

Swift Coulee/Marshall County Ditch #3 Project Work Team Meeting

Wednesday, March 27, 2019 at 1:30 pm

Bremer Bank, Warren, MN

Attendees:

Stuart Nordling, (Landowner Representative, Vega Twp Supervisor)

Jim Duckstad (MC Commissioner)

Roger Mischel, Brad Blawat (MSTRWD Managers)

Joel Praska, Danny Omdahl (MSTRWD)

Tony Nordby (Houston Engineering)

Matt Fischer (Board of Water & Soil Resources)

Craig Jarnot (US Army Corps of Engineers)

Rodney Teigen (MC Hwy Dept, Oak Park Twp Supervisor)

Josh Johnston (MC Emergency Mgmt)

Darren Carlson (SWCD)

Matt Waterworth (NRCS)

Tony recapped the July 2018 meeting which focused on Concurrence Point #1, Purpose and Needs statement, which is a goal to reduce the 10-year, 24-hour rain event through flood damage reduction. The existing conditions modeling for 2, 10, 25, 50 and 100-year events has been completed. Tony then went over the 1998 Flood Damage Reduction Mediation Agreement which stipulates the process of implementing a project. Technical paper #11 calls for the review of alternatives for developing an array of potential flood damage reduction and natural resource enhancement measures, otherwise known as Concurrence Point #2.

Tony reviewed the evaluation of measures to consider that would alleviate flooding based on the Purpose and Needs and environmental effects of the project. After discussing the practicality of various measures, seven measures remain for further review.

- Restore or create wetlands
- Drainage improvement of Marshall County Ditch 3 (MCD 3)
- Diversions such as new drainage ditches
- Setting back existing & future potential levees
- Off-channel impoundment sites
- Channel restoration of Swift Coulee
- Field drainage side inlet culvert installation

Tony stated these seven remaining measures can be combined to form project alternatives for further analysis and evaluation in Concurrence Point #3.

Matt Fischer asked about culvert sizing with a 10-year, 24-hour ditch improvement and if it had been thrown out of the equation. Tony stated due to the pinch back factor, it has been determined not to be included in the list of alternative measures. Craig Jarnot also stated that an improvement would require a petition, Redetermination of Benefits and that the majority of landowners would not be in agreement with the Redetermination of Benefits for MCD 3.

Craig Jarnot said he would like to see practical alternatives carried over to concurrence point #3 and that the combination of alternative measures is advised.

Matt Waterworth mentioned from his perspective, there are no measures that would positively affect the Snake River downstream.

Craig Jarnot suggested that Houston Engineering send him a list of potential impoundment sites in the area of the Swift Coulee.

Danny Omdahl suggested implementing tree rows, grass strips and increasing field ditch culverts along the Swift Coulee and MCD 3 to limit the amount of snow blowing into the channels and to reduce erosion into the channels.

He also discussed that the Snake River is considered by some people as being an inadequate outlet for MCD 3. He stated that the Team should consider inspecting the Snake River and obtaining a permit to remove sediment from the Snake River downstream from MCD 3.

He asked Stuart Nordling if the township supervisors have discussed high flow culverts in MCD 3 to aid in getting a flow started to melt the snow in the ditch. Stuart indicated there is not a consensus for that.

The District and Houston agreed to forward a copy of the draft concurrence point #2 to all PWT members for comments prior to submitting the report. All comments are to be submitted by April 11, 2019.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 pm.

---

Joel Praska  
MSTRWD