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GENERAL REEVALUATION OF TWIN VALLEY DAM
INFORMATIONAL MEETING
APPROVED
March 29, 2007

A special informational meeting of the Wild Rice Watershed District Board of Managers was held on Thursday, March 29, 2007, at the Twin Valley Community Center, Twin Valley, Minnesota. The purpose of the meeting was to provide information to the public on the process of a general reevaluation report of the Twin Valley Dam. The following Managers were in attendance: Bob Wright, Jim Skaurud, Warren Seykora, Jim Wagner, Joe Spaeth, Dave Vipond and Diane Ista. Those absent: None. In addition the following persons were in attendance: Engineer Jerry Bents, Attorney Elroy Hanson, Administrator Steve Dalen, Secretaries Kari Kujava and Loretta Johnson, COE Representatives Judy DesHarnais and Nan Bischoff, DNR Representatives and members of the public whose names are listed on sign in sheets at the office of the District.

Chairman Seykora called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Engineer Bents gave a Google Earth Status video presentation of the Wild Rice River.

Bents followed with a PowerPoint presentation on the history of the Twin Valley Dam.

An Interim survey of the Wild Rice River and Red River of the North Basin was done in October 1967. Authorization was in 1970 under the Flood Control Act. The project was classified as inactive in March of 1987 due to the Benefit Cost Ratio being 0.59. The project drainage area was 888 square miles with the flood control pool at elevation 1104 and the conservation pool elevation at 1063. The dam was to be earthfill with central impervious core + horizontal and vertical sand drains in the downstream portion. Crest elevation was 1116 and streambed elevation 1032. Outlet works functions included river diversion during construction. Intake structure was to be 85 feet high with two 4.5 feet x 10 feet gates with invert elevation of 1035 for normal releases and two 4.5 feet x 6 feet WQ gates at elevation 1051 and 1055 adding flexibility for selective temperature releases and two 4.5 x 10 foot emergency gates. Additional low flow and bypass features were included.

The original location of the proposed dam in 1967 was 1.5 miles upstream of Twin Valley. In 1975 the location changed to 1.5 miles upstream from the original authorized site. In 1987 the site was changed to 2 miles east of Twin Valley. The estimated first costs were \$8.3 Million in 1967 with a benefit cost ration of 1.5; \$13.4 Million in 1975 with a benefit cost ration of 1.23 and \$28.4 Million in 1987 with a benefit cost ratio of 0.59.

The St. Paul District of the COE recommended a mitigation plan of 1,600 acres adjacent to the Faith WMA and the Board of Engineers for Rivers and Harbors recommended 750 acres adjacent to Faith WMA. Land Acquisition included 3,350 acres of land at fee title and 340 acres for flowage easements for a total of 3,690 acres for the flood structure in addition to the mitigation acres. Average annual benefits analysis totaled \$1,828,500.

Administrator Dalen reported that beginning last summer the District began working on alternatives for ways to fund flood damage reduction. Congressman Collin Peterson has been working with the District to levy funds through the WRDA bill and extended apologies for not being able to attend the meeting. Robin Goracke, Aide to Peterson, provided the following email update on the WRDA bill as of today, March 29. "The Water Resources Development Act of 2007, HR 1495, has passed out of the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and is awaiting floor consideration. It is expected that this bill will reach the floor some time in April. The Senate version of this bill is being drafted and could make its way through their Committee process in April with floor consideration shortly thereafter. It is possible that this legislation could make it through the Conference process and be signed by President Bush near the end of the year."

Judy DesHarnais, P.E. DMP for the St. Paul District Corps of Engineers, gave a PowerPoint presentation on "Water Project Authorizations." (A hard copy of the presentation is available at the District office.)

Questions from the audience followed.

If the US COE didn't think this was a good project in 1987, what has changed? DesHarnais stated that the COE is not supposed to discuss pending legislation.

Administrator Dalen replied saying that the following is the proposed verbiage for the WRDA Bill: "Sec. 5079. Wild Rice River, Minnesota. The Secretary shall expedite the completion of the general reevaluation report, authorized by section 438 of the Water Resources Development Act of 2000 (114 Stat. 2640), for the project for flood protection, Wild Rice River, Minnesota, authorized by section 201 of the Flood Control Act of 1970 (84 Stat. 1825), to develop alternatives to the Twin Valley Lake feature, and upon the completion of such report, shall construct the project at a total cost of \$20,000,000."

