

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE SARGENT COUNTY WATER RESOURCE DISTRICT
HELD ON TUESDAY, MARCH 12, 2013, AT 10:00 A.M., AT THE GENESEO TOWN HALL IN
GENESE0, NORTH DAKOTA

Managers present: Chris McFarland, Jim Bosse, Mark Breker, and Richard Engst. Also present: Mike Opat, Moore Engineering, Inc.; Sean M. Fredricks, Ohnstad Twichell, P.C.; additional attendees on the attached sign-up sheet.

Shortfoot Creek Watershed Detention Study

Chairman McFarland called the meeting to order and explained the purpose of the meeting was discussion regarding the Board's ongoing study of potential retention projects in the Shortfoot Creek Watershed. Chairman McFarland asked Mike Opat to provide a background of the study for informational purposes. Mike explained what Phase I of the study entailed. The Board is studying possibilities for retention for the purpose of flood protection and flood damage reduction benefits in the Shortfoot Creek Watershed. Mike explained any potential benefits along the Wild Rice River would be secondary in nature.

At the Board's January meeting the Board presented three potential sites as possibilities, sites the Board referred to as Sites 5C, 9, and 10B. Based on feedback at that meeting and based on the Board's discussion and consideration following the January meeting, the Board opted to further narrow their study to Site 5C, and Mike Opat explained some of the dimensions of a potential project at Site 5C. This site includes a contributing watershed area of approximately 33 miles; a proposed dam height of 25 feet, width and embankment 6,705 feet wide; and storage potential of approximately 6,778 acre feet. The Board identified the three sites in Phase I of the study, and the Board is currently in Phase II. Phase II includes refinement of potential sites (e.g., narrowing study to Site 5C); conducting soil investigations to determine whether or not construction of retention is even feasible regarding Site 5C; and conducting modeling to identify potential benefits downstream.

Mike explained this proposed project contemplates a dry dam that would provide flood protection benefits from the dam site, along Shortfoot Creek, all the way to the Wild Rice River. Manager Mark Breker noted the frequency of flooding of land south of Geneseo, and Manager Breker indicated the Board's intent is to attempt to reduce that flooding.

The Board opened up the meeting for questions. Several landowners asked about right of way acquisition procedures and compensation. The Board, Mike, and Sean explained the Board is nowhere near right of way acquisition at this point; rather, the Board has to determine if a potential project is even possible in this area from a geotechnical perspective, and even then development of the project could be lengthy. If the Board did proceed with development and construction of a project in this area, right of way acquisition would likely not be for a considerable amount of time. In the interim, the Board would have to obtain permission from landowners in the footprint of the proposed project to conduct soil borings and other soils analysis.

Sean Fredricks explained the assessment process and landowner rights to vote on the project. Mike Opat indicated his willingness to meet with landowners one on one following the meeting. Chairman McFarland closed the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

APPROVED:

CHRIS McFARLAND - CHAIR

ATTEST:

SEAN M. FREDRICKS, ACTING SECRETARY