

WILD RICE WATERSHED DISTRICT

11 East 5th Avenue – Ada, Minnesota 56510

Phone (218) 784-5501

SPECIAL MEETING

1. A special meeting of the Wild Rice Watershed District Board of Managers was held on Friday, April 8, 2005, at the office of the District located at 11 Fifth Avenue East, Ada, MN.
2. The following members were present: Jim Skaurud, Steve Dalen, Diane Ista, James Wagner, Sr., Bob Wright and Warren Seykora. The following members were absent: Joe Spaeth. In addition the following persons were in attendance, Tim Halle, publicist, Loretta Johnson, recording secretary and property owners Alan Christensen and Mark Harless.
3. Chairman Seykora called the meeting to order at 9:15 a.m.

Manager Dalen placed the information and figures from the previous flood storage meeting on the chalkboard and questioned if Managers are comfortable with the number of 125,000 acre feet of storage as the strategy to strive for in putting together a flood damage reduction package. Manager Seykora stated that the District has a plan in place with the Systems Approach, and had concerns about superceding the plan. Seykora asked when the Board is going to use numbers such as costs to pick the projects in the package. Manager Dalen stated that for the moment he would prefer not to use the numbers, rather today decide if all agree with the 125,000 acre feet of storage to be used in the package and the ratio of acre feet of storage to surface acres to use as a base. Dalen asked if it should be 10/1. Dalen also asked if the Board should begin the process of working on Manager Spaeth's previous ideas regarding dams and effective storage facilities in other areas and states. Dalen talked about another of Spaeth's ideas in compiling the cost or losses that the federal government has incurred in the District as a result of flooding. Dalen stated that he would also like Managers to think what their vision for the District would be for the next year. Dalen felt in choosing a flood control package, this will include projects that people say can't be done. Manager Ista felt that according to her notes, the Board already chose a package at the March 17, 2005, meeting.

Managers each gave their opinion regarding the number of acre-feet of storage for the flood damage reduction storage package. Manager Wagner stated that more storage is better and suggested 200,000 acre-feet; Wright agreed with the 125,000 acre-feet minimum but also felt comfortable with 150,000 acre-feet; Seykora said 150,000 acre-feet was appropriate; Skaurud agreed with the 150,000 acre-feet; Dalen stated a 125,000 acre-feet minimum. Managers spent considerable time discussing additional projects for the package to come up to the 150,000 acre-feet of storage.

Manager Dalen distributed a paper and asked Managers to list their own top three goals for the upcoming year. Dalen stated he felt it would be important to provide copies of everyone's list to the County Commissioners in the Watershed District. Dalen stated that this would provide credibility with the County Commissioners, they would know what the intentions of each Manager is and at the end of the year, could be reviewed by the Commissioners for a progress report in determining how far the Managers had moved forward.

Chairman Seykora again questioned when the costs per project would be provided and used in choosing the projects for the package. Dalen stated that Seykora is asking for cost per acre feet of storage, and that information would be better provided later in choosing the projects. Manager Ista brought up from previous notes Manager Wright's concern about erosion on the Upper South Branch. Wagner stated that it seems simple to him to just choose what Managers prefer on a list and give the list to appropriate people and go for it.

Manager Dalen asked who would be responsible for doing the research and compiling the information that Manager Spaeth talked about regarding working dams in the entire United States.

4. A motion was made by Manager Wagner and seconded by Manager Dalen to ask the Concerned Citizens Group to do the research and compile information about water retention structures that are used throughout the United States. Carried.

5. Manager Skaurud left the meeting at 11:00 a.m.

6. A motion was made by Manager Ista and seconded by Manager Dalen to use 150,000 acre feet of storage as the goal for the Act of Congress (AOC) package. Carried.

7. Manager Ista brought up the Beach Ridge Storage project previously proposed by Manager Wagner and felt it would be important to utilize this as a water resource. Ista said that she felt that Managers need to discuss the concept with Lance Yohe, Red River Basin Board, Fargo and Moorhead Mayors, Legislators Marquart and Langseth, Buffalo Red River Watershed District, Becker County Commissioners and the North Dakota Bureau of Reclamation. Manager Wagner stated that he would be happy to speak to this group of people and explain the concept from his perspective and felt this would be a help for them to understanding the proposal.

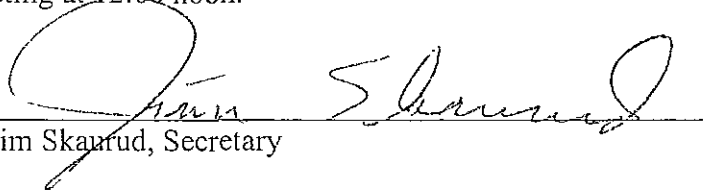
8. Alan Christensen stated that he has lived as a neighbor to the South Branch for nearly 60 years and felt the Watershed District is making a gray area out of the District, when it is really one District with two completely different processes. Combining two distinctly different areas into one is very frustrating, storage is mismanaged, he said that he is already the victim of flooding and questioned how storage in his area would be of any help to him. Christensen said the District needs to go back to the beginning, his solution is to divide the higher and lower elevation. Twelve miles of water is coming down to his area and felt that this should be held in retention at the higher elevation for about three days giving the lower elevation time to move their water through the system before the water from the higher elevation reaches them. Christensen stated that he is not an engineer, but he sees the elevation as two different worlds.

Manager Dalen stated that he understands Christensen's concerns, but stated that the Board is trying to unite the District and needs to avoid the east/west elevation issue. Christensen stated that the elevation issue came before the landowners, it is not a new issue.

9. A motion was made by Manager Dalen and seconded by Manager Ista authorizing Managers Wagner, Wright and Ista to contact Lance Yohe and meet with him for Manager Wagner to discuss his concept of the Beach Ridge Storage Project and to schedule a meeting with other entities for Wagner to present the concept. Carried.

10. Consensus of Managers was for Seykora and Dalen to meet with Engineer Bents and provide him with the Flood Storage Package proposals to begin the process of developing engineering data.

11. Manager Seykora left the meeting at 11:45 a.m.
12. A motion was made by Manager Wright and seconded by Manager Dalen to determine the date for the next flood storage meeting on April 13, 2005, when all Managers are in attendance. Carried.
13. Vice Chairman Wright adjourned the meeting at 12:00 noon.


Jim Skaurud, Secretary

