

# Two Rivers Watershed District NEWS

*In Roseau, Kittson, & Marshall Counties*



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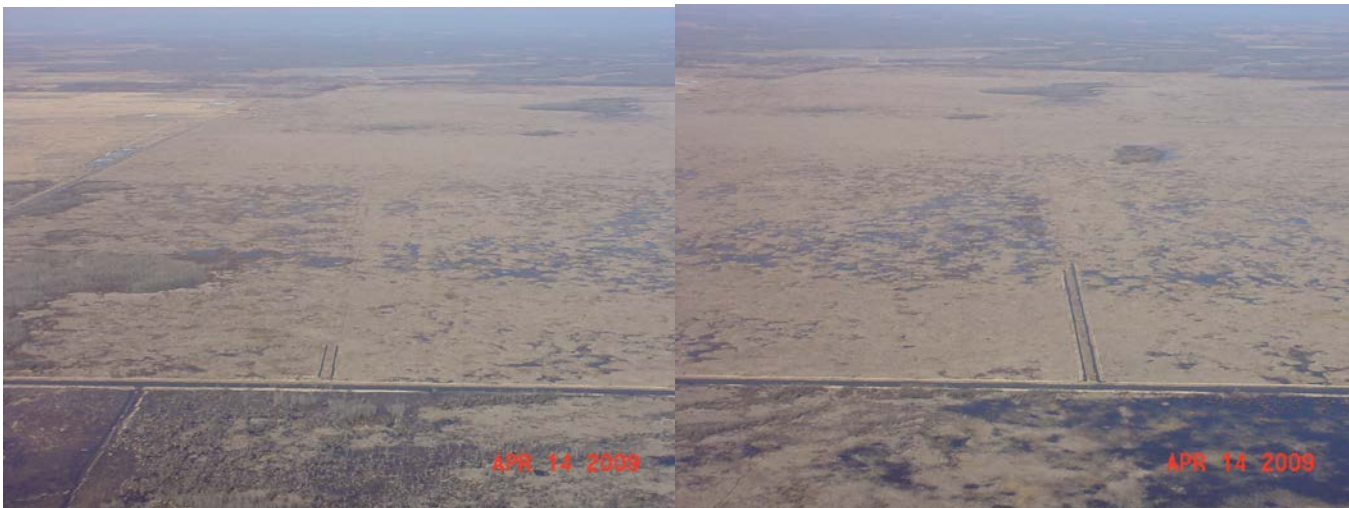
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## **Two Rivers WD Begins Next Impoundment Project “Klondike Clean Water Retention Project #11”**

The Two Rivers Watershed District has begun work on its next impoundment project to help solve flooding problems. A “Preliminary Resolution Hearing” was held on September 12<sup>th</sup>, 2014, to hear and discuss a potential impoundment located near the Roseau & Kittson County line primarily in Klondike Township, Kittson County. The District formally initiated the “Klondike Clean Water Retention Project #11”.



Potential Impoundment Area – Klondike Township, Kittson County

The project is a culmination of many years of planning, including problem identification, creation of a goal statement, implementation strategies, and selection of a preferred site. The project will have benefits for flood control in the State Ditch #95 watershed, Two Rivers, the Red River, water quality on Lake Bronson, improvement of drainage, prevention of crop damages, reduction of overland flooding, protection of public infrastructure, and



protection of farmsteads. It is targeted to provide these benefits mainly for Lateral 1 of State Ditch #95, and will also benefit the North, Middle, and South branches of the Two Rivers, including Lake Bronson and the Red River of the North. The ditch systems currently in place do not have the capacity to carry the water that enters them, and consequently water breaks out of the ditches and creates large scale overland flooding. This results in crop losses, damage to roads, culverts, and bridges, causes erosion and sedimentation, and causes flooding in farmsteads.

Preliminary engineering and a feasibility study contemplates that the project will store about 30,500 acre feet of water (1 acre foot = 325,829 gallons = 1 acre of land covered with water 1 foot deep). A 5 mile long diked inlet channel will be constructed to funnel water from an upstream drainage area of 135 square miles, taking in Badger Creek, Lateral 1 of State Ditch #95, and parts of State Ditch #72. The footprint of the project is expected to cover over 11 square miles. This project concept will be entering the actual engineering and design stage over the coming year. It is anticipated that besides providing flood control this project will provide numerous environmental benefits. Among these include wildlife habitat, water quality improvements, and recreational opportunities for hunting and bird watching.

A project work team was convened from 2009 to 2011 to discuss the problems and potential solutions in the State Ditch #95 system, and come up with a range of solutions to address both flood damage reduction (FDR) and natural resources enhancement (NRE). The team was made up of watershed district managers, county commissioners, soil & water conservation districts, watershed district and county engineers, township officials, local landowners, state agencies (MN Pollution Control Agency, DNR, Board of Water & Soil Resources), federal agencies (US Fish & Wildlife Service, Natural Resources Conservation Service, US Army Corps Of Engineers), and conservation groups (Nature Conservancy, MN Center for Environmental Advocacy). Once that work was completed, the Watershed District began looking at various alternatives and site locations, and finally settled on the current location. The project work team will be meeting on a monthly basis over the next several months in order to refine the design and to discuss and come up with appropriate natural resource enhancements.

The Two Rivers Watershed District will be continuing to work on this project over the coming months. Anyone with questions regarding the project or any other activities of the District should contact the office at 218-843-3333.

# TRWD Sets Tax Levies for 2014

The Two Rivers Watershed District held its Budget Hearing on September 3, 2014 and set its tax and ditch levies for 2015. The District's proposed budget for the coming year shows estimated expenses of \$214,650. This includes all office, administrative, operational, and general expenses. The Board of Managers approved a tax levy in the amount of \$212,500 across the District, which is 85% of the maximum allowable under Minnesota law. The Red River Watershed Management Board previously had set their tax levy for the Two Rivers Watershed District for 2015 at \$443,255 (75% of the maximum), which is a reduction from 2014 in the amount of \$57,213. The RRWMB utilizes this levy to construct flood control projects on a regional basis within the Minnesota portion of the Red River of the North.

The Board of Managers also set tax levies for the various ditches under their jurisdiction as follows: Middle Branch Project - \$10,000; North Branch Project - \$10,000; KCD 7 - \$15,000; KCD 10 - \$5,000; SD 49 - \$10,000; SD 85 Improvement - \$6,000; JD 3 - \$11,000; JD 10 - \$42,000; RCD 4 - \$15,000; Dewey 5 Improvement - \$4,000. These funds will be used to carry out ditch maintenance, beaver removal, cattail and brush management, and sediment removal on these various ditch systems. The TRWD has established a maintenance program for each ditch, and performs annual inspections and conducts surveys every 5 years.

Ditch maintenance in 2014 included projects on State Ditch #49, the Springbrook PL566 Project #10, Dewey 5 Improvement, and Branch B of Judicial Ditch #10. In addition, detailed surveys were completed on Kittson County Ditch #7 and the main branch of Judicial Ditch #10. For detailed information on these activities please contact the District office.

