

**Meeting Agenda**  
**Bois de Sioux Watershed**  
**North Ottawa Project Team Meeting**  
**January 24, 2024 at 10:00 am**  
**Wendell Community Center**

**Project Team Members**

SWCD Representative	Randy Larson	
Landowners	Dominic Blume <b>[Absent]</b> & Jordan Schneeberger <b>[Absent]</b>	
County Commissioners	Eric Klindt	Bill LaValley <b>[Absent]</b>
DNR Representatives	Nick Brown	Christine Herwig
Bois de Sioux Watershed District Board Managers	Ben Brutlag	John Kappahn

**Also Present:**

Theresa Ebbenga, DNR Regional Director **[Absent]**  
Linda Vavra, BdSWD Board President and Alternate  
Jason Beyer, BdSWD Board Manager and Alternate **[Absent]**  
Troy Fridgen, BdSWD Engineer Technician  
Lukas Croaker, BdSWD District Attorney  
Jamie Beyer, BdSWD Administrator

**1. Comments from the Public (none received)**

**2. Lease Agreements**

Attorney Lukas Croaker presented a draft of, "Amendment No. 1 2023 Farmland Lease Agreement – North Ottawa," for use with the existing lease with Raguse Family Partnership, in effect for crop years 2023, 2024 and 2025. The purpose of the amendment is to detail that use of Cell B3 following harvest 2024 will be set aside for preparation Fall 2024 for future wild rice production, and that the shift in the Raguse Family Partnership cell use to A3 will result in a decrease in available tillable acres (and respective decrease in rent due for 2025).

Attorney Lukas Croaker presented a draft of the, "2024 Farmland Lease Agreement, North Ottawa Cell B3," to be used to facilitate the North Ottawa Wild Rice Pilot Program. Goals of the program are to evaluate whether wild rice production can be used to: 1) increase natural resource habitat; 2) reduce/replace widespread cattail growth; and 3) control weeds in saturated impoundment cells – while continuing to operate the facility for its primary use, flood control. The lease applies to Cell B3 (123.4 acres), and the following terms were highlighted and discussed:

- The District will install water gages in Cell B3 that the Lessee can choose to monitor remotely with his/her own equipment.
- The District will provide a letter of intent in order to facilitate an evaluation by Lessee's crop insurance company.
- Water quality monitoring is included in the lease but not described in-detail; Brown stated that the Flood Damage Reduction Workgroup Monitoring Grant program is finalizing their workplan, and this project has been submitted as a possible site.
- Emphasis is made that the Impoundment is a game refuge.

