

Swift Coulee/Marshall County Ditch #3 Project Team Meeting

Tuesday, July 10, 2018 at 9:30 am

Bremer Bank, Warren, MN

Attendees:

Jim Vansickle, Stuart Nordling, David Nelson (Landowners)

Rolland Miller, LeRoy Vonasek (MC Commissioner)

Roger Mischel, Brad Blawat (MSTRWD Manager)

Joel Praska, Danny Omdahl (MSTRWD)

Tony Nordby (Houston)

Matt Fischer (BWSR)

Craig Jarnot (USACOE)

Lon Aune (MC Hwy)

Darin Carlson (SWCD)

Veronica Lundquist (Intern SWCD)

Tony recapped the May 2017 meeting and identified the approximate drainage area for the Swift Coulee and County Ditch #3 as being 47 square miles. He discussed the H & H report. One portion, the HEC-HMS is a program which converts water rainfall to runoff. The other portion, the HEC-RAS models the hydraulics of water flow through natural rivers and other channels to aid hydraulic engineers in channel flow analysis and floodplain determination.

Tony stated that the elevation change from east to west is 230'. The land use for agriculture is very high. There is not much other land use. When Houston surveyed the geographical area, they included a wider boundary of approximately a mile in some areas. This was done to identify conditions when flood water leaves the Swift Coulee and CD #3 drainage area and flows to the other waterways or ditches.

The 24 hour peak flow comparisons and 24 hour flood inundation were explored when the flows are deep enough that there can be a transfer of water from the Swift to the Melgard Coulee. The area is where CSAH #3 and CSAH #14 meet. The flow cannot go west under #3 fast enough.

Tony displayed a 10 year flow event simulation of CD #3 at the intersection with CSAH #10. During a flooding event, the water surface elevation in CD #3 is higher than the field elevation. He identified a location where water could be higher for a period of 8 days.

Tony exhibited an inundated acreage aerial photo. The area included from the Snake River, upstream on CD #3, to upstream on the Swift Coulee to about 2 miles east of US Hwy #75. Using a rain event of 3.5" to 4" and higher, Tony displayed the inundated properties.

A conversation ensued regarding removing sediment from the Swift Coulee. Danny stated the DNR will work with landowners to get the Coulee cleaned. The DNR views cleaning as a positive aspect to the Project. There could be a landowner agreement with the MSTRWD to act as their agent when the Coulee needs future cleaning.

The Purpose and Needs statement is to reduce the 10 year, 24 hour rain event through flood damage reduction. CD #3 was possibly designed to a 2 year frequency flow event, but it could be slightly smaller than that. Craig Jarnot thought the Purpose statement was in order.

Lon Aune asked about funding sources. He inquired if money can be sought if rehabilitation of the project area is going to be performed, or, is money available to make the channels bigger. Tony stated that a redetermination of benefits would need to take place to make CD #3 larger. Tony said that FDR State funds would be available for improving local drainage in certain circumstances. He said if a project were to include a storage facility, then State money could be used to improve drainage to the facility. Matt Fischer stated there are numerous funding sources for a project like this.

Brad Blawat asked about establishing a benefited area. Matt discussed the possibility of a Water management Organization (WMO). A WMO could establish the benefited area for construction and maintenance funds.

The next steps are to finalize Concurrence Point 1, the Purpose and Need, and Concurrence Point 2, the Alternative Analysis.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 am.

Joel Praska
MSTRWD