

PROJECT TEAM MEETING
MAY 23, 2007
UNAPPROVED

The Project Team met at the office of the Wild Rice District on May 23, 2007, with the following persons in attendance: Scott Kahn, USFWS; Mike Vavricka, MPCA; Lisa Scheirer, MPCA; Mick Alm, Norman County; Diane Ista, WRWD; Lawrence Pollock, Citizen; Joe Spaeth, WRWD; Bob Merritt, DNR Waters; Steve Bommersbach, Norman County Commissioner; Jerry Bents, Engineer, Houston Engineering; Brian Dwight, BWSR; Steve Dalen, Administrator WRWD; Loretta Johnson, Secretary.

Engineer Bents provided a brief review of the eight on channel sites included in Project #42 along the South Branch and distributed a handout explaining the storage capacity of each site. Brian Dwight explained that all the sites are on-channel, either on the main stem of the South Branch or its tributaries.

Engineer Bents reviewed a memo that was distributed, from the Detroit Lakes meeting with agency personnel. Bob Merritt expressed his opinion on the Hagen site and Scott Kahn stated that SFWS has easements within the sites identified that may be potential project impacts. Merritt expressed the importance of dam safety. Brian Dwight suggested that an on-stream analysis be done on sites 1-8 to complete the site assessment on each. Merritt said that soils are also going to be an issue. Lawrence Pollock, representing the landowners stated that farming is tough anyway, and taking the farmers' land isn't the answer. He asked why the District is not fighting for on-stream storage. Merritt explained that onstream may not be environmentally feasible and then the District will have gone through the entire process and the project would not work. Scott Kahn stressed that agencies do want flood damage reduction for landowners and the District. Steve Bommersbach asked if off channel sites projects are being built, to which Brian Dwight stated that an off channel site was just completed in another district on a tributary.

Due to the 8 on-site reviews that are planned as part of the meeting by the Project Team, members left the District office for field reviews.