Dalen stated that the hope is that the process of the general reevaluation report would provide a feasible project. Don Buckhout asked how far the project proceeded in 1987. DesHarnais stated that it got to the BC ratio and then was put on hold rather than put a final report out that said a project would never be built.

Audience question:

I attended a meeting here in 2003 and thought the project was not going to move forward now why are we back here talking about it? Dalen stated that the Watershed District Board is working towards meaningful flood damage reduction to make a difference on the huge amount of downstream damages and if the verbiage in the WRDA bill passed it could provide funding to get this done.

Don Buckhout asked about the status of the 205 COE Study for the City of Ada. Nan Bischoff, Project Manager, gave an update of the Project.

Audience Question:

How would this dam have helped in 1997 with the overland flooding? Engineer Bents stated that with the ice jams it certainly would have helped to have less water coming from above, there is no question about that, but there are tremendous environmental impacts. DesHarnais stated that the District would have to follow the process and look at all of the other alternatives.

Engineer Bents stated that what was presented tonight was the old plan and history; but the perspective now is to review the old plans and see what could be built today; also there are other sites, locations and other methods that would be investigated that may provide the same goal.

Mel Sinns, St. Paul DNR, gave his perspective from the DNR Division of Waters. If it is permissible: any work done by any Watershed District in public waters would need a permit from the DNR Division of Waters. If the dam were not in public waters it would be reviewed by another division. The roll of the DNR is to protect the container or protect the integrity of the river, its natural values and functions. Audience asked if the DNR is in favor of a dam on the Wild Rice River. Sinns replied that the DNR supports the local planning process established by the FDR work group. If the ultimate project were a high hazard dam, the DNR would not issue a permit unless that project was the only alternative available. Dave Friedl, DNR, stated that he would encourage the Watershed District and Project Team to continue to move forward on what they are currently working on, and would not hang his hat on one large project. There are some very large natural resources upstream of the dam. Watershed Districts from the north and south are accomplishing things moving forward with projects that accomplish flood damage reduction. Dalen stated that he doesn't anticipate that the Board will be changing any directions that they are currently working on. Luther Aadland, DNR River Specialist, stated that we have learned a lot about rivers over the past years. In general, there are significant problems related to channel stabilization. Dencutting in the river is predictable from large dams causing a negative effect on the river bed.

Administrator Dalen stated that the objective of tonight's meeting is not to say yes or no to any project, and he understands that everyone is very passionate in what they believe; but the District is in the process of obtaining Flood Damage Reduction planning funds and is a long way from getting to a specific project. Dalen presented "Letters of Support" from various legislators and county boards. Brenda Elmer, Aide to U.S. Senator Norman Coleman, was introduced.

Don Vellenga talked about the disasters of 1997 and 2002 and how extremely devastating these were to the communities. He wanted to go on record supporting the Twin Valley Dam on the Wild Rice River. He stated that we need economic development in this area and stated that over the last 15 years the cost of the damages was estimated at \$300 Million.

Curt Jacobson stated that we need to remember to reevaluate the process. The Wild Rice River Valley is one of the biggest producers of food and fiber in the country. To raise these crops we need to find a way to stop the flooding and meter the water. Strategically placed storage is important. There is a need to minimize the people who are affected and get control of the flooding.

Mark Habedank read a letter from the COE dated 1988 in which they recommended investigating two specific alternatives to the Twin Valley Dam and additional correspondence stating that the District wasn't willing to investigate the other alternatives and be a local sponsor. Engineer Bents replied that a reconnaissance study was done in 1988 on these two specific options, neither of which had a positive BC ration due to the benefits of the proposed projects being less than the induced damages as a result of the projects.

Ron Thorsrud stated that he opposed the dam project in 1977 and believes that similar good can be done with smaller projects.

Questions:

What is meant by a high hazard dam?

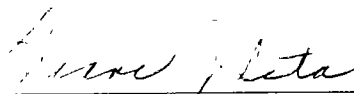
Does the District have a map showing what would happen to the tributaries?

