Minutes of the MSTRWD
Swift Coulee / County Ditch #3 Project Work Team
August 10, 2016 Bremer Bank Meeting Room

In attendance were:
Landowners
Larry Eftefield, Stuart Nordling, Marshall Fulks, Cindy Anderson, Mark Yutrzenka, Jim Vansickle, David Nelson

Agency Representatives
Stephanie Klam (DNR), Craig Jarnot (ACOE), Denise Oakes (MPCA), Phil Talmage (DNR), Matt Waterworth (NRCS), Darren Carlson (SWCD), Matt Fischer (BWSR)

MSTRWD Representatives
David Bakke, Ben Kleinwachter, Roger Mischel, Danny Omdahl, Brent Silvis

Houston Engineering, Inc. (HEI)
Ron Adrian and Tony Nordby

Tony Nordby led the meeting, beginning with a slide show giving an overview of the project team process, a recap of the progress to date, a description of the problems being addressed (primarily ditch flooding) and the challenges involved.

A discussion followed. Comments included:

Ben Kleinwachter: Pointed out that the benefited area of CD #3 benefited area is much less than the drainage area. There is a need for residents in the east and west parts of the drainage area to work together. He also pointed out that the ditch jurisdiction is Marshall County’s and they are responsible for maintaining it. He added that reviewing the culvert inventory would be useful.

Jim Vansickle: He stated that the coulee never worked well. The lay of the land flattens out near sections 2-1 Warrenton. The flow through U.S. 75 is a problem. A survey to discover the extent of sediment blockages is needed.

Stuart Nordling: The ditch used to work better than it does now. Previous work, including the cleaning of numerous culverts by the County in 2015 and dozing of the ditch in 1988, improved drainage.

Mark Yutrzenka: Sediment and cattails within the coulee and bank erosion are problems.

David Nelson: Other ditches in the area are often empty, with CD #3 still containing a lot of water. The driveway/spoil of Joe Rominski is in need of repair.
Stephanie Klamm: Clarified the process by which some waters were designated protected waters in the late 1970s. Any cleaning of the Swift Coulee within the protected waters portion would require a DNR permit and anything beyond a cleaning within CD #3 would require a DNR permit.

Ron Adrian: Explained that 2 year events were defined using a regression equation, in response to a question asked by Ben. Warned against shared responsibility of a system between District and County.

Danny Omdahl: CD #3 has a Marshall County Shoreland designation, therefore it is required to have a 50’ buffer strip. Correspondence was sent to Marshall County to seek what they have recorded for floodwater damages to their ditches, roads and infrastructure. The same request will be sent to the townships.

Matt Fischer: Because there is a road on the north side of CD #3, a grass strip is not required there. Pointed out that there are sediment concerns in the waterways.

Larry Eftefield: Pointed out that pumping of water by farmers during high water causes problems.

The following decisions were made:

Jim Vansickle, Mark Yutrzenka, David Nelson agreed to be Project Team Volunteers.

Tony Nordby (HEI) stated that there is some local interest in cleaning out portions of the protected Swift Coulee that is within the benefited area of CD #3. He also stated that LiDAR data may be useful for some of the area, but surveying of the actual channel will be needed for the DNR permit process. The District will survey. The District will need to send letters to landowners to gain access. Stephanie Klamm (DNR) said new cross-sections will be needed. She will work with District staff to formulate a surveying plan. Denise Oakes will check for MPCA impairments within the system. Tony Nordby will aid the district in developing some cost estimates of the survey.

A date will be set for the next meeting, in late October, due to harvest. Date will be arranged which works for volunteers and agencies. Townships and counties will be invited.

Ben asked if the agencies saw any problems to what was proposed. None did.

/s/
Brent Silvis
Administrator
Acting Secretary