

MEETING NOTES PREPARED BY SHERRY HOSFORD

SHORTFOOT CREEK WATERSHED PLANNING

PROJECT TEAM MEETING # 2

JULY 28, 2016

GENESEO ND

Pat Downs, Moore Engineering, Inc. (MEI) welcomed the Shortfoot Creek Watershed Planning Team and introductions were made. The attendance roster is attached to these minutes.

Shortfoot Creek Watershed

Mr. Downs provided an outline of today's plan including 1) review meeting # 1; 2) review public meeting comments from June 28; 3) review agency comments; 4) economics report; 5) review purpose and need statement; 6) name the desired outcomes/goals for the watershed area and 7) begin to review the flood damage reduction measures and alternatives to help solve the problems. All opinions and ideas are welcome; want all to participate and want a general agreement on possible solutions.

The primary focus of the RRRRA application for RCPP funds to NRCS is water quantity and flood damage reduction with the secondary issues being water quality and wildlife. Next the problems were reviewed from Team Meeting # 1 including township, flooding, inundation and problem areas shown on a map.

There were eleven responses from the public meeting. Road-culvert-bridge washouts was number one; crop damage and loss, number two; delayed planting and overland flooding of ag lands were next followed by water quality, alkali-salinity, legal drain damage, soil health, streambank erosion.

Mr. Downs provided copies of the agency comments from Corps of Engineers in Bismarck, Omaha and St. Paul; ND Dept. of Health; ND State Water Commission; NDDOT; ND Game and Fish Dept.; DOI-Economic Development Administration; Western Area Power Admin and Duerr and Grant Townships in Richland County. All comments were summarized.

One team member asked for an updated map that identifies all the bodies of water, Soil Conservation Service indicated they can provide a map with areas around the water that cannot be tilled and Tewaukon National Wildlife Refuge will provide an easement map.

Next up is to prepare a Purpose and Need statement. The initial draft statements were reviewed - Purpose: The purpose of the project is to reduce erosion and flood damages within the Shortfoot Creek Watershed associated with spring snow melt and rains in order to minimize sedimentation, crop losses, damage to transportation systems, other public infrastructure, and private properties. Need: The Shortfoot Creek watershed is a part of the Wild Rice River basin and then the Red River Basin which have histories of spring snow melt and rains resulting in frequent overland and overbank flooding resulting in recurring damages. This flooding causes damages to fields due to erosion, crop losses, delayed planting which reduces yields. The flooding also causes disruptions to transportation by overtopping and washing out roads and damaging bridges and culverts. Additionally, the existing conditions have resulted in degraded water quality with increased sediment, nutrient loading and bacteria. The watershed objectives-goals included 1) considering downstream impacts; 2) reduce Ag damages; 3) reduce damages to transportation systems; 4) reduce damages to personal property; 5) consider maintaining or enhancing natural resources; 6) consider bacterial or sediment reductions. A new draft of the Purpose and Need statements will be drafted based on this discussion to be reviewed again at the next meeting. The draft goals will also be reviewed at the next meeting.

The alternatives or options to solve the problems are 1) Reduce flood volume-activities that reduce the amount of water that enters the downstream channel during a flood; 2) Increase Conveyance Capacity- the ability to move water downstream usually accomplished by increasing channel capacity and removing channel and floodway obstructions; 3) Increase Temporary Flood Storage – activities in this category are designed to store water during a flood and release it after the flood peak or later; 4) Protection/Avoidance - protection and prevention measures are aimed at reducing flood damage potential. Several means and alternatives to each of the options to solve the problems were reviewed.

Homework for the next team meeting included the evaluation process – how do these alternatives meet with the Purpose and Need and the Objectives/Goals—are they highly likely, moderately likely, unsure, not likely or no, to meet the goals. What consideration should be given – primary, secondary or not applicable?

The team should look at the watershed study info and work with the chart/worksheet provided and decide if the alternative review meets the Purpose and Need and the Goals.

The next Team Meeting is scheduled for August 30th at 9:00 a.m. to 1) finalize draft purpose and need and goals; 2) alternative information review; 3) compare to purpose and need and goals and 4) focus on solutions.

Sherry Hosford, Secretary-Treasurer

Sargent County Water Resource District