

Sargent County Water Resource Board  
Special Meeting: June 18, 2013 @ 3:00 p.m.

Present: Chris McFarland, Mark Breker, Jim Bosse, Roger Zetocha, Richard Engst, and Chad Engels

Chad Engels provided information to the Board that there has been some exciting progress in the way of watershed model development and detention studies in the Red River Valley. These basin wide efforts have been promoted by the Red River Joint WRD, of which Sargent County is a member. Roger White attended most of these meetings when he could and kept the Board up to speed on what was happening. Now that Roger is no longer around, Chad would like will to pass on information that this Board should know. With Roger Zetocha now new to the Board and the amount of time that has passed since this has been discussed Chad would like to recap a couple things to bring everyone back into the loop.

1. Hydrologic models, called HEC-HMS models have been developed for all the watersheds in the Red River Valley. This includes the Wild Rice watershed. The Wild Rice model is LiDar and GIS based, meaning that it is a very powerful modeling tool that excels at watershed scale studies like analyzing the benefits of potential water storage. The models were developed through the leadership of the Corps of Engineers at no expense to the local water resource districts. But they are here for us to use. In fact, we made very good use of the model for the Shortfoot Creek study. Had the model not been available, the Shortfoot Creek Study would have been much more expensive.
2. Since these models now exist, the natural progression has been to use them to study the effect of "potential" dams or water storage to reduce flooding.....like we did on Shortfoot Creek. However, efforts in the past year have been much grander than just looking at individual sites. At this time, a comprehensive detention strategy is being developed for all watersheds in the Red River Valley. If you will recall, this is being done in the Wild Rice watershed under the leadership of the Richland-Cass Joint Water Resource District. This is the board that is studying the proposed Wild Rice Dam at Mantador.

As a point of interest, comprehensive detention plans for the Elm, Maple, and Rush watersheds were just recently completed. All combined, 50 potential sites were found and modeled. There may be a couple sites that the local water boards will actual try to develop into real projects, time will tell.

The comprehensive Wild Rice plan starts with identifying sites. The sites are meant to be a starting point, not a final determination of where a dam must be built someday...if ever built. These are "what if" studies. Meaning, "what if" you held water here, how would that change flooding down there? Also, it is recognized that local WRDs develop these types of projects and therefore there must be significant local benefits in order for any project to fly. In other words, while the Richland-Cass board is paying for the study, they want your footprint on this. Interstate Engineering is in charge of finding potential sites in the Wild Rice watershed. They recently provided us a map of what they came up with as their first crack at it. Most of the potential sites they found are in Richland County, but they did come up with some sites in Sargent County also. It is at this point that you need to get involved.

Chad shared the sites found by Interstate Engineering. He suggested that this Board add some of their own ideas, remove some of their ideas, and modify some of the locations. This Board should start by talking about where the Sargent County flooding problems are and what would help. The Board proceeded to review the map provided by Chad and mark several areas to consider for retention of water.

Meeting adjourned.

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CHRIS MCFARLAND – CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

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SHERRY HOSFORD - SECRETARY