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**PROJECT #42 MEETING MINUTES
(APPROVED)
December 11, 2006
Ulen, Minnesota**

A special meeting of the Wild Rice Watershed District Board of Managers was held at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, December 11, 2006 at the Ulen Hall. The following members were in attendance: Jim Skaurud, Bob Wright, Diane Ista and Warren J. Seykora. The following members were absent: Joe Spaeth, Jim Wagner and Dave Vipond. In addition the following persons were in attendance: Administrator Dalen, Engineer Bents, Secretary Johnson, Publicist Tim Halle and landowners.

Engineer Bents gave a PowerPoint Presentation on Project #42 and the process that was used to arrive at this point. The goal of the investigation established by the Watershed District was to identify projects or groups of projects that would provide a 30-40% reduction in the 10 year discharge at the outlet of the South Branch of the Wild Rice River. Originally 14 sites were identified, 13 above the beach ridge.

On June 14, 2006, the Board approved the following basics for the project:

The project will consist of the development of five or more sites in the upper basin (above the historic Lake Agassiz beachridge) followed by or in combination with up to one large off-channel storage (retention) site in the lower basin below the beachridge.

If approved, the South Branch Storage Project will control floodwaters from an approximately 210 square mile drainage area. The primary purpose of the project is to provide a 30-40 % reduction in the 10-year discharge at the outlet of the South Branch of the Wild Rice River.

In addition, there are two secondary goals of the proposed project. These include reducing downstream peak discharges on the Red River of the North and providing a reduction in stream erosion through the beach ridge reach of the South Branch of the Wild Rice River subbasin.

The four lower basin storage components originally considered and the preferred alternative Site #4 were shown. The six upper basin tributary storage sites were discussed and shown on maps. Following is a table which indicates the storage, surface acres, runoff capacity and drainage area of each site:

Upper Basin Tributary Storage Component					
	Storage (ac-ft)	Surface (acres) E.S.	Surface (acres) Top of Dam	Runoff Capacity (inches)	Drainage Area (SM)
UN5	1,261	489	964	5.4	11.7
UN15	1,678	469	756	4.2	7.5
UN35	2,141	576	820	6.4	6.3
UN45	1,273	342	536	3.0	8.0
UN55B	1,011	291	692	3.8	5.0
UN55A	610	139	343	1.1	10.7
CD18	1,766	371	571	2.9	11.3
Totals	9,739	2,677	4,682	3.3	56.0

NOTES
 Total Drainage Area Listed accounts for part of UN55A controlling the UN55B Drainage Area also
 Total Runoff-Capacity - Based on Total Storage Total DA
 Storage listed only includes storage to Emergency Spillway

The total estimated cost of the project is \$21.0+ Million. Currently the State of Minnesota in the 2006 bonding bill funded \$1.5 M approved for design, construction and land acquisition of which a 1:1 match is required by the District.

Questions from the audience followed.

A.C. Heiraas asked the height of proposed dikes. Engineer Bents stated that the lower dike would be 26 feet and taper back to 0.00. The lower site below the ridge the westerly side would be 18-20 feet and taper to zero on the north and south. Gordy Carlsrud stated that no one would want a dike that high near them. A landowner asked how many acres would be removed from the tax roles. Warren Seykora stated that the District would be working on legislation that would provide a special provision for the Local Units of Governments to be given an up front lump sum payment to be placed in a trust to pay the taxes. Questions were asked about farming next to water impoundments; farming in the pool area; the smell when the pool area was drying out; if the impoundments would be dry and the possibility of the DNR coming in later with wetlands; if the District would be purchasing land or buying easements; what would happen if a landowner didn't agree to the purchase of his property; why there are no onchannel sites; who is going to pay for the project; if any landowners have committed to the project; why the project was being looked at in this area when the real benefits are to the west of Borup; who determines that it is kept fair to everyone; who determines the culvert sizes.

Administrator Dalen stated that the DNR is a potential funding source but discussion would be held with landowners before allowing permanent water in a structure to leverage funds. Warren Seykora stated that purchasing land or buying easements would be a part of the negotiations with landowners and the worst case scenario in acquiring land would be the eminent domain process which has never happened in the District to date.

Seykora stated that the District is seeking as much outside funding as possible. The operation of each site will become part of the Operating and Maintenance Plan once the project is developed. Engineer Bents stated that in 2005 the Project Team subcommittee had high, medium or low concerns and there would be a lot of restrictions in order to get onstream storage permitted.

Gordy Carlsrud asked why the District pared the upper sites down to five; why not raise the number of upper sites to ten to stop the erosion. Warren Seykora stated that the problem of sediment in the lower site will be investigated. The question was asked about flowage easements and the possibility of someone be effected in ten years. Warren Seykora stated that the District will have a maintenance plan on all projects; it is not the intent to impact any downstream landowners.

The question was asked if there was anywhere that projects similar to this have been completed to determine if they work. Engineer Bents stated that the lower component is similar to most of the projects built up and down the valley; The Bois de Sioux Watershed District, Red Lake Watershed District and Middle River Snake River Watershed District have similar sites. Bents stated that there is definitely a switch in the type of sites being built up and down the valley within the last few years.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 p.m.; however landowners had the opportunity to review large maps of the area posted on the boards along with additional questions to staff and Managers.



Diane Ista, Secretary

Project #42 Information / 12/11/06 Meeting

Name	Address	Phone #
Dahl	SCRIP	494-3749
Wangdalen	ALION	596-8138
Ray Moore	Ulen	596-8568
John Hiraas	Borup	494-3454
Donald Loezel	Ulen	596-5522
John Hiraas	Ulen	
Harry Moore	Ulen	596-8261
Richard Ist.	ADA	784-7542
Bob Wright	Felton	494-3314
Jim Stagerud	Twin Valley	584-5251
Ken Juttormson	Borup	582-3316
Brent Kuffes	Borup	582-3239
Ernie Hilde	Borup	784-4753
Mark Christianson	Ulen	584-5169
David Christensen	Ulen	596-8385
Michael Jockhail	Ulen	596-6500
Tom Hardy	Hardy	783-3152
Kim Spenser	Ulen	596-8100
Bruce Stinson	Ulen	596-8317
Bob Mattson	Lake Park	238-5534
MARK HARLESS	Borup	494-3330
Chris Hill	Ulen	596-8646
James Ist.	Ada	784-7542
Bill Zinn	Callaway	849-5289
Bill Walker	Callaway	218-315-207
Justin Kimpton	Ulen	596-8613