

Newfolden / Middle River Subwatershed FDR Project Team Meeting Notes
May 16th, 2016
Newfolden Community Center
Newfolden, Minnesota

Attendees:

Nate Dalager HDR Engineering
Danny Omdahl MSTRWD
And others

The participants will be ~4 landowner representatives, Twp Supervisors, City of Newfolden, Marshall County Commissioners & SWCD, BWSR, DNR, MPCA, USFWS & USACOE, CP Railway and MSTRWD.

The meeting started with introductions. The group was told the MSTRWD Board agreed on May 2nd to have a Project Work Team formulated.

The meeting facilitator is Nate Dalager, he was appointed to by the MSTRWD Board. The facilitator keeps the meeting focused, on track and asks those with assignments to have their work ready prior to the next meeting.

There was an explanation that Project Work Teams were developed in a Mediation Agreement between the RRWMB and the State of MN. The State wanted the individual watersheds in the RRWMB to stop developing impoundment projects so that it could provide its contributions to minimize natural resource problems. The Mediation was a settlement from lawsuit against the State.

Nate identified the PowerPoint photos: There were maps of the drainage area, the ditches that flowed into the Middle River. There was a description of runoff and timing, structures in Newfolden that could be in the proposed floodplain, impairments of the River i.e. turbidity, dissolved oxygen, bank sluffing, lack of fish passage.

Nate and Danny discussed the MN Center for Environmental Advocacy. They have identified eastern areas of the Middle River as high priority areas for conservation, the River is classified as a Class III warm water stream, there are numerous WMAs and wetlands in this reach of the River.

Some photographs of flooding from 1975 were on the PowerPoint, however it was pointed out that event was quite possibly the only known time of flooding in Newfolden. It was caused by a severe rain event and the water that flooded the town actually came cross country.

A slide showed the possible 100 Year Floodplain and the majority of the affected structures (~40) are east of the Canadian Pacific Railway (CPR). The CPR has (2)-96" and (3)-66" corrugated steel culverts in the River. It's believed at this time the major obstruction to flow is the culvert's sizes.

Objectives the PWT will work towards are: Remove the structures from the floodplain; minimize the properties that would need flood insurance; increase the likelihood of future home

development; minimize up & downstream impacts, continue building the local economy and the school district.

Nate provided the alternatives such as increasing the existing culvert capacity at the CPR, or remove the existing pipes and install (2) 12' x 10' box culverts, construct a dike on the north side of the River upstream from the CPR, possibly buyout some homes, build an impoundment either up or downstream from Newfolden. It's possible that 40 homes could be removed from the 100 Year Floodplain if the aforementioned alternatives are implemented.

Nate talked about the Red River Basin Commission's goal of watersheds in MN reducing the peak flow to the Red River by 20%. The Middle River would need to temporarily store 15 to 16 thousand acre feet of water to reach the goal.

Nate and Danny discussed the impoundments that the MSTRWD has developed east & south east of Warren.

Nate stated in this process there will 3 major steps. Step 1 do a feasibility study; Step 2 design, obtain permits and funding; Step 3 develop final plans and commence construction.

Four landowners are interested in participating as landowner designees.

A letter of support from the District to the City of Newfolden was given to the City.

Nate asked the Team if there was a consensus to proceed with a feasibility study. The answer was yes.

By December 2016, FEMA is expected to complete Newfolden's Flood Plain Zoning report.

Tammy Hansen had contacted the NW MN Foundation to seek a 1:1 matching grant (up to \$20,000) to help fund the Newfolden Flood Plain feasibility study.

Danny stated he contacted the RRWMB Administrator Naomi Goral about this project. Ms. Goral said this project will qualify for Grant Acceleration funds to be applied to a feasibility study.