

**PROCEEDINGS OF ROSEAU COUNTY & KITTSON COUNTY BOARDS OF
COMMISSIONERS STATE DITCH NO. 72 JOINT DITCH AUTHORITY**

February 7, 2007

State Ditch No. 72 Joint Ditch Authority comprised of Commissioners of the Kittson County Board and the Roseau County Board met at the Roseau County Courthouse at 9:30 a.m. on February 7, 2007 as a follow-up meeting to the January 11, 2007 meeting. Members present were: Roseau County Commissioners Alan Johnston, Mark Foldesi, and Orris Rasmussen; Two Rivers Watershed District Board Manager Richard Novacek; Two Rivers Watershed Administrator Dan Money; Two Rivers Watershed District Engineer Blake Carlson of JOR Engineering; Two Rivers Watershed District Technician Boyd Johnson; Roseau County Engineer Brian Ketring; Assistant Roseau County Engineer Tim Erickson; and Two Rivers Watershed constituent Mel Wang.

Roseau County Commissioner Alan Johnston called the meeting to order at 9:30 am.

Roseau County Commissioner Orris Rasmussen opened discussion by stating that the entities need to work together to solve problems. He noted that benchmarks and original elevations are no longer accurate. Commissioner Rasmussen gave a historical perspective of how the ditches were originally designed and dug. Rasmussen ended by noting that we need to get water flowing earlier and get water to Canada, adding that holding water is not the total solution.

Assistant County Engineer Tim Erickson provided JOR Engineer Blake Carlson, TRWD consulting engineer, with the "as built" as requested at the previous meeting. He noted that there are still problems with some of the data. Mr. Erickson added that he has made notations where there are areas of concern.

JOR Engineer Blake Carlson asked if there was a timeline on when they could expect the "as built" to be finalized.

Roseau County Engineer Brian Ketring stated that they do not have a timeline but have informed consultant WSM, Inc. that they will not be paid until the documents are corrected.

JOR Engineer Blake Carlson stated that they want the information before any more work is done.

Roseau County Engineer Brian Ketring stated that he will provide plan profiles and cross sections before any more work is done.

JOR Engineer Blake Carlson stated that he has still not received the plans for the Ditch #13 project.

Assistant Roseau County Engineer Tim Erickson stated that he thought he had sent them but will resend them.

Two Rivers Watershed District (TRWD) Administrator Dan Money reiterated that they have received a number of calls with concerns regarding the ditch projects and need to have the "as built" on hand so they can answer the questions as to whether or not the capacity of a ditch has changed.

Roseau County Commissioner Foldesi restated what he said at the January 11, 2007 meeting that the constituents that are contacting the TRWD with concerns about increased flow upstream are the same ones that are calling to have their ditches cleaned so that water can move faster by their property. He advised that the various entities need to take that into consideration when they are getting calls.

The group discussed the meeting day that is scheduled for the Two Rivers Watershed Board to meet. It was noted that it is held on the same day as both the Kittson County and Roseau County board meetings and makes it impossible for members of the Roseau County Board to attend the meetings.

TRWD Administrator Dan Money noted that the watershed had changed their meeting dates for the next two months to accommodate Roseau County. The next two meeting dates are March 7, 2007 and April 4, 2007.

The group discussed the procedure to move forward on ditch cleaning and repair projects in the absence of as built. Roseau County expressed again their concern with being held accountable to a legal ditch measurement from 1910 in which there are no as-built specifications. JOR Engineer Blake Carlson stated that they would look at the latest legal measurement and compare it to the plans. But more importantly they would ascertain whether the planning project was going to have a significant impact on the system.

Roseau County Engineer Brian Ketring stated that it is getting ridiculously expensive to do a project in the Two Rivers Watershed because of all the hoops they have to jump through.

JOR Engineer Blake Carlson stated that he too is frustrated by wasting the time and energy on insignificant things. He stated that a system needs to be devised that works.

Roseau County Engineer Brian Ketring told the TRWD representative that Roseau County is on a maintenance mode as they do not have enough money to go beyond that into managing water.

Two Rivers Watershed District (TRWD) Administrator Dan Money stated this is all the more reason that they need to be notified well in advance of any work that Roseau County intends to do so that they can work with the county and do flood control and water quality projects in tandem.

JOR Engineer Blake Carlson reiterated the need to get the plans early.

Roseau County Engineer Brian Ketring stated that he will provide the TRWD with Roseau County's Five-Year Road and Bridge Plan.

Roseau County Commissioner Mark Foldesi stated that the entities need to get on base regarding their philosophy on water management. Commissioner Foldesi questioned whether the philosophy is to move water quickly and pay damages, hold water and develop water retention projects, or a combination thereof.

Roseau County Commissioner Johnston asked what the situation is with the permit violations.

Two Rivers Watershed District (TRWD) Administrator Dan Money stated that Lateral 4, State Ditch 91 is the highest priority. In one section of this ditch the current cross section measurement is three times as wide as the legal grade cross section for a three mile segment. . Mr. Money stated he is concerned about the impact of this downstream. County Engineer Ketring will look into this item.

The group discussed a Polonia Township permit to remove a culvert and decrease the amount of water that flows from the 72 system to the 95 system.

The Roseau County Board requested clarification on why the TRWD approved this permit.

Commissioner Foldesi suggested holding a meeting with Polonia Township to discuss their plan and expectations. Commissioner Johnston stated that he did not think removing a culvert would have the impact that Polonia Township expected.

It was suggested that members of the Joint Ditch Committee meet with Polonia Township after the TRWD meeting on March 7, 2007.

It was agreed to have a pre-meeting on February 21, 2007 where the various parties could meet and develop a working plan to be discussed as a whole on March 7, 2007.

Roseau County Commissioner Foldesi recommended a potential project to the TRWD to divert water around Greenbush. This included diverting Ditch #91 starting on the north side of section 15 through a ditch that could be dug approximately one mile south and then reconnected on the other side of Greenbush. JOR Engineer Blake Carlson stated he would do a preliminary feasibility study.

Upon motion carried, the meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

Attest

Date: _____

Teresa Klein
County Coordinator

Jack Swanson
Board Chairman