



Land
People
Water

WRWD

Wild Rice Watershed District

11 EAST 5TH AVENUE • ADA, MINNESOTA 56510 • PHONE (218) 784-5501 • FAX (218) 784-2459

**Project #42 Informational Meeting
Monday, March 12, 2007, Ulen, MN
APPROVED MINUTES**

A special informational meeting was held at 6:00 p.m. on Monday March 12, 2007, at the Ulen VFW Meeting Room. The purpose of the meeting was to provide information to landowners on individual sites within Project #42. The following members were in attendance: Warren J. Seykora; Bob Wright; Jim Skaurud; Diane Ista and Joe Spaeth. Members absent were Jim Wagner, Sr. and Dave Vipond. Also in attendance were Administrator Steve Dalen, Engineer Jerry Bents, Secretary Loretta Johnson, audio recorder Royal Knutson and interested landowners. Chairman Seykora called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Seykora noted that the meeting is being recorded by the Concerned Citizens.

Following are the agenda items for discussion:

- UN 35 – 6:00 P.M.
- UN 45 – 7:00 P.M.
- UN 55A – 8:00 P.M.
- UN 55B – 9:00 P.M.

Engineer Bents displayed maps and had individual discussions with landowners involved in each site.

The following are some of the questions and concerns raised by landowners:

- How high will the dike be at the highest point?
- How are you going to hold and release water?
- Who runs the gates?
- Is it o.k. with the township to inundate the road?
- What do the blue, and white lines on the maps indicate?
- How long will water be held?
- How do you plan to compensate landowners?
- If the District buys my land out what would I have for income?
- Why don't you keep it on your land, Diane?
- Who is going to benefit from this?
- Are you going to benefit, Diane?
- Are you going to look farther east as no one wants it here; we do not mind holding water from two to three days?
- Do you want to trade land with us; why should we put it on our land?
- The Watershed District is not listening to us, I suggested looking at other sites?
- There are not damages down in the valley.
- If the economic impact is that bad in the valley, then why are they still farming?
- It is not all our fault that everyone down in the valley has damages.
- The cities of Hendrum and Perley are ready to sign a resolution saying they are opposed to this project.

- My grandparents have farmed here for years.
- If you want to put our land in grassland, why don't you put yours in grassland?
- If the crest from Fargo to Grand Forks lasts 8-10 days why are you intending to store the water here for 30 days? Once the crest is reached on the Red River, the damage is done, why hold it so long?
- Somehow you have convinced yourself that you can control nature and you cannot control events that you have no power over.
- Can you say for sure this works?
- What will happen if you get two rain events within a couple of days? The dams will be blown out.
- This will not do any good for the 12 inch overnight rains.
- You want to take this land out of production forever, why don't you take some land down there?
- You own the Wild Rice River, start channalizing that: dredge the river.
- When did the Watershed District responsibilities change from culvert sizing to a project this big?
- Your legislators will not support this either.
- If 95% of the people are not in favor at the meeting, can the project still pass?
- You cannot use the 80,000 acres of damaged cropland as a base; that is not a three inch rainfall.

Answers by Engineer Bents, Administrator Dalen and Board members follow:

- The dike on UN35 will vary from 18 feet at the high point to five feet. UN35 is the one site that the dike crosses the township road which would either need to be closed or regraded to a higher level.
- The outlet control structure would consist of a typical box riser structure with a box culvert set on end; on the front of the box a pipe would be stubbed out to get water in from the bottom. The pipe would be gated so that the flood pool would spill out over the box.
- The Watershed District would be responsible for any operations although they may choose to have local landowners operate them.
- The white lines on the maps indicate the area that could be filled to the top of the dam, although the design would prevent the water from getting to that line.
- The blue shade indicates what will be inundated more frequently and the white quite infrequently to get to that elevation.
- The intent would be to hold the spring water 20-30 days.
- How to address compensation to landowners has begun by having appraisals completed on a few properties.
- Manager Ista stated that these sites were suggested to us by agencies as permissible; we are not asking that it be you. My goal as a Watershed District Manager is to get retention on stream; now we are just looking at this for us to hear from you. We want to hear from you on what you think.
- Manager Ista stated that the District is in the process of looking farther east.
- Manager Ista stated that they did put in some of their land for storage.
- Manager Ista stated that this is not a done deal; we are just visiting with you.

