

SARGENT COUNTY WATER RESOURCE DISTRICT

December 12, 2006

Geneseo Hall, Geneseo, ND

MANAGERS PRESENT: Mark Breker, Dan Jacobson, Roger White
Randy Ptacek, Richard Engst, Arv Burvee,
James Haugen, Gordon Johnson, Don Moffet,
Robert Rostad

MANAGERS ABSENT: None

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS: Attorney Duane Breitling
Engineer Mike Bassingthwaite (Interstate Eng.)
Engineer Damon DeVillers (Interstate Eng.)

SCWRD Chr. Breker called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Public Information Meeting on Park Lake Watershed Improvements including SC Road # 14 and Bi-County Drain No. 3. Those present included all SCWRB and all RCWRD members, ex-officio members listed above and attached list of attendees.

Eng. Bassingthwaite explained the purpose of the information meeting was to discuss the culvert sizing deviation, a revised watershed study and analysis and proposal to add additional culverts to allow more water to drain out of Park Lake to the level of the bottom of the existing culvert through the road on the north side of Park Lake.

Atty. Breitling explained the reason for the letter to the State Water Commission requesting a deviation. Stream crossing Standards were adopted years ago to control openings in roadways. The drain won't accommodate minimum flows built for a 5-61/2 year event. A deviation would accommodate the entire watershed and not bankrupt both counties. It would provide some relief for everyone and if nothing is done and a claim filed, the Boards would be forced to make the crossings as per the stream crossing standards.

Bill Gaukler – Why move 36” culvert – this should allow the water to flow northwest. Keep water in the drain in Richland County as it does in Sargent County. Natural channel has fill and won't allow water to flow.

Scott Gutzmer – Is there a permit for this drainage? Drain 3 natural inlet is bermed up with no Water board contract on private land.

Steve Harles- The problem is the South Dakota water that flows to Park Lake. In 1993 he farmed the lake and cropped it every year. All the natural flow from SD, which is all drained, is the problem - who pays for any work? Are there any plans to reassess?

Duane Breitling – Costs paid by assessment area in State Water commission and county and township. The WRB would not have the ability to impose costs except for section line crossings. The WRB and county would share in those costs. The ND/SD line is a problem and there is no authority on other state land.

Arlen Willprecht – Shortfoot Creek is out of the assessment area and needs cleaning, culverts upsized and railroad crossing changed. Is anything in mind for this area?

Mike Bassingthwaite – There could be a directive from landowners to send letters to the railroad to upgrade crossings.

Mark Breker – Encourage landowner input to set up assessment area on Shortfoot Creek.

Carrol Kratcha – At the bottom end of Shortfoot Creek – there must be something done from Drain No. 3 to the Wild Ricer River. This has to be address before more water is allowed to flow.

Mike Bassingthwaite – The legal drain channel ahs problems handling the water – it seeks it own natural flow.

Bryan Flaa – He lives on the Wild Rice River and all the water flows through his land. He has no say on what flows on him or if they put up dikes south of Fargo. The water that is coming in needs to be addressed.

Roger White – Attends the Red River Basin Commission meetings and bus tours with representatives from SD to Canada. SD is starting to talk about the issues and there is a meeting coming up in Lidgerwood and he invited and encouraged people from this group to attend this meeting and voice their concerns.

Mike Bassingthwaite – Retention areas have been discussed.

Mark Breker – SC has 3 dams now and building another one would alleviate some of the problems.

Steve Wyum – The challenge is the funding. All the infrastructure needs are huge and we lack the cash. Must establish priorities. The federal funding has no advance funding that will slow several county projects.

Mark Breker – The WRB and county wants to work together to manage your tax dollars and do the best we can.

Bill Gaukler – He questions one culvert being moved – it is the natural flow. Put in 2 culverts and leave – why channel into SC when it will back up. The berms do not allow the natural flow to the northwest. The outlet has been closed off and road ditch will be plugged. It will back up or go south to his Dad's shop.

Mark Breker – The bermed area – a complaint needs to be filed for the Board can address.

Mike Bassingthwaite – State Water Commission will take time to look at the deviation and not respond real soon.

Bill Gaukler – Wait until this berm area is addressed before submitting to SWC.

Duane Breitling – Normal drains have berms – it is standard construction. The plan of the drain is to take the water west not northwest. Mr. Gaukler could berm his area.

Scott Gutzmer – Should you plug a natural drain if this is standard design for drainage?

Duayne Baldwin – The legal drain is full, the culverts are capped. Where will the water go? It will top the roads and flood.

Duane Breitling – There are two channels to drain.

Harold Lawrence – He questions the culverts at each location and wonders if certain areas have been checked to speed up the water?

Mike Bassingthwaite – Downstream Co. #14 and bridges there are some bottlenecks and it holds the water. The bridge is the same size as the culvert opening but there are half-dozen bridges between County # 14 and the Wild Rice River.

Kurt Breker – A cement bridge by him does not handle the water now and is not in the legal drain. He used to hay/pasture 1 ½ miles of river bottom that is now flooded and he can't get to it. What can you do about that?

Arv Burvee – RC and SC built this drain to improve drainage. Flap gates won't open and flow to the east until the water is down. Timing is a factor – east of #14 holds water and it gets off quicker. West of #14 would have not more adverse affects that current.

Bill Gaukler – Why move all culverts to drain?

Terry Gutzmer – Water will be there longer.

Arv Burvee – The elevation is lower\\Jack Saunders – Shortfoot Creek should be a legal drain. He would like to see the creek drain and get help from the south end of the Drain No. 3.

Rod Lentz – Duerr Township – if the township puts in a culvert do they have to comply with the stream crossing standards?

Duane Breitling- Coordinate all placements on culverts and also the cost factor – who will pay for it.

Dana Banish – A berm put in by Gaukler in the mid 80's – high water flooded the field and in the 1990's he hired someone to remove. He felt they had a mutual agreement three years ago.

Mark Breker adjourned the meeting at 11:10 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sherry Hosford, Secretary
Sargent County Water Resource Board