or will be silted in again in a short time

4. For the cost of a regular clean out, you can install a new pressure tank, 1 mile of underground pipe, and 4 tire tanks.

Melissa \_\_\_\_\_ (district technician) – would like for us to use that funding towards pipe and tanks instead of clean outs

Don \_\_\_\_\_ (district supervisor)

1. If you do not have a NRCS design, IRS will not allow you to depreciate the expenses
2. If you create steeper slope to banks, it will help to eliminate algae problem

Kathryn Braden's comments:

1. Would like to see us cost-share on clean outs.
2. Would like to see us cost-share on reseeding.
3. Sees a need for us to provide matching grants again for purchase of drills.
4. Would like us to use any remaining funding that isn't consumed by Drought Assistance contracts to provide a one-time project for pond clean out.

Richard Fordyce's comments:

1. There is only a 50/50 shot that the clean out will go ok and be a functioning pond.
2. What resource concern should the funding come from – SheetRill & Gully?
3. It may make more sense to put another pond downhill and use the pond up hill to become a sediment trap.
4. He leans toward not paying cost-share for pond clean out.
5. Where would the funding come from as the FY14 funding is already been approved by the commission?
6. There was emergency funding for cleaning out of terraces that were under maintenance after the high rainfall in the past. However, these were recent terraces that had designs and met current NRCS specs, so it was known how much sediment needed removal.

Other comments:

1. Does it matter if the pond surface is rough or slick when finished cleaning out? Per Jeff – no. It will silt in to be slick no matter what.
2. Have a hard time to get an experienced contractor to provide an upfront estimated cost
3. There is the possibility that the pond won't hold water after cleanout
4. May take a long time to complete; especially if the contractor has to move the sediment more than once.
5. Can we just cost-share on the fence and a tank if the farmer cleans the pond? Per Ken S. Can use N472 to fence. Will have to consider the tank if there is an existing pipe.
6. Can run a new pipe up and around the dam when cleaning out instead of compromising the dam by trenching or pushing a pipe through.
7. Requested a flier on the dos and don'ts for clean out.
8. Can we do a set amount, like \$3000 per clean out or one cost-share amount for small and a larger amount for bigger ponds? Per Ken S. Will still have to meet NRCS specs if any funding goes towards clean out.