

Advisory Committee Meeting

January 22, 2018

Present: Chairman Ron Staples, Scott Bauer, Dean Frisch, Tom Monson, Dan Morrill, Linda Vavra, Vernell Wagner. Also present: Pete Waller, Chad Engels, Jamie Beyer.

Chairman Staples called the meeting to order at 11:00 am. Before the next meeting, Staples asked Beyer to review appointments to the Advisory Committee according to BdSWD Board minutes.

North Ottawa Update: Vavra gave a summary of discussions with the DNR over North Ottawa Impoundment land use management. In 2017, only two cells were farmed. The BdSWD has provided documentation that farming was always part of the original project, as a means to provide funding for operation and maintenance costs. Vavra relayed that over 2/3 of the facility provides Natural Resource Enhancements (NRE's) in Cell C, borrow pits, channels, and 8 miles of ditches. In addition, the entire Impoundment has been designated a refuge – hunting is prohibited. Agriculture is important to the impoundment in order to: increase floodwater drainage capacity (by requiring a late-summer, fall draw-down of the cells), allowing the generation of property taxes for the county and township, and provides some revenue to cover operation and maintenance costs. Beyer relayed that the District has until 2/1 to declare parcels exempt or non-exempt from property taxes, so the decision to lease the lands must be made before this date.

Redpath Update: Engels gave an update on the Redpath Impoundment project. To-date, the BdSWD has three more properties to acquire. Permitting and construction plans will be completed this summer; the project will then be shovel ready. Phase I includes the bypass corridor. To date, approx. \$11,000,000 has been spent; \$24,000,000 is estimated for construction. A bonding bill is needed to provide construction funds. Wagner asked how operation and maintenance will be funded for this project. Engels stated that agriculture will be used.

Section 24 – Retain water

Section 23 – Possible small grain farming; section will be flooded during 5 – 10 year floods

Sections 21 & 22 – Conventional agriculture; sections will only be flooded during large 25 year floods

Buffers: Staples stated that Stevens County continues to work on their local ordinance, and has not received approval from BWSR. Monson stated that Traverse County is in a similar position. Waller clarified that SWCD's are charged with working with individual landowners installing buffers and notifying the appropriate jurisdictions of compliance. Beyer asked how buffers

installed under the redetermination process will be maintained. Engels and Waller confirmed that the Bois de Sioux Watershed will be responsible for mowing and spraying buffers acquired through the redetermination process. At this time, TCD #37 is the only ditch that has been redetermined.

1W1Plan: Local government units are participating in the 1W1Plan process, hoping to save costs statewide to update and maintain overall plans.

Future Projects: Monson is seeing constituent support for cleaning and maintenance ditches. Engels feels that retrofits like TCD #37 will become valued. Frisch was impressed with a hot spot map used by Engineer Tech Troy Fridgen, and thought the map could be shared with the public.

JD #14: Vavra indicated that there has been no further legal communication over JD #14, and that the legal costs may be final. The original JD #1 assessment area will be assessed for the costs.

NEXT MEETING: June 28, 2018 at 9:00 AM