

WILD RICE WATERSHED DISTRICT

11 Fifth Avenue East

Ada, MN 56510

218-784-5501

SPECIAL MEETING

1. special meeting of the Wild Rice Watershed District Board of Managers was held on **June 9, 2005**, at the office of the District located at 11 Fifth Avenue East, Ada, MN. The purpose of the special meeting was to discuss the following:

- Review of previous list of identified projects from April 2005
- Discuss strategy for implementation
- Prioritization of projects
- Discuss future steps and additional information needs

2. The following members were in attendance: James Wagner, Sr., Bob Wright, Joe Spaeth, Diane Ista, Warren Seykora, and Steve Dalen. The following members were absent: Jim Skaurud. Also in attendance were the following: Engineer Jerry Bents, Publicist Tim Halle, Curtis Borchert, Don Vellenga, Randy Tufton and Recording Secretary Loretta Johnson. Don Vellenga left the meeting at 10:45 a.m.

3. Chairman Seykora called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

4. Manager Dalen distributed an informational packet to the Managers for review.

5. Information contained in the packet indicated that there have been 30 floods in the last 123 years; ten floods in the last 20 years and five floods in each of the last two ten year periods. Dalen stated that the Wild Rice Watershed District has a specific individuality that other Districts do not have: special topography. This topography brings special needs and special considerations. Dalen stated that Maynard Pick, Congressman Collin Peterson's aid, has agreed to meet with the Board of Managers to discuss the Flood Storage Package, which we have been working on and continue to work on.

6. Dalen asked the question, "Have we done a good job of showing our needs in an organized and focused method or strategy to realize special consideration?" Dalen stated that this is a Flood Storage Package that is strictly for Flood Damage Reduction (FDR) and felt that by developing a good package, it will be here tomorrow or 50 years from now, but should be revisited each year, because things do change. Dalen stated that the hydraulic information at the Twin Valley gauge from the 2002 flood makes the 125,000 to 200,000 acre feet of storage discussed at previous meetings a very creditable figure. Dalen stated that the strategies developed to present the package are important.

7. The project listing by priority and strategies include the following:

1) Felton Project – Off Stream. strategy: in progress;

Manager Spaeth stated that a positive thing about #1 is that the District has purchase easements on a portion of the land and there is additional landowner interest in this project. Manager Wagner stated that strategy consists of what the district can offer the property owners; each project will be different. Dalen stated that Wayne Goeken in his river watch presentation stated that the South Branch is high in turbidity. Manager Wagner questioned why the Dalen Coulee Project does not have more flow. Curtis Borchert stated that the Norman County SWCD does have water quality data for the Dalen Coulee both prior and after project completion.

- 2) Hagen Project – On Stream. Strategy: 28:1 storage to surface acre ratio. Consensus of Managers was that the Hagen Project would also offer erosion control and water quality.
- 3) Red River Water Supply (RRWS) South Branch – Off Stream. Strategies: 1,400 acre site would realize 50% needed to accomplish the consensus on contribution and it is a project with long term vision to store water for later use. Manager Wagner stated that long term there is a need to look at water as the most valuable commodity that we have. These projects along the west side of the ridge hold the most water. Engineer Bents commented that 3,100 acres is more realistic than the original estimate of 1,400. It also has 18,000 acre-feet of available storage.
- 4) Faith Project – On Stream. Strategies: It is not a Twin Valley and it includes 20% realized storage of consensus on contribution.
- 5) Red River Water Supply (RRWS) Main Stem – Off Stream. Strategies: a) Link between (Faith #4) and (South Branch Levees #6) that would be sized to store the water not handled by #'s 4 and 6; b) slow down erosion c) Grow Ada - permanent water possibility i.e. recreation center that would attract people and dollars; d) environmental enhancement project. (Engineering is needed to harmonize project #'s 4, 5, and 6 to meet consensus on percent of contribution.) Manager Wagner stated that within the first five miles of the area proposed there are very few farmsteads where people live and also said that this site could be tied to the South Branch.
- 6) Setback Levees Lower Wild Rice River. Manager Dalen questioned if this project should be fit into the Storage Package. The strategies include environmental enhancement and the fact that it is already in the development stage. However there are questions regarding the following:
 - Downstream impacts?
 - Erosion control?
 - Meaningful FDR?
 - Does it meet 10:1 storage surface acre ratio?
8. Manager Dalen asked how many acres of cultivated land there are within the levees? Engineer Bents stated that there are a total of 6,360 acres of land within the proposed levee system with 2,880 acres of cultivated land. Manager Wagner felt that the setback levees are very important and should also include restoring the sinuosity of the river within the levees.
- 7) Moccasin – Mainstem Off Stream. Strategies: a) District wide control b) In progress. Manager Wagner stated that there are tremendous opportunities here if the property owners cooperate. Manager Seykora stated that the people are ready and willing to cooperate, because of the amount of cropland that they are losing and continuing to lose.
 - Questions: Could it be enhanced for
 - More flood damage reduction?
 - Permanent water for wildlife habitat?
 - Does topography allow for a possible on stream/off stream project?
- 8) South Branch Tributaries – On Stream. Strategies: Environmental community support. Engineer Bents stated that there are 13+ sites on the South Branch and one option would be to choose a number of the sites. Bents stated that the big benefit is that this project would be high enough in the system to slow the water down, however it takes a lot of acres of land.
- 9) Upper Felton – On/Off Stream. Strategies: District wide control. Engineer Bents stated that he would talk to Henry Van Offelen regarding this project as Van Offelen has done a considerable amount of work in this area.

