

Project Team Meeting
January 3, 2007

A meeting of the Wild Rice Watershed District Project Team was held at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, January 3, 2007, at the District office in Ada, Minnesota. The following were in attendance: Bob Merritt, Brian Dwight, Curtis Borchert, Dave Friedl, Earl Johnson, Henry Van Offelen, Jerry Dahl, Kevin Kassenborg, Mike Vavricka, Ron Thorsrud, Scott Kahan, Steve Bommersbach, Steve Jacobson, Tim Halle, Warren J. Seykora, Bob Wright, Diane Ista, Joe Spaeth, Dave Vipond, Jim Skaurud, Jerry Bents, Steve Dalen and Loretta Johnson.

The meeting was called to order. Following is the agenda:

- South Branch Storage
- SWCD Land Program Payment Programs
- Concordia College Biomass Update – Greg Hoch
- Mainstem Reevaluation Options
- Upper Felton Reevaluation

Engineer Bents provided a Power Point Presentation update on the South Branch Storage Project. Major work completed to date includes two tributary site landowner meetings; two lower site landowner meetings; preliminary soils work – upper and lower sites; LIDAR collection; preliminary field recon, survey; and lower site – preferred alternative site selection. The preferred lower alternative site is #4 which is a large off-channel storage site of approximately 3,300 acres. Flow from the South Branch would be diverted into the site with a bypass channel for low flows. Gated spring storage would be for 20-30 days and the site would hold approximately 15-18,000 acre feet of storage. Concerns include the fact that this site will not help the erosion through the beachridge; potential sedimentation; large land impacts and the current cost estimate of \$16.6 Million.

Upper Tributary Site information derived from LIDAR indicated that the dike heights, land impacts and costs would need to be increased when comparing to the original maps created for each site from the use of quadrangle maps. Following is a spreadsheet that provides storage, surface acres, runoff capacity and drainage area of each site:

Upper Basin Tributary Storage Component					
	Storage (ac-ft)	Surface (acres) E.S.	Surface (acres) Top of Dam	Runoff Capacity (Inches)	Drainage Area (SM)
UN5	1261	489	964	5.4	11.7
UN15	1678	469	756	4.2	7.5
UN35	2141	576	820	6.4	6.3
UN45	1273	342	536	3.0	8.0
UN55B	1011	291	692	3.8	5.0
UN55A	610	139	343	1.1	10.7
CD18	1766	371	571	2.9	11.3
Totals	9739	2677	4682	3.3	56.0

NOTES:
 Total Drainage Area Listed accounts for part of UN55A controlling the UN55B Drainage Area
 Total Runoff-Capacity – Based on Total Storage/Total DA
 Storage listed only includes storage to Emergency Spillway

Engineer Bents suggested that smaller committees be appointed to develop the possibility of using available programs for land acquisition. Henry Van Offelen asked if the District discussed investigating any of the additional 15-18 sites that were in the original group. Bob Merritt suggested waiting until the LIDAR mapping is complete from the DNR and in a more useable format to save money in looking at the sites.

The Wetland Mitigation/Review Procedure was discussed at length. Bob Merritt stated that Don Buckhout has been working on a Point of Agreement with the COE regarding a wetland mitigation program that is acceptable. Concerns were raised that the projects would get to the point of wetland mitigation and not be approved by the COE. Merritt assured everyone that the DNR would continue to work with the District throughout the entire process.

Administrator Dalen stated that Kevin Kassenborg agreed to provide rates used in Clay County for the CREP, CRP and RIM payments that could be used for acquisition in a Flood Damage Reduction (FDR) type site. Warren Seykora stated that the legislative committee for the Watershed District has been talking to legislators about the possibility of piggy backing these projects for FDR projects in the District.

Administrator Dalen introduced Greg Hoch, Concordia College, who provided an interesting presentation on biomass energy using alternative native grasses, prairie grasses and switch grass for the production of ethanol. Hoch also talked about the possible rate of return for the landowner.

Administrator Dalen reported that the District is requesting funding assistance from Congressman Collin Peterson for a reevaluation of the Twin Valley Dam/Lake in the upcoming WRDA Bill. Dalen stated that Congressman Jim Oberstar, Chairman of the Transportation Committee, forwarded an email to him this a.m. in which he stated that by January 10, 2007, he would provide an update to the Board of Managers on the WRDA Bill.

A report prepared by Henry Van Offelen on the Upper Felton Creek Watershed Initiative was distributed for review. A map of the plan view of the proposed runoff retention sites located just below the beach ridge near Hwy#9 was included. Six potential individual sites were shown. These sites would be constructed similar to the Parnell Impoundment. Bents stated that the clay is not there to build a dike but it could be downsized and felt that investigating the option may be a good idea. Discussion followed.

There being no further business for the Project Team, the meeting was adjourned.