

**Minutes of the Public Hearing for the  
Klondike Clean Water Retention Project #11  
Board of Managers Two Rivers Watershed District  
Held: 1:00 p.m. November 1, 2017, Kittson Co. Courthouse, Hallock, MN**

The Board of Managers of the Two River Watershed District held a public hearing regarding the Klondike Clean Water Retention Project #11 beginning at 1:00 p.m. on Wednesday, November 1, 2017 at the Kittson County Courthouse in Hallock, Minnesota.

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

Others present included District Administrator Dan Money, Attorney Jeff Hane, Engineer Nate Dalager, Jake Huwe (HDR Engineering), Kittson County Commissioner Leon Olson, Kittson County Engineer Kelly Bengtson, John Finney (RRWMB), Matt Kuznia, Rodney Sikorski, Senator Mark Johnson, Blake Carlson (WSN Engineering), Jon Eerkes (The Nature Conservancy), Ruth Anne Franke (DNR), Stephanie Klamm (DNR), Jaime Thibodeaux (DNR), Dan Jaszczak (N. Kittson Rural Water), Caroline Clarin (NRCS), Debe Walchuk (NRCS), Ken Chruszch, Jon Vold, Rachel Bakke (North Star News), Brad Blawat, Brandon Kuznia.

The meeting was called to order by President Johnson. It was stated that the purpose of the meeting was to follow MN Statute 103D to hear all parties interested for and against the establishment of the project and confirm the Engineer's report.

Attorney Jeff Hane further described the purpose of the meeting, the format for the hearing, and the formal procedures that will be followed during the hearing regarding presentations, questions, and testimony.

District Administrator Dan Money introduced the legal documents that are a part of the project proceedings to date. He described the history of the project and the process that has been followed so far.

Engineer Nate Dalager presented the Engineer's Report. He covered the project setting, description, upstream drainage area, project purpose and need, project goals, permitting, funding. It was noted the project will store up to 40,000 acre feet of floodwater, have an average 7' high dike, a diked inlet and 3 inlet diversion ditches, 3 outlets (1 to the N. Branch Two Rivers, 1 to the M. Branch Two Rivers, and 1 to the S. Branch Two Rivers). Dalager also discussed a range of various project alternatives, operation of inlet and outlet gates, flood damage reduction and effect on flooding frequency, depth, and duration for various runoff events.

Following Dalager's presentation, the meeting was opened for questions. The following questions were asked:

- Rodney Sikorski asked why the project is considering taking water from State Ditch #72 as well as SD 95. Dalager answered that the design considerations are an attempt to address the goals and objectives of the Project Team, which stated crossover flooding from Roseau River and SD 72 is a problem.

- Jon Vold asked about the diked inlet, whether it will be 6, 7, or 8 miles, and how it would be phased in. Also, when phase 1 is built but not phase 2 yet, how will overflows be held? Dalager stated some flows will be held and if the flows become too large a certain amount will be routed around the project.
- Jon Eerckes asked if there is any data on the hydrological effect in the fen, outside of the project. D. Money responded the DNR and the International Water Institute are doing groundwater and surface water monitoring as a part of a fen plan that is being written.
- Ruth Anne Franke asked about the flow reductions to downstream areas, broken down by phases.
- Senator Mark Johnson asked about project funding.
- Rodney Sikorski mentioned the “Mel Wang” (Lat8 SD72) and “Huseby”(Lat6 SD 72) ditches, and asked how they will be constructed or altered by the project.

D. Money discussed funding options through the State of Minnesota, the Red River Watershed Management Board, the Two Rivers Watershed District, and various other government and non-government entities. The current plan is to fund the project 75% state and 25% local and other. It is expected to construct the project in 3 phases, and the first could take 3 to 5 years to complete.

The meeting was opened for official testimony for or against the project:

- Ken Chruszch stated that at this time he does not have enough information to ask a question or make a comment.
- John Finney congratulated the TRWD for developing the project, and as a member of the Red River Watershed Management Board, he is in favor of the project.
- Jon Eerkes stated he is cautiously optimistic about some of the proposed outcomes for conservation. He would like to see good data on management of the fen and expressed caution about protection of this fen, which is possibly the largest undisturbed fen in the lower 48 states.
- Brad Blawat stated he is in favor of the project to alleviate flooding of ag land. He followed up with questions on the process to acquire right of way along the 8 mile long diked inlet.
- Kelly Bengtson stated he is in favor of the project because of its potential benefits to alleviate flooding and damages to public infrastructure – roads and bridges. The project will be able to reduce the peak flows by 15% to downstream areas and reduce costs to FEMA, local, and state governments.

The meeting was closed for questions and testimony, the Board of Managers deliberated project, and made the following Findings of Fact:

1. Upon a motion by Brazier, second by Klegstad, and unanimous vote, the Board received the Engineer’s Report.
2. Upon a motion by Klegstad, second by G. Johnson, and unanimous vote, the Board found the project as proposed and presented will be conducive to public health.
3. Upon a motion by Brazier, second by G. Johnson, and unanimous vote the Board found the project as proposed and presented will promote the general welfare.
4. Upon a motion by Klegstad, second by Brazier, and unanimous vote, the Board found the project as proposed and presented is in compliance with Minn. Statute

Chapter 103D and within the scope of the Watershed Management Plan for the Watershed District.

5. Upon a motion by Klegstad, second by Brazier, and unanimous vote the Board found that the project as proposed and presented results in benefits that will be greater than the cost of the construction or implementation and damages.

Upon a motion by Brazier, second by G. Johnson, and unanimous vote of the Managers, the following Orders were made:

1. That the project, as proposed and presented, be implemented as a whole or as may be approved in different parts, in subsequent proceedings, to be constructed separately.
2. That the Engineer is hereby ordered to proceed with making the necessary surveys and preparing plans and specifications that are needed to construct the Project and report the results of the surveys and plans to the Managers.
3. That this hearing is hereby recessed to allow the engineer's report to be finalized, to allow the permitting and funding processes to be accomplished, and to allow bids to be solicited and received. This hearing shall be reconvened on or before December 31, 2018, for further consideration.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Attest:

  
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Daryl Klegstad, Secretary

  
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Darrel Johnson, President