

**Meeting Notes
Bois de Sioux Watershed
Advisory Committee Meeting
January 6, 2023**

Committee Members

Chad Zimmer

Scott Bauer

Duane Duin

Dean Frisch

Doug Jahnke

Eric Klindt **[Absent]**

Doyle Sperr

Ron Staples

Mark Summers **[Absent]**

John Walkup

Also Present:

District Engineer Chad Engels

District Attorney Lukas Croaker

Technician Troy Fridgen

Bois de Sioux Watershed President Linda Vavra

Administrator Jamie Beyer

Call to Order

Introductions

Permitting

The District has processed 200 Permits in 2022, compared to 167 Permits in 2021 and 165 Permits in 2020. Duin described DNR permitting requirements to remove sediment from a portion of a public water. Committee members discussed the importance of cattail management; cattails force waterflow to cut a new channel, which causes erosion, degrades water quality, allows silt to build-up and block flows. Duin witnessed land in a public easement flood adjoining land, ultimately souring the soil and degrading soil health to a point where the adjacent land could no longer be farmed; the standing flood water starved the soil organic matter permanently.

Ditch Projects: **Judicial Ditch #11 & Judicial Ditch #6 Retrofits Closed 2022
 TCD #35 Continued from 2022
 WCD #Sub-1
 GCD #21**

Engels described features of Clean Water Ditch Retrofits (continuous spoil berms, side inlet culvert installation, rip rap where needed). The larger benefit of these projects is the interplay between culvert sizing and channel design – promoting the ability for a drainage system to work as a whole, providing both stable channels for flow and storage. Construction of Clean Water Retrofits for JD #11 and JD #6 have been completed and the projects were closed in 2022. Construction is also complete on TCD #35, but vegetation establishment must be confirmed in 2023 before the project can be closed. The final hearings on WCD #Sub-1 will be held at the end of the month; construction could take place Spring 2023. GCD #21 will be a different project from what the District has completed before – the system includes a portion of public drainage tile; landowner meetings continue. An initial landowner meeting has been held on WCD #25.

Watershed Projects: 2022 District Workshops

Three workshops were held in August (in Campbell, Herman, and Graceville). Topics included buffer and field drain maintenance; proposed changes to rules, policies and bylaws; and construction projects unique to the hosting site. Advisory Committee members were invited to attend.

Watershed Projects: Redpath Impoundment & Mustinka River Rehabilitation

In 2022, the project was awarded its full permits but has not secured full state funding. Phase 1/TCD #35 is nearly complete. The Mustinka River Rehabilitation portion of Phase 2 will be bid Spring 2023, which construction to begin thereafter. A strong advocacy effort will be made in 2023 to secure the state's funding commitment.

Watershed Projects: Lake Traverse Water Quality Improvement Project/TCD #52

In 2022, Phase 2 was completed and closed. Phase 3 was recently awarded to the apparent low bidder, the same contractor who completed Phases 1 & 2. Construction will likely begin when conditions permit Spring 2023.

Watershed Projects: North Ottawa

The new Project Team for North Ottawa met twice in 2022, and will be meeting this month to discuss a 2023 budget and operations.

Watershed Projects: Samantha & Elbow Lake

The District continues to work jointly with Grant County and lake landowners to problem solve lake elevations that frequently overtop important roads.

Watershed Projects: Doran Creek

Project design development continues. Landowner and informational meetings were held in 2022, including during the Campbell District Workshop.

Watershed Projects: Lightning Lake

A grant was received from the DNR to replace the outlet structure for Lightning Lake. Construction will likely take place in 2023.

Watershed Projects: Mud Lake

The Army Corps of Engineers intends to coordinate a full drawdown at the end of 2023 in order to expose mudflats. The DNR has raised a concern that a post-flood release be made gradual. Operationally, managing Mud Lake for wildlife is a more compatible activity than managing Mud Lake for fisheries. Overall, it seems that Mud Lake landowners support the Mud Lake drawdown; some Lake Traverse landowners have expressed concerns about maintaining enough water in Lake Traverse for recreation.

Watershed Projects: Buffers & Soil Erosion Prevention

In 2022, three letters of non-compliance were sent to two landowners, one in Traverse County and one in Grant County. The letters state that landowners have 11 months to establish the required 16.5' buffer. Traverse SWCD continued its program to cost-share concrete mats on private field drains that outlet to public drainage systems. Wilkin SWCD coordinated a side inlet culvert project on JD #12 and provided cost-share.

Watershed Projects: 1W1Plan Grant Projects

A second grant, in the amount of \$1,064,522 was received by the District on behalf of the 13 LGU's involved in the Joint Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan. These funds will expire 12/31/25.

Watershed Projects: 640th Ave/Dollymount Township Road Raise

Many meetings were held in 2022 between staff and township officials. Currently, Dollymount engineering staff are waiting for a measurement for an existing underground gas line depth prior to permit application submission. Because the District's cost share agreement contains potential permit conditions, it has not yet been executed by Dollymount Township.

NEXT MEETING: JUNE 16 AT 9 AM