

WILD RICE WATERSHED DISTRICT
11 Fifth Avenue East
Ada, MN 56510

PROJECT TEAM MEETING
April 23, 2008
UNAPPROVED

The Project Team met at the WRWD on April 23, 2008, with the following persons in attendance: Joe Spaeth, Brian Borgen, Jerry Bents, Mark Harless, Marijo Vik, Wayne Goeken, Jack Fredrick, Tim Halle, Aaron Neubert, Brian Dwight, Curtis Borchert, Dave Friedl, Diane Ista, Paul Wannarka, Earl Johnson, Henry Van Offelen, Joe Slette, Mike Vavricka, Paul Houglum, Bob Wright, Scott Kahan, Steve Bommersbach, John Austinson, Warren Seykora, Jerry Dahl, Duane Erickson, Loretta Johnson and Steve Dalen.

The following items were on the agenda: Project #42 Update; Upper Felton Project; Twin Valley GRR; WRWD TMDL Study; WRRFS Ph #2 Study.

Project #42 Update. Engineer Bents gave a PowerPoint presentation on Project #42. Administrator Dalen stated that he has had communication and initial visits with most landowners on the Upper Becker Dam Site and Engineer Bents has visited a second time with some landowners to provide additional technical data. Dalen stated that landowners on this site are interested and there is a positive outlook for this project. The District board authorized soil borings which contractors have indicated will begin within about a week.

Upper Felton. Administrator Dalen distributed for review, a handout dated April 2008, which illustrates six planning steps for the Felton Subwatershed. The steps are: 1) establish a goal-purpose/need; 2) public involvement; 3) review interested parcels with Project Team; 4) WRWD meetings with interested landowners; 5) preliminary design concepts; and 6) public involvement. Engineer Bents stated that this is a draft of planning steps and the dates can be adjusted.

Twin Valley GRR. Administrator Dalen reported that at the present time the general reevaluation is waiting for appropriations and indications from legislators are that the funding may not come this year and they may need to try again next year.

WRWD TMDL Study. Mike Vavricka and Jack Fredrick gave a PowerPoint presentation on the District's TMDL study. Fredrick stated that this effort is required by the Clean Water Act, EPA and MPCA. They have collected existing water quality data from lakes, rivers, streams and wetlands. In May a turbidity report will be completed and preliminary public review begins. Vavricka stated that they used over 60 years of available flow data at the Hendrum gauge. Additional work will begin in the basin this summer which will add information for future reports.

Jack Fredrick reviewed the implementation plan process and also distributed a copy of the Lower Otter Tail River TMDL Implementation for comparison. Fredrick stated that having the implementation plan approved by MPCA will access funding through various agencies.

WRRFS Phase #2 Study. Engineer Bents gave a PowerPoint presentation on the COE WRR FS and distributed a revised draft dated April 21, 2008, of the Project Study Plan for Phase 2 of the Feasibility Study. Bents stated that the board authorized searching for grants or matches from agencies and he met with representatives from DNR who indicate that there are avenues within the DNR for assistance on the local share. County Commissioner Steve Bommersbach asked if there is a way to leverage the federal government for more than 50%. Bents stated that he felt it would be very difficult. Brian Dwight felt that it would be good for the Watershed District to obtain cost share funding from other sources. Dave Friedl stated that the study concurs with the Mediation Agreement and the District's Overall Plan, which would make it a good fit to funding assistance from agencies.

Administrator Dalen stated that the District has a limited amount of resources, and if appropriations are obtained for a plan on the main stem, the District is looking for everyone at the table to assist the District in realizing the potential. The District needs assistance and an alternative of partners in finding the cost share funding.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:00 p.m.