

**Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Board of Managers
Of the Two Rivers Watershed District
Held: December 14, 2016 @ 9:00 a.m.**

The Board of Managers of the Two River Watershed District held their regular meeting beginning at 8:00 a.m. on Wednesday, December 14, 2016 at the District Office located in the Kittson County Courthouse in Hallock, Minnesota.

Managers present included President Darrel Johnson, Vice President Jim Kukowski, Secretary Daryl Klegstad, Treasurer Paul Olsonawski, Roger Anderson, Allen Brazier, & Gary Johnson. None were absent.

Others present included District Administrator Dan Money, Head Technician Matt Thompson, and Engineer Nate Dalager and Jake Huwe of HDR Engineering.

The meeting was called to order by President D. Johnson. He stated the purpose of the meeting is to discuss matters pertinent to the engineering, design, and environmental alternatives for the Klondike Clean Water Retention Project #11.

Engineering Report:

N. Dalager and J. Huwe presented and discussed information regarding the various aspects of the project design. Several design considerations have been proposed and analyzed in the design of each of the project components.

- North Inlets: Two options for the “north inlet” were discussed, one following the alignment of the existing Lateral 6, SD 72 and one following the alignment of Lateral 8, SD 72. Dalager recommends using / improving both of these inlets in order to be able to handle as much of the Roseau River overflows, when they occur, as possible. Details would include widening these channels to have a 25 foot bottom width, and changing their grades from the existing northerly flow to a proposed southerly flow. Dalager proposes installing a fixed elevation weir located at the north end of each of the inlet / overflow ditches to allow flows to continue west in SD 72 until floodwaters get high, then flows would also be allowed to the south to enter the impoundment. Gates would also be installed at the south end of these ditches to be able to either direct flows into the impoundment or around it.
 - Discussion on the inlet ditches included the need at some point to petition the Joint Ditch Authority to make the suggested changes to SD 72 and to SD 95.
- Dike Alignment / Land Exchange: Options for the main dike alignment were discussed. There are lands in sections 2, 10, & 11 that either are currently owned or will be owned by the TRWD that are adjacent to or contain portions of rich fen, and there are lands in sections 12 and 13 owned by the DNR similar in size/area. A land exchange is under consideration. Alternatives were discussed that would benefit the protection and enhancement of the fen, and make dike construction easier. This may include a land exchange with the DNR. Dalager presented information regarding the acre feet being considered in sections 2, 10 & 11, and sections 27 & 35, and how the various options could affect the acre feet of storage. Money asked about the acre feet affected in sections 12 and 13. HDR will compute that storage and discussion will continue regarding the land exchange options.
- Diked Inlet: Various options that have been considered were discussed in detail. In general, the diked inlet will begin on the county line and will go between 6 and 7

miles east. The existing lateral 1 State Ditch 95 will be moved from its present location to a new location adjacent, parallel to and south of the current location. A diked inlet will be constructed parallel to and north of the new lateral 1 SD 95, then a road and an outside diversion ditch will be included.

Dalager proposes that the new SD 95 channel will be utilized only by lands within 6 miles east of the county line and south of lateral 1 SD 95. The new diked inlet will be used to take water that comes from the east via the existing lateral 1 SD 95 (Badger Creek and Skunk Creek). Control structures will be installed and an operating plan will be crafted to detail when water is to be placed into the impoundment and when water will be diverted around the impoundment. Discussion was held regarding automatic gates or manually operated gates.

- **Dike Construction:** The main dike constructed around the impoundment in general will have a 20' wide top and variable side slopes. Options were discussed regarding areas where the dike will cross rich fen. Design considerations will take into account groundwater flows relative to the fen and options will be implemented to restore and enhance the fen where possible.
- **Other items were discussed as follows**
 - A network of drainage ditches will be implemented to deal with the internal drainage of the impoundment. This most likely will consist of maintenance of existing field and road ditches and construction of new ditches.
 - Access and crossings will need to be addressed along the diked inlet. Several options were discussed utilizing either rock Texas crossings or full crossings with box culverts.
 - Improvement of lateral 1 State Ditch 95 was discussed from the county line to the west. The design grade of the ditch in this reach is currently a 0% slope, and it may make sense to give it a positive grade to aid in the dewatering of the impoundment.
 - Outlet structures, operating plans, and other details were discussed and plans for these need to be developed further.
 - Timelines were touched on. Dalager will be working to complete the engineer's report between 3 and 6 months.

Environmental and Permitting:

D. Money discussed the various environmental issues and permitting procedures that will need to be addressed. Handouts were distributed for the following:

- **NRCS – PL566 Grant:** The District has received a grant from the NRCS in the amount of up to \$500,000 to write an Environmental Assessment. The District will match the grant in the amount of \$212,000. The responsibilities of the District will be to complete 6 separate review points consisting of 1) pre planning activities, 2) a purpose and need for action, scoping for the environmental assessment/environmental impact statement, inventory of resources and analysis of resource data, and submittal of affected environment data, 3) submit affected environment and supporting documentation, 4) submit alternatives analysis and supporting documentation, 5) submit environmental consequences, and 6) submit draft EA / EIS.
- **Ditch law:** requirements under Minnesota Statute 103E regarding impounding waters on a legal ditch system


- Environmental Assessment Worksheet process steps and timelines.
- Background information and history of the “Big Swamp Project Work Team”.
- Rich Fen (OPp91) and rare, threatened, and endangered species.
- Other environmental law and permits needed.

With no other matters to come before the Board of Managers, the meeting was adjourned.

Attest:



Daryl Klegstad, Secretary



Darrel Johnson, President

