

MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING
CASS COUNTY JOINT WATER RESOURCE DISTRICT
CASS COUNTY HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT
WEST FARGO, NORTH DAKOTA
FEBRUARY 23, 2016

The Cass County Joint Water Resource District met on February 23, 2016, at 1:00 p.m. at the Cass County Highway Department, West Fargo, North Dakota.

Present were Richard Sundberg, Rush River Water Resource District; Carol Harbeke Lewis, Secretary-Treasurer; Michelle Anderson, Administrative Assistant; Mike Opat and Josh Hassell, Engineers for the Board; Mike Hargiss, North Dakota Department of Health; Randy Gjestvang, Red River Retention Authority and State Water Commission; Keith Weston, Christi Fisher and Stuart Blotter, Natural Resource Conversation Service (NRCS); Bruce Kreft, North Dakota Game and Fish Department; Jeffrey Miller and Eric Dahl, Cass County Soil Conservation District; Patsy Crooke, Corps of Engineers; and those whose names appear on the attached roster.

Rush River Watershed Project Team Planning Meeting #2

Mike Opat welcomed the Rush River Watershed Project Team (Team) and introductions were made. Mr. Opat stated the purpose of the meeting was for the Team to continue to provide input to help develop flood damage reduction projects in the Rush River Watershed.

Christi Fisher and Patsy Cooke briefly explained their agency's role as cooperating agencies for potential flood damage reduction projects in the Rush River Watershed. Keith Weston provided the Team history and information on the Natural Resource Conservation Service Regional Conservation Partnership Program (NRCS-RCPP).

The Team reviewed input and information discussed and presented at the first Team meeting, comments from the Rush River Watershed public meeting, and letters from various cooperating agencies.

The purpose and goal of the second Team meeting was to adopt the draft *Purpose and Need Statement* and select *Objectives-Goals*, understand the alternatives and options to help find potential solutions, review the possible alternatives that best meet the project goals, and rank alternatives to move forward.

Mr. Opat reviewed the *Watershed Damages – Economic Summary Report* for the Rush River Watershed by J.L. Rooney & Associates, LLC. Jody Rooney will be collecting data and conducting interviews later this spring and summer to complete the report needed for the NRCS-RCPP watershed planning process.

Brief discussion was held on water quality, sediment and erosion. Christi Fisher suggested previous water quality studies be presented to the Team at a future meeting.

The draft *Purpose and Need Statement* and the *Objectives-Goals* for the Rush River Watershed were reviewed and discussed. It was moved by David Strand, seconded by Dennis Rust and unanimously carried to approve the *Purpose and Need Statement* and the *Objectives-Goals* to submit to the NRCS-RCPP for the Rush River Watershed, as amended.

The Team reviewed four general categories of flood damage reduction measures (reduce flood volume, increase conveyance capacity, increase temporary flood storage, and protection/avoidance) to find the most viable alternatives or options to meet the purpose and need for action and ranked them on the Alternative Screening Worksheet.

Discussion was held on the flood damage reduction measures to meet the purpose and need for action and the Team made suggestions, which were added to the comment section on the worksheet.

Mr. Opat briefly explained the alternative or option categories chosen by the Team formulate general alternatives and will be reviewed at the next Team meeting for potential solutions. The Team will look at results and benefits to focus on solutions. The Alternative Screening Worksheet and other information will be provided to the Team before the next meeting to review and make suggestions.

Adjournment

There being no further business to be considered by the Board, the meeting adjourned without objection.

APPROVED:

Mark Brodshaug
Chairman

ATTEST:

Carol Harbeke Lewis
Secretary-Treasurer