

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

PROJECT TEAM MEETING  
September 26, 2007  
UNAPPROVED

The Project Team met at the WRWD on September 26, 2007, with the following persons in attendance: Jack Fredricks, Henry Van Offelen, Warren Seykora, Dave Friedl, Kevin Kassenborg, Jim Wagner, Dave Friedl, Brian Dwight, Mark Harless, Paul Houglum, Jim Wagner, Chuck Larson, Brian Borgen, Joe Slette, Bob Wright, Diane Ista, Mike Christensen, Earl Johnson, Clayton Schultz, Tim Halle, Jerry Bents, Steve Dalen, Loretta Johnson.

Henry and Brian discussed the review of sites 1-4 east of Ulen and recommended that the District actively pursue these sites. Kevin Kassenborg informed the members about the upcoming EQUIP sign up which if applicable could be used on projects. Mark Harless asked if there was local support. Engineer Bents stated that there is very limited landowner acceptance and taking farmland out of production is the greatest concern. The question was raised about using public lands for storage rather than farmland. Earl Johnson stated that with public lands being less than 2 percent of the total and having been previously restored, realizing the importance of valuing that public land must be taken into consideration.

Modifications to Becker Dams were discussed and Earl Johnson suggested checking to see how the changes would relate to the environmental habitat. Discussion continued on the approach and implementation plans. Steve Dalen said that the District's legislative committee met with Representative Eken and Senator Skoe early in September at which time Eken recommended an October meeting with USFWS, and DNR in St. Paul to discuss quantification of mediation and what choices does the Board of Manager have on Sites 5-8 west of Ulen.

Upper Felton Storage. Dalen stated that the board authorized a cost estimate on the Larson site. After reviewing soils testing results on the Felton sites the estimated cost was \$13.5 Million to construction a site at this location for approximately 5,400 ac/feet of storage. Also discussed were mitigation acres, the cost and the fact that the District cannot use state or federal funds for that purpose. Bents stated that the District has a willing landowner at the Larson site and asked if a field exam should be considered. Brian Dwight stated the first step would be to determine if there is a phen. DNR personnel agreed to research that possibility.

Administrator Dalen reported on the status of the WRDA bill and stated that the District has authorized support for this. Dalen stated that the bill passed the Senate and it will go to the President. Dalen stated that he has been told that there are enough votes to override the President if he vetoes the bill.

Heitman Coulee. Brian Dwight stated that there was a chance that landowners in the Heitman Coulee area could have had an opportunity to use the CREP program, but there had been concern about participating in a program in such a short time. Steve Dalen stated that maybe a better developed program will come about for these landowners.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:45 p.m.