

Middle Snake Tamarac Rivers Watershed District
Judicial Ditch #14 – Watershed Planning
Project Work Team Minutes
Thursday, August 2, 2018 at 10:00 am
Viking Diner
Viking, MN

A Project Team meeting of the JD14 Project Team was held on August 2, 2018 at the Viking Diner. Those present: David Bakke (MSTRWD Manager), Brad Blawat (MSTRWD Manager), Keith Weston (RRRA), Doug Franke (DNR), Greg Dyrdal (Landowner), Charles Swenson (Landowner), George Bjorgaard (Landowner), Roger Van Horn (Landowner), Tony Nordby (HE), Joel Praska (MSTRWD).

Introductions were made by those in attendance. The minutes from the previous Project Team meeting were briefly discussed and approved.

Tony began with the history of the 2015 RCPP agreement that incorporates a 70% Federal funding and 30% local cost share on the 6 step review point procedure.

Tony then gave an update on the status of Review Point 2, Purpose and Need, which has been approved by the NRCS. Review Point 3, Affected Environment, has also been submitted and is awaiting approval by the NRCS. Tony is also working on Review Point 4, Alternatives Development, in anticipation of Point 3 being approved.

Tony gave a re of the existing conditions hydrology and hydraulics modeling performed by Houston Engineering, showing the expected flooding due to various rainfall events.

The floor was opened for discussion. Concerns that maps may need to be updated to reflect changing CRP lands was mentioned. Keith stated CRP and hay land should be considered agricultural lands as proper drainage would create prime farmlands.

Does the Purpose meet Alternative Review Point 4? The TSAC approach to reduce flood volume and increase conveyance. Protection and avoidance in terms of increasing temporary storage may be included in alternative measures.

Lilac Ridge Road and how it acts as an impound area was discussed and if the culvert sizing could be altered to double the sizing and what affect this would have on Co Rd #2. Currently, it is projected that Co Ditch #22 has an outlet capacity for a 2 to 5 year rain event.

The next item for discussion was on possible impoundment sites downstream of the Lilac Ridge Road. Would this be permissible, practical and fundable under FDR guidelines. A possible impoundment site could be monitored and regulated by the District.

Doug stated increased flow will cause erosion issues and endanger channel stabilization. An option may be a change in farming practices and no till operations. Doug also asked if culverts are dropped, would this dry up shallow wells?

The PWT considered options raised at the meeting, while Tony stated he will continue to work on alternatives and the submittal of Review Point 4 to the NRCS.

Adjourned.

Joel Praska
Administrator
MSTRWD