

WILD RICE WATERSHED DISTRICT

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SPECIAL MEETING

1. A special meeting of the Wild Rice Watershed District Board of Managers was held on Monday, April 25, 2005, at the Felton Community Center, Felton, Minnesota.

2. The following members were present: Robert E. Wright, Diane Ista, Steve Dalen, Joe Spaeth, Warren Seykora, and James Wagner Sr. The following members were absent: Jim Skaurud. In addition the following persons were also in attendance: Jerry Bents, Houston Engineering, Mark Harless, Mark Weber, Brian Borgen, Morton Brendemuhl, Duane Brendemuhl, Alden Brendemuhl and Jerry Bennett, District Administrator.

3. Chairman Seykora called the meeting to order at 7:12 a.m.

4. Upon finalizing introductions Administrator Bennett gave a brief overview and outlined the purpose of the meeting. Bennett stated that the Board has completed a preliminary review of the Upper Felton Ditch storage site and the purpose of this meeting is to provide landowners some of the options currently under consideration.

5. Engineer Jerry Bents, Houston Engineering, gave a PowerPoint presentation on the four options being considered to provide flood storage on the Upper Felton Ditch. The areas under consideration for flood storage are located in Sections 14 and 15 of Flowing Township, Clay County. Bents stated that Alternative No. 1 provides for 3,146 acre-feet of flood storage with a surface area of 417 acres. This site is located entirely within Section 15 of Flowing Township. The opinion on probable cost is \$2.4 Million with an estimated cost per acre-foot of \$1,274. Alternative No. 2 provides for 3,987 acre-feet of flood storage with a surface area of 571 acres. This site is located entirely within Section 15 of Flowing Township. The opinion of probable cost for this option is \$2.7 million with an estimated cost per acre-foot of \$1,196. Alternatives No. 3 and 4 are located in Sections 14 and 15. Alternative No. 3 would provide 9,872 acre-feet of flood storage on 934 acres of land. The opinion of probable cost is \$4.8 million with a cost per acre-foot of \$672. Alternative No. 4 provides for 9,662 acre-feet of flood storage on 878 acres of land. The opinion of probable cost is approximately \$4.8 Million for a cost per acre-foot of \$680. A copy of the site maps and costs estimates are attached hereto by reference.

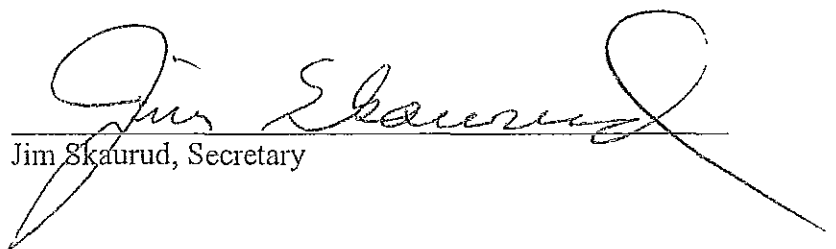
6. Engineer Bents reported that the watershed district will be meeting with representatives from the Flood Damage Reduction Project Team on Wednesday, April 27, 2005, to conduct a field review and to perform an on-channel assessment used to evaluate potential permitting concerns at the site. Chairman Seykora opened the meeting to questions on the alternatives outlined by Engineer Bents.

7. Alden Brendemuhl asked about the placement of a storage site in the upper watershed to address the erosion occurring through the beach ridge area. Bennett noted that moving storage upstream is an option that has been considered with a couple of sites previously looked at in the upper watershed at road crossings. Concerns on these sites include wetland impacts, affects to roads and landowner concerns. The sites would have limited storage and being in the upper watershed, the amount of flood reduction is less due to placing controls on a smaller percentage of the contributing drainage area. Engineer Bents also noted that achieving the required amount of storage in the upper watershed with smaller sites would require additional acre-feet of storage placement to obtain the same results as strategically located larger storage sites. Duane Brendemuhl questioned the amount of seepage that could occur from the project and how the watershed district plans to address impacts to adjoining properties. Bents stated that the embankment would be constructed with a clay core to reduce seepage through the embankment. The watershed district has also installed perimeter seepage ditches on projects to contain any seepage that may get through the embankment. The Brendemuhls asked if tile could be installed in addition to a seepage ditch to provide additional protection to the adjacent property. Bents noted that drain tile has not been installed to address seepage concerns in the past, however it could be a consideration along with the possibility of acquiring adjacent lands next to the impoundment area. Utilizing the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) was discussed for the flood storage proposal and also as a possible mechanism to acquire land for the project. Bennett noted that under the current CREP program there will be acres designated for implementation of flood storage; however it is unknown at this time what the final requirements will be. Manager Ista commented on personal experiences with seepage on land that they farmed and stated that this is something that farmers need to have addressed. Alden Brendemuhl talked about the fact that natural drainage in this area is to the northwest. Brendemuhl asked how the watershed district plans to drain the water from the site. Engineer Bents said that when borrow is taken from the interior of the drainage site, this would be implemented to carry excess flows back to the Felton Ditch. Bob Wright asked how much of a storm event it would take to back water up to the east line of Section 15. Bents noted that the ground elevation between Sections 14 and 15 is approximately 928 and water could be expected to back up to that elevation for about a 10-year event, which would be equal to a 4.7 inch rainfall in a 24 hour period. Alden Brendemuhl asked how high the embankment height would be and Bents stated that near the outlet, the embankment would be approximately 18 feet, with the height near the southwest corner about 14 feet. Engineer Bents also discussed the outlet structure configuration to include a box inlet with a gated low flow culvert.

8. The Board of Managers discussed next step, which includes contacting landowners that were not in attendance at the meeting. Manager Dalen asked about getting an appraisal on the Brendemuhl property to develop an offer. Duane Brendemuhl indicated that they would like a couple of days to consider the information presented and get back to the Board with a decision on whether to consider their property for inclusion in the project.

9. There being no further discussion a motion was made by Manager Wagner that was seconded by Manager Ista to adjourn the meeting. Carried.

10. Chairman Seykora adjourned the meeting at 9:45 a.m.


Jim Skaurud, Secretary