

**Meeting Notes
Bois de Sioux Watershed
Advisory Committee Meeting
January 28, 2022**

Committee Members

Jay Backer

Scott Bauer

Duane Duin **[Absent]**

Dean Frisch **[Absent]**

Doug Jahnke **[Absent]**

Eric Klindt **[Absent]**

Tom Monson **[Absent]**

Ron Staples

Mark Summer

Vernell Wagner **[Absent]**

John Walkup

Also Present:

District Engineer Chad Engels

Engineer Jim Guler (remotely)

Technician Troy Fridgen

Bois de Sioux Watershed President Linda Vavra

Administrator Jamie Beyer

Call to Order

Drainage System Maintenance

Engineer Technician Troy Fridgen presented the areas of maintenance that were completed on 103E drainage systems in 2021. He also provided information on how inspections are conducted and documented.

Permitting

The District has processed 167 Permits in 2021, compared to 165 Permits in 2020.

Ditch Projects: Improvement of WCD #9/#10

The project was completed and closed in 2021.

Ditch Projects: Repair of JD #11

Construction at the outlet was completed Fall 2021. Once seeding is established, project close-out procedures will begin.

Ditch Projects: Repair of JD #6

Construction was completed Fall 2022. Once seeding is established, project close-out procedures will begin.

Ditch Projects: TCD #35 / Redpath Phase 1

The required public hearings were held in order to complete redetermination and improvement proceedings. BWSR, through the Legacy Amendment Clean Water Fund, has awarded the project a multipurpose drainage management grant in the amount of \$320,000. The DNR, through the Flood Hazard Mitigation Program, has awarded a project grant in the amount of \$800,000. A grant application for additional funding will be submitted to the Red River Watershed Management Board. Construction will take place in 2022.

Ditch Projects: TCD #8 / TCD #37 / Dollymount & Eldorado Townships

There are two potential projects in the area to separate flows into TCD #8 and TCD #37: a road raise for a portion of 640th Avenue north of County Road 6 in Dollymount Township and a new ditch lateral south of County Road 6 in Eldorado Township. The District has offered to cover all associated costs for the road raise, and has provided a formal cost share agreement for consideration by Dollymount Township. The District has provided a ditch petition to Eldorado landowners. At this time, neither document has been returned.

Watershed Projects: Redpath Impoundment & Mustinka Rehabilitation

Engineering staff presented project details and model views. Permitting for the project is nearly complete; state permits have been acquired, federal permit applications have been submitted. Phase 1 (TCD #35 described above) construction will begin in 2022. Many Phase #2 funding sources have been secured; remaining sources will be finalized Spring 2022.

Watershed Projects: Lake Traverse Water Quality Improvement Project/TCD #52

Phase 1 construction was completed in 2021. Phase 2 was completed in 2021, with the exception of seeding. Phase 3 design is being finalized. Grant funds have been awarded from BWSR in the amount of \$800,000. A grant application will be submitted to the Red River Watershed Management Board. This project will also be supported by a water management district created for this purpose. Construction is anticipated to begin Fall 2022.

Watershed Projects: North Ottawa Impoundment

The District has negotiated a 10-year operations and maintenance agreement with the DNR, and is awaiting their signature. Once signed, the next step will be for the District to appoint Project Team members who will make facility recommendations to the District Board Managers.

Watershed Projects: Samantha Lake

Construction was substantially completed in 2020. There is interest in modifying the project in order to facilitate drawdowns below the Ordinary High Water Level. The DNR has indicated that further study, and corresponding expense, is needed in order for them to consider this request.

Watershed Projects: Big Lake

As part of the permitting process, the DNR requires written landowner consent commitments. Landowners have been contacted.

Watershed Projects: Doran Creek

Preliminary project design is ongoing. Meetings will be held in 2022 with landowners and SWCD staff to explore possible project extents and grant opportunities.

Buffers

Buffer funds were utilized to maintain buffers for which the District is the drainage authority. In 2022, Board Managers met with landowners to discuss alternative practices.

1W1Plan

The District will receive \$1,064,522 for projects described in the Joint Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan implemented by the District and Big Stone, Grant, Otter Tail, Stevens, Traverse, and Wilkin SWCD's and Counties. A second grant, in the amount of \$1,064,522, will begin later in 2022.

Committee Member Survey

In 2021, the District spent approximately \$7 million on Capital Improvement Projects, Data Collection, Education & Outreach, Projects & Practices, Regulatory, and RRWMB. Given these constraints, committee members shared their funding priorities.

Water Bar

Committee members sampled drinking water from Graceville, rural Dumont, rural Donnelly, Wheaton, and rural Wendell.

Next Meeting

Committee members were asked if they would want to meet resume meeting twice annually. Committee members requested an annual meeting, and that a second reminder be made by text the day before the meeting.

NEXT MEETING: JANUARY 2023