

PROCEEDINGS OF THE JOINT MEETING OF THE ROSEAU COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS AND THE TWO RIVERS WATERSHED DISTRICT BOARD OF MANAGERS

June 26, 2006

The Board of Commissioners of Roseau County, Minnesota met in Joint Session with the Two Rivers Watershed District Board of Managers in the courthouse in the City of Roseau, Minnesota, on Monday, June 26, 2006, at 8:30 a.m. to discuss the proposed impoundment project on State Ditch System No. 13 known as Ross No. 7 Impoundment Project. Commissioners present were, Alan Johnston, Russell Walker, Mark Foldesi, Orris Rasmussen and Jack Swanson. Representing Two Rivers Watershed District were District Administrator Dan Money and District Managers O'Neil Larson, Richard Novacek, John Younggren Roger Anderson, and Lawrence Lind. Also present were District Engineer Blake Carlson from JOR Engineering, Inc. and Brent Johnson from Houston Engineering, Inc.

The meeting was called to order at 8:30 a.m. by Roseau County Board Vice-Chair Mark Foldesi. A motion was made by Commissioner Swanson, seconded by Commissioner Walker, and carried by unanimous vote to approve the agenda as written.

As background, the proposed impoundment project is the result of a 1998 ditch petition submitted by Barto and Polonia Townships to reduce overland flooding on agriculture fields. The Engineers Report indicated that there would not be an adequate outlet for a new ditch and other alternatives would have to be considered. As a result, the Two Rivers Watershed District hired JOR Engineering, Inc to study alternative options. An impoundment was suggested as an alternative to creating a new ditch and a number of impoundment sites were considered. The proposed Ross Impoundment No. 7 location was selected due to several factors including the availability of property to purchase, cost effectiveness, and site location which is the headwaters of the flood damaged area. The proposed project would provide flood relief to the land included in the impoundment as well as land along downstream channels including SD No. 95, Middle and South Branches of Two Rivers to the Red River, and the Red River. The proposed impoundment is located west of the City of Roseau on the south side of State Highway No. 11 in Ross Township including parts of sections 23, 24, 26, 27, and 34 with the majority of the impoundment in sections 32 and 33. The proposed project includes a ridge dike paralleling State Highway No. 11 along the perimeter of County Ditch No 13 and a main dike on the north side of County Road No. 114 in sections 32, 33 and 34. The project also includes a number of farmstead dikes, and an inlet channel.

JOR Engineering completed their initial report on the feasibility of this project February 28, of 2005. Pursuant to Minnesota Statue 103E.227, Two Rivers Watershed District presented Roseau County with a petition to review and approve the proposed project.

Houston Engineering was appointed by Roseau County to conduct an independent review of the proposed project.

Brent Johnson of Houston Engineering completed a preliminary report in May of 2005 which detailed a list of questions that required a response from JOR Engineering/Two Rivers Watershed District before Houston Engineering could conclude the independent Engineer's Report. JOR Engineering responded to most of those questions and Houston Engineering concluded their Engineer's Report in June of 2006.

JOR Engineer Blake Carlson gave an overview of the proposed Ross No. 7 Impoundment Project on County Ditch System No. 13 and reviewed components of his Engineer's Report dated February 28, 2005.

Mr. Johnson from Houston Engineering presented a summary of his Engineer's Report dated June 5, 2006. Mr. Johnson highlighted questions he had raised and the answers received. Mr. Johnson also noted a few remaining questions including the elevation of the wetland located between NW 9 and NW 10 and specific trigger point elevations at the proposed trigger point locations. Mr. Johnson advised that the Roseau County Board that they need to approve the placement of a culvert through the section line road between Sections 26 and 26 located approximately 200 feet north of the southeast corner of Section 27 and the placement of two 60-inch concrete culverts at the southeast inlet on County Road No. 144 along the boundary of Section 34 Ross Township and Section 3 Stokes Township.

TRWD Administrator Dan Money gave an update on the permits that are being obtained, including state and federal wetland permits, DNR dam safety permit, MPCA – NPDES permit, State Historic Preservation Office, Township, County, and other permits.

Vice-Chair Foldesi called for discussion. Roseau County Board members asked why the proposed number of wetland acres in the project exceeds the mandated amount. Mr. Carlson and Mr. Money responded that the reason is two fold. First, wet land mediation is part of natural resource enhancement as required under the 1998 Mediation Agreement signed by multiple parties, and secondly, TRWD is considering banking the extra acres so they could be used in the future as mitigation on other projects

The Roseau County Board expressed interest in remaining involved in the operating plan and asked what influence the Red River would have on the draw down schedule. JOR Engineer Blake Carlson noted that this was covered in detail in the Engineer's Report and emphasized that the objective of the project is to discharge as much water as possible from the impoundment without increasing downstream flooding. A trigger elevation would be set for closing the valve based on the elevation that would cause flooding along the Red River. The trigger for closing the valve would be a period of time prior to the predicted crest which would be approximately six to eight days prior to the predicted crest. The valve would be opened after downstream flooding has subsided or approximately two days after the crest.

The Roseau County Board requested clarification from the TRWD regarding hunting access in the impoundment. JOR Engineer Blake Carlson said it is possible to open the area to hunting, but that decision would be made at a later time. TRWD District Administrator Dan Money noted that this decision would be made by the TRWD Board of Managers and could be detailed in the operating plan.

The Roseau County Board requested clarification regarding ongoing maintenance on CD #13 in the impoundment area. TRWD Administrator Dan Money noted that the law is clear that responsibility would remain with Roseau County as the ditch authority, unless the Board formally turned the ditch over to the TRWD.

The Roseau County Board requested clarification regarding who would complete the maintenance work needed in the section of SD No. 13 that is in disrepair upstream of the proposed project. Mr. Carlson clarified that this work would be part of the project, but that future maintenance would be the responsibility of the ditch authority.

The Roseau County Board requested determination of gate operating trigger elevations. TRWD Administrator Dan Money informed the Board that TRWD will be holding meetings with landowners, townships, and others involved to finalize these details and complete the operating plan within the next few months.

JOR Engineer Carlson gave a summary of the property acquisition progress for the project noting that the majority of the designated property has been acquired outright or flowage easements have been obtained. A small number of purchases and agreements remain to be finalized.

Roseau County has a Public Hearing scheduled for July 11, 2006 at 11:30 am in the Board of Commissioners meeting room.

Upon motion carried, Vice Chair Mark Foldesi adjourned the meeting at 10:30 a.m. The Board will convene its next regular meeting at 8:30 a.m. on June 27, 2006 at 8:30 a.m.

Attest:

Date: _____

Teresa Harren, Coordinator
Roseau County

Orris Rasmussen, Chair
Roseau County Board

Attest:

Date: _____

Dan Money, Administrator
Two Rivers Watershed District

Donald Craigmile, President
Two Rivers Watershed District
Board of Managers