

MEETING NOTES PREPARED BY SHERRY HOSFORD

SHORTFOOT CREEK WATERSHED PLANNING

PROJECT TEAM MEETING # 1

JUNE 15, 2016

GENESEO ND

Pat Downs, Moore Engineering, Inc. (MEI) welcomed the Shortfoot Creek Watershed Planning Team and introductions were made. The following were present: Lucas Siemieniewski, Sargent County Water Resource District; Chris Gross, MEI, Engineer for the Board; Tom Jones, Sargent County Natural Resource Conservation Service; Patsy Crooke, Corps of Engineers; Chad Ward, Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate; Loren Aadland, Dakota-Oyate; Randy Gjestvang, State Water Commission and Red River Retention Authority; Keith Weston, Natural Resources Conservation Service; Bruce Kraft, ND Game and Fish Dept.; Trace Hanson, Sargent County Soil Conservation Service; Arv Burvee, Richland County Water Resource District; Ron Heley, Lidgerwood; David Vig, Lidgerwood; Clint Arndt, New Effington, SD; Mary Jo Wohlwend, Glenwood, MN; Kari Wefel, Great Bend; Wayne Kratcha, Cayuga; Sherry Hosford, Forman.

Mr. Downs provided background information including names of members of the Sargent County Water Resource District Board and staff; Advisory Agencies including, (Federal Agencies) US Army Corps of Engineers-(COE); US Fish and Wildlife Service-(USFWS); Natural Resource Conservation Service-(NRCS); (State Agencies) ND Historic & Preservation Office-(SHPO), ND Game and Fish Dept.-(ND-G&F); ND Dept. of Transportation-(ND-DOT); ND State Water Commission-(ND-SWC); and ND Dept. of Health-(ND-DOH).

Shortfoot Creek Watershed

Mr. Downs stated that the Sargent County Water Resource District is the sponsoring local organization with funding available through the Regional Conservation Partnership Program to assist with the cost of Small Watershed Planning Process (PL-566). The purpose of this meeting is to gain input about issues from those in the Shortfoot Creek Watershed to help develop solutions that will address those issues. The project time period allows three years to complete (April 2016-March-2019). First will be the Planning Structure. Plan of work. Public participation plan. Feasibility report. Cooperating agencies; 2) the purpose and need - draft environmental assessment (EA) scope; 3) Revised EA scope - draft effected environment and draft alternatives; 4) Alternatives and supporting documentation; 5) Environmental consequences; 6) Draft Preliminary Watershed Plan EA and Final Watershed Plan EA. There are no preconceived problems, other than historic flooding. The committee must identify problems before any solutions are considered. Everyone should participate and all opinions and ideas are welcome.

The purpose of this meeting is to define and confirm problems and needs in the watershed. The timeline was reviewed and project team role is to bring local perspective and "on the ground" reality; guide the decision making process; review comments from agencies and the public and make a recommendation to the Sargent County Water Resource District on desired solutions. There will be five (5) meetings of this team and today is "what are the problems - why do something? Mr. Downs provided maps and pictures of several areas in Sargent County and Richland County that had sustained damage in previous years, including road damage, summer floods with crop loss and delayed planting. Several major problems previously noted were pointed out to team members and resource and other concerns were reviewed.

Team members were directed to large maps of the Shortfoot Creek Watershed and asked to identify areas of concern and make comments on the map for both Mr. Downs and Mr. Gross to review and prepare a draft with purpose and need as well as goals/desired outcomes.

A public meeting will be held on June 28 to receive public comment and input. The meeting will begin at 1:30 p.m. at the Geneseo Hall. A public comment form will be distributed to those in attendance and asked to identify concerns and to rank the primary concerns as well as watershed planning and purpose goals and other general comments or observations.

The next meeting of the team members will be on July 28 at 1:00 p.m. to draft a purpose and need; draft goals/desired outcomes and review alternatives. A range of alternatives for consideration were provided to compare and find the most viable options to meet the purpose and need for action.

Mr. Downs thanked team members for attending and reminded them of the upcoming public comment meeting on June 28th.

Sherry Hosford, Secretary-Treasurer

Sargent County Water Resource District