

Middle-Snake-Tamarac Rivers Watershed District

Judicial Ditch #14 RCPP

Project Work Team Minutes

Wednesday, July 7, 2020 at 10:00 A.M.

Viking Diner, Viking MN

A Project Team meeting of the JD #14 Project Team was held on July 7, 2020 at the Viking Diner. Those present: Tony Nordby (HEI), Brad Blawat (MSTRWD Manager), Joel Praska (MSTRWD Administrator), Craig Jarnot (USACE), Matt Fischer (BWSR), Danielle Kvasager (MPCA), Debra Walchuck (NRCS) and Doug Franke (DNR).

Tony Nordby began the presentation by stating the Purpose and Needs of the project, which is to provide drainage for a 10-year, 24-hour rain event. Ditch improvements alone will not meet the purpose and need of the project due to an inadequate outlet. Tony reviewed previous alternatives that include ditch improvements along with a larger scale impoundment site. A review of the environmental impacts did not favor alternatives that included large scale impoundment sites at various locations.

Tony presented new alternatives that include smaller retention sites, grade stabilization and drainage improvements that would minimize environmental impacts. Three locations were identified as practical sites for retention. Locations include section 1 and 2 of Viking Strip Township. Houston Engineering and the Watershed have held discussions with landowners over possible location sites and two of the three landowners are interested in the idea of housing a retention site to meet the purpose of the project.

Doug Franke inquired as to the costs of these new alternative sites, while Craig Jarnot stated costs do not dismiss a project at this stage. Doug Franke requested the shape files for these alternative sites so he could study the natural habitat and identify protected waters that may be impacted.

Brad Blawat asked if these new alternatives included lowering the Lilac Ridge culvert? Tony Nordby stated the culvert would be dropped 4' to 5'.

Debra Walchuck informed the PWT that the likelihood of the Project receiving another extension at this time was not promising. She encouraged the PWT to continue to plan.

Tony Nordby stated the next step is to perform an environmental impact study for the new locations. Tony also stated Concurrence Point 2, alternatives for detailed study, will be accepting comments from PWT members through July 21st.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:05 A.M.

Joel Praska
MSTRWD
Administrator