

## Advisory Committee Meeting

June 28, 2018

Present: Chairman Ron Staples, Doug Jahnke, Tom Monson, Vernell Wagner, John Walkup.

Absent: Jay Backer, Scott Bauer, Duane Duin, Dean Frisch, Eric Klindt, Joe Montoneye, Beau Peterson, Mark Summers.

Also present: Allen Wold, James Guler, Jamie Beyer.

Chairman Staples called the meeting to order at 9:00 am.

**2017 Annual Report & Audit:** Beyer presented the 2017 Annual Activity and Audit Report. The audit was reviewed in closer details. Fund balances for the General and Construction Fund are positive, but the Ditch Fund is –(\$1,110,331), primarily due to JD #14 litigation and TCD #37 repair construction. In 2018, Wilkin County bonded on behalf of BdSWD to cover WCD #8 repair construction. Audit findings were also discussed.

**North Ottawa:** BdSWD is managing operations, maintenance, and natural resource enhancements. Six of eight cells have been leased and put into agricultural crops for 2018. In order to allow for earlier cell flooding and natural resource enhancements, a restriction was placed on two cells, permitting only small grains. At this point, there is capacity in Cell C to handle the anticipated summer precipitation. A request has been received from Wilkin County Highway Department to hold water for 7 – 10 days while a downstream bridge is repaired; staff believe this request will be obliged. Earlier this spring, BdSWD board managers received research results from the U of M regarding the significant extent to which agricultural crops in the impoundment are removing nutrients and cleaning water. A second research team from NDSU is using BdSWD tile permitting data to improve NOAA weather modelling; researchers believe that the installation of drainage tile has alleviated flooding conditions. The researchers also reported that soil temperatures are warmer in the spring, and cooler in the summer, on tiled ground.

**Redpath:** Engineering staff have finalized impoundment plans and permit applications; they intend to present the project at the July 19<sup>th</sup> BdSWD board meeting. The cost estimate for Phase I (the corridor) is \$2.4 million. Officials from the Red River Water Management Board will also attend the meeting.

**Ditch Projects – TCD #37 Nearly Complete:** Drone footage, comparing before and after states, was reviewed. The footage will be posted to the BdSWD Facebook page. A Clean Water Multi-Purpose Drainage Grant was received from BWSR for construction of the berm, riprap, and side inlets. The contractor is working on a final punchlist.

**Ditch Projects – In Progress:** Redetermination of JD #11 and WCD #9 & #10 are on-going. The project area is approximately 10 miles, but the ditch system itself is 28 miles. Repair construction on WCD #8 was recently posted to the BdSWD Facebook page, and within 24 hours had 1,100 views. Engineering plans and permits are being worked on at the outlet of TCD #52. Wagner and Wold remembered an 11” in 1964 in Beardsley that caused a significant amount of erosion in the ditch – in places, water is 10’ deeper than it should be, and the sides are falling in. There is a 100’ drop in elevation in the ditch system. Landowners do not support a redetermination; a map of the benefit area was reviewed by the committee.

**Buffers:** Staples reported that Stevens County’s ordinance has been approved. Traverse County’s ordinance was also recently approved. Wold reported that BdSWD’s ordinance was recently submitted. Committee members discussed the role of SWCD’s to investigate and report buffer violations, and the role of counties and the watershed to enforce the ordinances.

**1W1Plan:** The Policy Committee is in the process of approving its committee rules; once that is done, an RFQ will be released for consulting services.

**Future Projects – RCPP Doran/BDS Direct:** An evaluation is being made of three alternatives for Doran flood damage reduction: 1) A Ring Levy 2) Brandrup 9 Impoundment 3) An unnamed impoundment North of Doran. An economist is determining the economic benefit of each option – whether each alternative meets the purpose of the project, and whether there is more economic benefit than cost. This evaluation will be done late summer or early fall.

**Future Projects – Copeland Project in Western 32:** No immediate plans to pursue this project.

**Future Projects – Big Lake:** The DNR’s elevation for Big Lake is 1072’. Last fall, a private landowner cleaned-out a ditch adjacent to Big Lake. The elevation is being held at 1075’ due to the installation of a rock weir.

**Future Projects – Moonshine:** No immediate plans to pursue this project. Adjacent landowners do not want to move forward until the condition of the outletting ditch is addressed.

**Other:** Committee members were asked their thoughts. Staples and Monson relayed that property taxes are a concern, but no one attended the Stevens or Traverse County Truth in Taxation meetings.

**NEXT MEETING:** January 9, 2019 at 9:00 AM