10) Twin Valley – On Stream. Strategies: This project has the most significant FDR value in the District; engineering is available; economic boom for Twin Valley area is guaranteed with permanent pool concept (could Wild Rice citizens for prosperity develop this strategy?); this concept of economic enhancement is a powerful strategy found also in Project #5 i.e. RRWS Main Stem Storage.

9. Manager Dalen stated that his priorities include an on channel site. Manager Wagner referred to the Jamestown and Valley City dams which have stopped the damages to both cities. Dalen questioned where in the package the Twin Valley project would fit.

10. Engineer Bents raised the question of the overlapping of projects and if one or more projects were built it may considerably reduce the need for another project or at the very least reduce the size.

11. Engineer Bents went on to discuss Red River Watershed Management Board (RRWMB) funding and the Star Value method used in determining the amount of the cost share. Bents also stated that one problem with RRWMB funding is that it is geared toward a long detention time.

12. Dalen then displayed a visual matrix and asked each Manager to rate every project by number in the order of their preference. Consensus of the project order was established as the following:

1. Felton Project Off Stream
2. RRWS South Branch Off Branch
3. Setback Levees Lower Wild Rice River
4. RRWS Main Stem Off Stream
5. Twin Valley On Stream

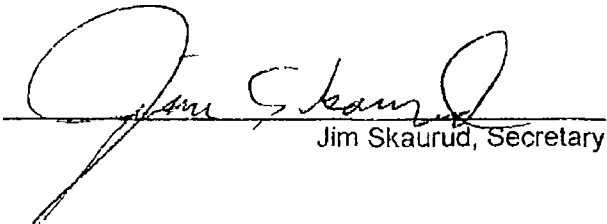
13. A motion was made by Manager Ista and seconded by Manager Dalen to consider the five approved projects for the Flood Storage Package. Carried.

14. Engineer Bents stated that at some point the Managers will want to know how much reduction would be obtained from the five sites chosen for the entire project package.

15. Manager Dalen discussed holding another Flood Storage Meeting, a date, agenda and work items to be done prior to the meeting. Dalen felt there is a need to fine tune the package and work more on the strategies. Manager Wagner questioned if there is a need to discuss costs for each site. Also discussed was the necessity in creating a very positive presentation relating to the On Stream sites. Dalen asked when the Managers would like to meet with Maynard Pick. Dalen stated that it might be important to ask him what has been done in the past and then inform him of what the District needs for a flood damage reduction package.

16. Dalen felt that it is important not to rush and do a good job in presenting the Flood Storage Package proposal. Dalen stated that he felt it is necessary to hold another meeting to develop good strategies for the package and suggested that the meeting reconvene and become part of the July 13th meeting.

17. There being no further business to come before the Managers, the meeting was adjourned at 12:30 p.m.


Jim Skaurud, Secretary