Two Rivers Watershed District

In Roseau, Kittson, & Marshall Counties

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NEWS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 16, 2016

TRWD Receives Grant to Study the Klondike Clean Water Retention Project
- Public Meeting Scheduled for June 30, 2016

The Two Rivers Watershed District has received grant funding from the USDA - Natural Resources Conservation Service in the amount of $500,000. The grant is a Federal 70% to local 30% cost share and will be matched from local funding in the amount of $214,286. The funding will be used to do planning, preliminary engineering, permitting, economic review, and to prepare an Environmental Assessment for the District's proposed "Klondike Clean Water Retention Project" (KCWRP). This will specifically include an alternatives analysis, cost – benefit analysis, review of permits needed, analysis of environmental effects and consequences, and identification of a preferred alternative for this flood control project.

The KCWRP is a floodwater impoundment and its purpose is to prevent flooding to ag lands and public infrastructure, provide an adequate outlet for various laterals of State Ditch 95, provide an outlet for water that overflows from State Ditch 72 and from the Roseau River, and provide water quality and environmental benefits. This will specifically reduce flooding on lateral 1 of State Ditch 95, reduce flooding on Red River, and reduce flooding on the North Branch, Middle Branch, and South Branches of the Two Rivers. Environmental benefits will be to protect and enhance a naturally occurring rich fen, provide feeding and resting areas for migratory waterfowl, and provide water quality benefits by reducing sediment and nutrients that enter Lake Bronson and the three branches of the Two Rivers.

The project will consist of impounding floodwater within a 12 square mile area. This will be accomplished by constructing a perimeter dike, inlet ditches and diversions, three gated outlet structures, emergency spillways, and various other associated structures. The project will be located in Klondike Township in Kittson County and Polonia and Juneberry Townships in Roseau County. It is projected to store up to 37,000 acre feet (1 acre foot = 1 acre of land covered by water 1 foot deep = 325,829 gallons) of water and will cost approximately $35 million to build. The Two

Rivers Watershed District has acquired most of the land within the footprint of the project, and will be working on the rest of the needed right of way. Project design is being done by HDR Engineering.

The grant from NRCS will go a long way in doing the preliminary work that is needed to be able to make educated decisions in order to proceed with a project that will address the flooding that comes from a 143 square mile upstream drainage area. The project will help solve flooding and drainage problems that have persisted in that area since the mid 1940's, and will provide natural resources enhancements. By completing this study, the TRWD will have collected the engineering, environmental, cultural, and economic information that is necessary to begin acquiring permits and designing the various project features. The planning phase should hopefully be completed within the next 2 years and after that project design will be finalized.

A Public Meeting has been scheduled regarding this project beginning at 1:30 p.m. on Thursday June 30th, 2016 at the Badger Community Hall, 205 N Main, Badger, MN (located between the grocery store and Farmer's Union). Anyone from the public is welcome to attend, hear about the project, and ask questions. For more information, contact the Two Rivers Watershed District at 218-843-3333.