- Administrator Dalen stated that the Board is looking at sites all the way east of Ulen and these sites will be brought in to look at. The District will be looking at on stream sites; this Board does not take lightly you folks being angry but the fact remains that there are huge damages down below. The end result of the Overall Plan would also provide for storage in the flooded area. Dalen stated the Board is aware of the huge impact on the landowners in the area.
- Manager Seykora stated that all ideas brought forth are good, but it will take multiple projects to reduce the flooding, including the possibility of setback levees on the Wild Rice River.
- Administrator Dalen stated that the intent is not to save the entire 80,000 acres of land and he realizes that land values by Ulen are high also.
- Engineer Bents stated that the intended 30 days of storage is typically used on all of the impoundments in the valley to hold the water the entire time of flooding on the Wild Rice and Red Rivers.
- Bents also stated that yes, storage impoundments do work.
- Manager Ista stated that she respects and understands that their farmland is valuable; just as valuable as anyone else's, but that doesn't mean that land onstream is not valuable. Ista agreed that it is difficult and we are not going to make you sacrifice up here to save someone else.
- Manager Seykora stated that the District is going through the entire necessary process before determining specific sites.
- Manager Seykora stated that yes, it is true that the District could under law establish a project with 95% opposition from local landowners but hoped that those in attendance would have faith in this board to do the right thing.

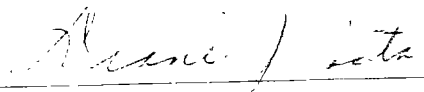
Manager Ista made a motion to table Project #42. It was noted that this is a special meeting, noticed as informational only and not on the agenda, therefore no business can take place.

The following landowners requested that it be put into the record that their land is not for sale:

- John Austinson, Sec. 33, Walworth Township
- Robert Braseth and his mother
- Darrell, Danny and Danita Moore
- Lyle Syverson
- Bruce Stinjom
- David Stumbo
- Jerry Trom
- Ashmore Family Foundation Property
- John Rikhus
- Marlin/Irene Klemetson
- Robert Klemetson
- Mike Eklund, Sec. 29, Walworth Township
- George & Sandra Theis
- Dan Pritchard, Sec. 11, Goose Prairie Township
- Dave Christianson, Sec. 11, Ulen Township
- Duane Erickson
- Dave & Rose Christianson, Living Trust W ½ Sec. 11, Ulen Township

Additional discussion was held with landowners on all sites

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m.



Diane Ista, Secretary

Ulen Upper Sites #42 3/12/07

(Name)	(Site#)	(Address)
#1 Rodney Hamerick	UN35	39925 120th Ave Ulen
#2 Ed Hametson	UN35	P.O. Box 61 Ulen MN
#3 Lawrence Pollock		26285 130th Ave Ulen MN
#4 Roger Hamerick	UN35	4212 State Hwy 113 Twin Valley, MN
#5 Jim Weber		51 Westgate Circle Hawley
#6 David Stenberg		16504 280th St N. ULEN
#7 Len Skrabble		28706 190th Ave N
#8 Dick Smith	UN 55 b	27780 180th Ave N
#9 Ramon Webb	55b	27780 180th Ave N
#10 Darrell Klemetson		29316 170th Ave N.
#11 Walter Schneiderman		2545 190th Ave
#12 John B. [Signature]		Borup
#13 Brent Krappes		Borup
#14 Laurie Krappes		Ulen
#15 [Signature]		
#16 [Signature]		
#17 Randa Amundson		17502 Hwy 32 N Ulen
#18 Jane Amundson		" " "
#19 John Amundson		Ulen
#20 [Signature]		" "
#21 Mike Ethel		T.V.
#22 [Signature]		T.V.
#23 Kim Syvertson		Ulen
#24 Ron Klemetson		"

	Name	site	Address
425	Bob Gunders	45	Ulen MN
	Harlan Wentz		Hittend, Minn
	Charles Wentz		Lab Park May
	Bruce Trujan		Ulen
	Nick Klemetsen		FLOM. MN
	Irene Klemetsen		Ulen. MN
	Duane Eushan		Ulen, MN
	FRINT Ashmore		Moorhead, MN
	Monte Ashmore		Ulen MN

~~All known ^{will} procedures ^{initiated}
 Failed on paper at 805~~