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**NORTH OTTAWA**
**OPERATIONS & MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE MEETING**
**Monday, January 6, 2020 at 8 AM**

The purpose of the meeting is to discuss 2020 North Ottawa Impoundment operations and maintenance plans.

In Attendance:  President Linda Vavra, Board Managers Jason Beyer, Ben Brutlag, and John Kapphahn.  Engineer Chad Engels (by phone), Attorney Louis Smith (by phone), and Administrator Jamie Beyer

Attorney Louis Smith recommended four big-picture goals

1) Produce a clear operating plan
2) Identify sustainable funding
3) Reduce DNR interruptions
4) Remove Redpath funding impediments

Attorney Smith advised that we proceed with what we believe is the best plan that fits our cost-benefit needs and that achieves as many NRE goals as can be legally defended; that we present the plan to the RRWMB and MAWD and seek their support in operations, and then give a copy to our legislators to show how our operation plan advances the Mediation Agreement.  We will design the best plan, and we are done going through past history or waiting for the DNR to provide a definition of what qualifies as an NRE.

Committee members discussed possible opportunities for supplying the North Ottawa Dairy for corn silage, which would provide some additional NRE opportunities, but need more information.  Board Manager Brutlag volunteered to speak with dairy managers.  The water depth in cells A4 and B4 is not deep enough to kill the current cattail overgrowth; the Committee discussed having the cattails killed in June or July, with plans to prepare the cells with native grassland or pollinator habitat.

Changes from the land lease bid:

- Remove cell A3 (will be used to divert water from cells A4 and B4, so they dry-out)
- Add a field for the intended purpose, and indicate that corn silage planting is preferred
- Change untilled penalty rates to $50/acre for unworked ground

The Committee will also recommend to the full board:

- Engage with EOR for NRE activities 2021 and beyond
- Photo Contest – April thru October, $100/month for best photo
- Continuation of portapotty service
- Future meetings:  March, July, September, December

**2020 OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE SPECIFICS**

| | PROPOSED LAND USE | NRE'S |
|---|---|---|
| | WHOLE IMPOUNDMENT  (2,099 ACRES) | Flood Hazard Mitigation |
| | 737 ACRES OF WET CELLS + 10-MILE COLLECTION CHANNEL | Stream Augmentation Downstream |
| | WHOLE IMPOUNDMENT | Repeat 2019 Opportunities for Pollinator Hosting |
| | WHOLE IMPOUNDMENT (2,099 ACRES) | Wild Game Refuge |
| | WHOLE IMPOUNDMENT (2,099 ACRES) | Sediment Settlement |
| A1 | Conventional Ag Lease (96.1 ACRES) | Flood for spring migration<br>Crops harvested utilize and remove excess deposited nutrients to provide future clean water<br>Weed suppression |
| A2 | Conventional Ag Lease (95.1 ACRES) | Flood for spring migration<br>Crops harvested utilize and remove excess deposited nutrients to provide future clean water<br>Weed suppression |
| A3 | Water Holding Cell (99.9 ACRES) | Flood for spring migration<br>Continue to provide habitat near cells with cover and wildlife food sources<br>Flood for fall migration |
| A4 | Cattail Removal (120 ACRES) | Flood for spring migration<br>Prepare cells for future NRE's |
| B1 | Conventional Ag Lease (105 ACRES) | Do not flood, if possible; corn stubble no-till Fall 2019<br>Crops harvested utilize and remove excess deposited nutrients to provide future clean water |
| B2 | Conventional Ag Lease (124.8 ACRES) | Do not flood, if possible; corn stubble no-till Fall 2019<br>Crops harvested utilize and remove excess deposited nutrients to provide future clean water |
| B3 | Small Grain Restricted Lease (123.4 ACRES) | Flood for spring migration<br>Flood for fall migration |
| B4 | Cattail Removal (120 ACRES) | Flood for spring migration<br>Prepare cells for future NRE's |
| C | Water Holding Cell (608 ACRES) | Flood for spring migration<br>Wet cell throughout summer and early fall to provide habitat |

**2019:  848 Acres of Wet Cells for Habitat  |  607 Acres of Grassland  |  644 Acres for Revenue + Habitat + Public Value**
**2020:  708 Acres of Wet Cells for Habitat  |  847 Acres of Grassland  |  544 Acres for Revenue + Habitat + Public Value**