

MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING
CASS COUNTY JOINT WATER RESOURCE DISTRICT
CASS COUNTY HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT
WEST FARGO, NORTH DAKOTA
AUGUST 2, 2016

The Cass County Joint Water Resource District met on August 2, 2016, at 8:00 a.m. at the Cass County Highway Department, West Fargo, North Dakota.

Present were Jacob Gust and Richard Sundberg, Rush River Water Resource District; Michelle Anderson, Administrative Assistant; Mike Opat and Josh Hassell, Engineers for the Board; Pat Downs, Moore Engineering, Inc.; Mike Hargiss, North Dakota Department of Health; Randy Gjestvang, Red River Retention Authority and State Water Commission; Keith Weston and Josh Monson, 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; Bailey Elkins, North Dakota Rural Water Systems Association; and those whose names appear on the attached roster.

Rush River Watershed Project Team Planning Meeting

Pat Downs welcomed the Rush River Watershed Project Team (Team) and introductions were made. Mr. Downs 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.

Mr. Downs stated J.L. Rooney and Associates has been conducting field interviews with some of the property owners in the Rush River Watershed. An in depth economic analysis will be completed after the final list of alternatives has been selected.

The Team reviewed input and information discussed and presented at the previous Team meetings, the adopted draft *Purpose and Need Statement*, Goals/Objectives for planning outcomes or desired conditions, statistical information on flood damage in the Rush River Watershed and alternatives formulated based on the categories chosen for potential flood damage reduction solutions.

NRCS requested and was provided quantified flood damage information to support the need basis for development of flood damage reduction projects in the Rush River Watershed.

The purpose and goal of the Team meeting was to analyze and narrow the alternatives from the *Alternative Screening Worksheet* to find potential solutions for flood damage reduction projects in the Rush River Watershed.

Josh Hassell provided a review of the HED-HMS, 2D-HECRAS modeling results for 10-year, 25-year, 50-year and 100-year, and 24-hour preliminary inundation maps using historical data from 2009-2011 based on depths of .5 inches or greater, and 1D-HECRAS modeling utilized to simulate channelization.

Each member of the Team identified their top three areas of concern by placing markers on a map of the Rush River Watershed. Mr. Downs reviewed the areas of concern identified by the Team and stated he will provide the map to the Team to help narrow the alternatives.

The Team determined dams and impoundments and wetland created/restored impoundments as the primary alternatives for potential flood damage reduction solutions, with channelization and overtopping levees as secondary alternatives. Mr. Hassell demonstrated a review of the primary and secondary alternatives identified by the Team to determine if the alternatives meet the purpose and need for action.

Discussion was held on downstream impacts, potential mitigation, the Metro Flood Diversion Project, flood reduction for the City of Amenia, improvements to legal drains versus watershed flood reduction projects, potential retention sites, culvert sizing, Corps of Engineers' requirements, conservation and best management practices, and the positive and negative impacts of wetland restoration.

Mr. Downs and Mr. Hassell encouraged the Team to prioritize the primary and secondary alternatives and determine if an alternative or multiple alternatives will meet the purpose and need to provide a potential solution for flood damage reduction in the Rush River Watershed. At the next meeting, the Team will review and analyze the final list of alternatives chosen.

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