

Middle Snake Tamarac Rivers Watershed District
Judicial Ditch #14 – Watershed Planning
Project Work Team Minutes
Wednesday, July 17, 2019 at 10:00 am
Viking Diner
Viking, MN

A Project Team meeting of the JD14 Project Team was held on July 17, 2019 at the Viking Diner. Those present: Brad Blawat (MSTRWD Manager), David Bakke (MSTRWD Manager), Danielle Kvasager (MPCA), Charles Swenson (Landowner), Greg Dyrdal (Landowner), Roger Van Horn (New Solum), Debra Walchuck (NRCS), Stephanie Klamm (MNDNR), Graig Jarnot (ACOE), Tony Nordby (Houston Engineering), Joel Praska (MSTRWD) and Scott Peters (Marshall Co. Auditor/Treasurer).

Tony Nordby began the presentation by stating the Purpose and Needs of the JD #14 RCPP project, which is to provide drainage for a 10-year, 24-hour rain event. Tony stated that review point #3, Affected Environment, has also been submitted to the NRCS and approved. The draft of Screening Alternatives, review point #4, was the focal point of the PWT meeting.

Tony stated the key points to alternatives is to reduce flood volume and increase temporary storage within the ditch system. Primary alternatives include cropland conversion, an increase in culvert sizing and the cut-off of Branch B, C & 2 to store water on existing lands.

Mr. Nordby discussed the screening of possible impoundment sites east and west of Lilac Ridge Road. All impoundment options would include increased culvert sizing along Lilac Ridge Road.

Craig Jarnot questioned the ability to receive a permit from the MNDNR when looking at potential impoundment sites and suggested looking for additional alternatives that may be permit friendly.

Debra Walchuck asked how much agricultural land would negatively be impacted by constructing a possible impoundment site.

Scott Peters inquired if any homesteads, houses, are in any of the proposed impoundment locations.

A group discussion incurred on the history of the area. Many mentioned because of the lay of the land, much of the area is swampland. The flow and release of waters needs to be regulated.

Scott Peters asked if the potential benefits from constructing an impoundment outweigh the costs of such a project.

Debra Walchuck expressed the difficulty in valuing monetary benefits within the ditch system without an urban area located within the system. The NRCS is taking this under consideration and is developing criteria that will better evaluate benefits within an agriculturally based project area. She also expressed the need to move forward with the RCPP project to develop the best plan available moving forward. 70% of the project is federally funded and the District has submitted for an extension that would conclude the project in September of 2020.

Adjourned.

Joel Praska
Administrator
MSTRWD