

WILD RICE WATERSHED DISTRICT

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SPECIAL MEETING FLOOD EVENT SPRING 2006

Monday April 10, 2006

APPROVED

1. A Special Meeting of the Wild Rice Watershed District Board of Managers was held on Monday, April 10, 2006, at the office of the District located at 11 Fifth Avenue East, Ada, MN. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the recent flood event, status of damages and provide an update to the Board of Managers.

2. The following members were present: Warren Seykora, Jim Skaurud, Diane Ista, Bob Wright, Joe Spaeth and Jim Wagner Sr. The following members were absent: None. In addition, the following persons were present: Administrator Steve Dalen, Recording Secretary Loretta Johnson, Attorney Elroy Hanson, Engineer Jerry Bents and members of the public whose names are listed at the end of these minutes.

3. Chairman Seykora called the meeting to order at 8:35 a.m.

4. Green Meadow Dam. Seykora moved the Green Meadow Dam agenda item to the beginning of the meeting due to the number of landowners in attendance, who were interested in the project performance during the recent flood event. Manager Wagner stated that the local farmers should be credited for working on their own project during the flood and indicated that the dam was not unattended; several people were taking care of it. Engineer Bents said that bid opening on the repair project is scheduled for April 14, 2006, and displayed PowerPoint diagrams of the work to be done on the dam. Chairman Seykora read a letter from Jerry Bennett dated April 8, 2006, in which he gave the following recommendations on what he thought should be done with the Green Meadow Dam: The Board should conduct a dam breach analysis to determine property owners that may be affected in the event of dam failure; An Emergency Response Plan should be developed to address operation, inspection and precautionary measures when there is a risk from possible structure failure; It is recommended that additional freeboard is required to prevent overtopping of the dam embankment. An analysis should be conducted on ways to modify the emergency spillway or the principal outlet controls on the project; Discussion should be conducted with the Minnesota DNR Dam Safety officials as a planning resource and to explore funding options to modify the outlet controls and secure funding to be used for a voluntary buyout program for residences at risk of substantial damage in the event of a dam breach.

Dave Vilmo asked what a normal freeboard for the dam would be. Bents stated that in new construction it is usually three feet. Bents also said that the scheduled project is for repair and not an improvement. Manager Ista stated that there is a need for storage, the additional water into the dam cannot continue, there is a need to be holding water back in storage areas. Jerry Bennett talked about his involvement in the County Road #19 project and distributed information. Kevin Jensen stated that the water running on the north end has made deep cuts into his field. Leon Johnson asked if there was any way that the water going into the dam could be restricted.

Administrator Dalen recommended continued discussion until 9:30 a.m. due to the time constraints and then suggested scheduling another meeting with landowners.

Engineer Bents stated that you can change the dam structure, but the dam is a part of Project #30 and all of the costs for changes are assessed to the entire project. Bents suggested holding a meeting with all landowners assessed into the project. Dale Sip questioned what would happen if the spillway was lowered? Jerry Bennett stated that it is necessary to get more freeboard and the District may need to release some of the water earlier. Dave Vilmo stated that the project was established to stop the water from going over the ditches. Don Vellenga said that repairs to the dam are fine, but asked if the District intended to analyze why the dam is filling so quickly. Mick Alm stated that he talked to Dave Vilmo and also requested that the District investigate the cause of the near breach and overflow of the dam during the flood event. Alm questioned if the cause was meteorological or are the damages to the dam a result of changes on the County Road #19 Project? Floyd Hanson questioned what would happen to downstream landowners if more water is allowed to flow through the dam and be released? Cory Hanson expressed concerns as the Chairman of Green Meadow Township of not being notified of the problem. Dalen stated that he would keep this in mind for another time. Dalen also stated that the District has a repair project going to bids, but the long term plan would be to have another meeting with landowners. Curt Jacobson suggested that landowners who use the ditch system get together and bring their thoughts back to the District Board.

A motion was made by Manager Skaurud and seconded by Manager Wagner authorizing the repair project on the Green Meadow Dam to move forward and authorizing surveys and investigation into the outlet structure to restore it back to the original specifications. Carried.

5. Green Meadow Dam landowners left the meeting at 9:45 a.m.

6. Hendrum Mayor Randy Bergren, stated that he feels the western edge of the county is forgotten, the water ends up on the west side of the county and they also have problems with flood events. In addition to the previous gentlemen's concerns, he stated that focus needs to be changed from diversion to retention. Managers Skaurud and Wagner agreed and felt the District is trying. They stated they understood the only way to control the river is to take water away from the stream. Don Vellenga stated that there is a need to go back to the politicians and provide them with the costs. How many times will FEMA continue to provide funding after flood events? Administrator Dalen agreed with Vellenga and noted that Warren Seykora has been lobbying at the State of Minnesota for this very thing. Seykora stated that the public will be getting recovery money but what is needed is prevention money. Terry Guttormson said that now is the time to move forward with the retention.

Norman County Commissioner Warren Olson talked about the flooding at Halstad stating that he was born and raised along the Marsh River and has never before seen this severe flooding. Norman County Commissioner Steve Jacobson encouraged the Managers to continue working on getting a project on the ground.

7. Members of the public left the meeting at 10:15 a.m.

8. Farmstead Ring Dikes. Engineer Bents informed the Managers that the Farmstead Ring Dike Account has approximately \$40-50K of available funds which need to be used by 6/30/07 and recommended that the Board select the next priorities for ring dikes. Administrator Dalen stated that the District has also received additional applications.

9. A motion was made by Manager Spaeth and seconded by Manager Ista authorizing Tim Halle to publicize a notice stating that following the current flood disaster, funding may become available to the District for the Rural Acquisition Program and the Farmstead Ring Dike Program. Property owners may submit applications, however it should be noted that at the current time, the District has no available funding for these programs. Carried.

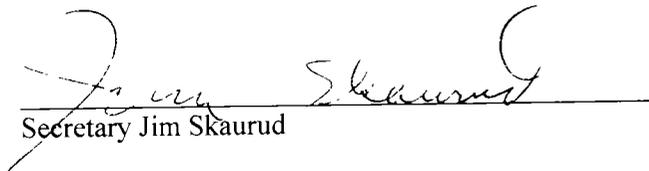
10. Update on Flood Damages. Engineer Bents reported that Technician Mike Buerkley has completed the assessment on all projects and ditches east of Highway #9 and will begin the balance April 10, 2006. Administrator Dalen provided Kevin Rudd with the damage assessment to date.

Manager Wagner questioned who is responsible for the cost of removing the trees that were pulled from the river by area bridges. Mick Alm stated that FEMA usually covers these costs and he will submit this to FEMA.

11. Heiberg Dam Update. Engineer Bents reported that the contractor will complete the work scheduled to be done prior to June 30, 2006, within the next few days. Approximately \$618,000 of the \$920,000 contract is complete and the contractor's plan is to move from this job until August at which time the balance of the construction needs to be completed by November 1, 2006. A motion was made by Manager Skaurud and seconded by Manager Spaeth approving Pay Request #3 in the amount of \$214,333.48 to Landwehr Construction for work on the Heiberg Dam Project. Carried.

12. Norman County Ditch #21. Manager Ista stated that she had questions regarding the assessed area and financial status of the ditch system. Ista will make a list of all questions and bring them to the staff.

13. Managers and Administrator continued on a tour of the District followed by a luncheon meeting at the Wild Rice Dining Emporium with Congressman Collin Peterson.


Secretary Jim Skaurud