How would the local cost share be funded?

Has any study been done on the effects of tiling? Landowner felt that it actually improves or reduces flooding because the soil can reduce flooding on the next storm, and would reduce main stem flows.

Mel Simms stated that if the dam were to fail, regardless of the cause and someone would die, it is considered a high hazard dam. Chairman Seykora stated that this is all a part of the process and these answers would be found as the process continues. Engineer Bents stated that we don't want to get lost in this particular dam at this particular site. It wasn't economically feasible in 1987; but we want to look at that one and see where the flood control could be attained. Administrator Dalen stated that the local share could be obtained in several ways including funding from the RRWMB and the State of Minnesota, and a Water Management District (WMD) could be established not unlike a storm water utility project. Engineer Bents stated that the Watershed District has not done a study on the effects of tiling and the effect that it would have on certain flow events.

There being no further questions, Chairman Seykora adjourned the meeting at 9:10 p.m.



Diane Ista, Secretary

Twin Valley

Sign In

3/29/07

Don Dahlew

Terrie Soreland

MARIE ALKES

Dean Bentley

Bob Freyik

Janice Freyik

James R. Wagner Jr

Deane Erickson Uden

Shelly Petrus TL

Meggy Myteberg Ada

Tom Nelson T.V.

Steve Bonnesbach T.V.

ROD THORSON

David Skith Mahmonen

LYLE BAKKE FROM

Ken in Anderson ADit

Dean Pederson Gang

Steve Jansen Aachen

Al Heirasa Twin Valley

JIM MURIN TV

Kim Krostad

Dorel Halvorsen T.V.

Tom Anderson T.V.

Sigun Syversen T.V.

Kim Syversen Uden

Richard A Smith
Maurice Thompson

Uher
Norman County C

Andrew Slette
Bernadine Bentley

Tracy
Twin Valley

Sara Halvorsen
Kenneth Thorsen

T.V.

Wayne Lister

T.V.

Alice Kullberg

T.V.

Warren Lee

Ada

Brenda Elmer, Sen. Norm Coleman's office, Moorhead

Dave Friend

DL Fisherman

Karl Schulz

TV

Jan Keltner

Ada

Guthy Sells

DNK

David Larson

Lake Park

Theresa

Sen. Alberg

Joe Peterson

Twin Valley

Mitch Hockstorn

TV

Eric Burke

Uher

Frank Houghen

Fealey

Mike Eskola

T.V.

Wayne Thorn

T.V.

John Haddad

T.V.

Ed Smith

GARY

Don Johnson

N

Ed

Ada

Kelly Kaund

GARY

Latinausk

RRMB

Twin Valley
Sign In 3/29/07

Greg Hill
Wayne Lee
Kent D. Cline
James Reed
Lawrence D. Cline
Ed Wright
Robert A. Anderson
Eddie Bentley
Donna Adams
Laurie Bentley
Wallace Blomquist
John Lund
Ron Rasmussen
Karlhardt Wichee
Myrtle Hyslop
Herbert Krueger
Ed Huls
Ferry Mance
Richard DeLong
Blair Tuft
Josh Tuft
Joe A. Smith
Garry Silberman
Clyde J. Gordon
Blair & Jessica Halcom
Ron Sulterson

Twin Valley
Sign In 3/29/07

Marlette Birchhoff
Chris Erickson
MEL SINN
Jason Boyle
Brent Kaffes
Les Halverson
Roland Bentley
Lillian Peterson
Pat Plund
Denny Pivske
Jerome Trapp
Gladys Trapp
Jerome SLETTE
June Fsta

Dan
Daniel Wilkens
on / stn
EARL JOHNSON
Gordon Person
Wendell
Gord ~~Stn~~
Bob Tye
Rick Davidhiser
Travis Halverson

St Paul COE
St. Paul Corps of Engineer
St. Paul, DNR
St. Paul, DNR
Borup
T.V.
T.V.

Ada
Waubesa
Mahmomen Mier
Mahmomen Mier
MAHMONEN MN
Ada, MINN
Ule MN
Fertile MN
Ada
Detroit Lakes
TV
Tahleah
Hawley
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