

Meeting Agenda
Bois de Sioux Watershed
North Ottawa Project Team Meeting
March 8, 2023 at 9:00 am
Online - Zoom

Project Team Members

SWCD Representative	Randy Larson	
Landowners	Dominic Blume & Jordan Schneeberger	[Absent]
County Commissioners	Eric Klindt	[Absent] Bill LaValley
DNR Representatives	Nick Brown	Christine Herwig
Bois de Sioux Watershed District Board Managers	Ben Brutlag	John Kapphahn

CC:

Theresa Ebbenga, DNR Regional Director **[Present for part]**
Linda Vavra, BdSWD Board President and Alternate
Jason Beyer, BdSWD Board Manager and Alternate **[Absent]**
Troy Fridgen, BdSWD Engineer Technician
Jamie Beyer, BdSWD Administrator
Truman Raguse, Raguse Family Partnership

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss a spring planting proposal from Mr. Truman Raguse. The terms of the North Ottawa Lease state three cells may be planted without restriction and two cells are restricted. Vavra and Brown stated that the purpose of the restricted cells was to limit cells to early-harvest crops, so that post-harvest the cells could be flooded to provide mudflats for fall migration. Brown stated that ideally we should be flooding the first week of September, if we have sufficient water resources. He stated that flooded wheat, because of waste grain, encourages invertebrate presence, and that in turn, attracts migrating birds.

Raguse described a sugarbeet harvest calendar. Sugarbeets are planted early. Each sugarbeet grower is given an allocation of a specific number of acres that they are able to harvest early (“prelift”), sometime between August 1st and October 1st. Raguse proposed pulling his full allocation of prelift acres in a restricted cell, but due to the unpredictable timing of the prelift season, could not ensure a date by which the crop would be removed and could be flooded. Raguse would use up to four carts to haul the sugarbeets from the field. Team members discussed the benefits of crop rotation to soil health. Fridgen stated that the west cells are easier to flood.

Herwig requested an annual ag map each year to document planned vs. actual activities for each North Ottawa A/B cell.

After discussion, the producer offered:

Unrestricted: A1 & A2 => corn and B1 => sugarbeets

Restricted: B2 & B3 => silage/small grain