



Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources.
Minutes.

Copyright Notice:

This material may be protected by copyright law (U.S. Code, Title 17). Researchers are liable for any infringement. For more information, visit www.mnhs.org/copyright.



Southbridge Office Building
155 South Wabasha St., Suite 104
St. Paul, Minnesota 55107

(612) 296-3767
Fax (612) 297-5615

Regional Offices

Northwest Region
1106 Paul Bunyan Drive, NE
Bemidji, MN 56601
218-755-3963

Northeast Region
394 South Lake Avenue
Room 402
Duluth, MN 55802
218-723-4752

West Central Region
503 Washington Street
Brainerd, MN 56401
218-828-2604

South Central Region
Box 756
New Ulm, MN 56073
507-354-2196

Southeast Region
Friedell Bldg., Room 100
1200 S. Broadway
Rochester, MN 55904
507-285-7458

Southwest Region
Box 111
1400 E. Lyon Street
Marshall, MN 56258
507-537-7260

East Central Region
Southbridge Office Building
155 South Wabasha Ave., Suite 104
St. Paul, MN 55107
612-296-3767

DATE: September 18, 1990

TO: Board of Water and Soil Resources
Members, Staff, and Advisors

FROM: Jim Birkholz, Executive Director *Bill*

SUBJECT: September 26th BWSR Meeting and
September 27th BWSR Tour

Final arrangements have been made for the September Board meeting and tour to be headquartered in Grand Marais. Necessary details are contained in this information packet. But first, I'd like to introduce you to our newest Board member, Diane Jensen. Diane's appointment was effective August 29th. She currently lives in Minneapolis and is a co-director of the Clean Water Fund's office there. Clean Water Fund is a national non-profit research and education organization. Please join me in welcoming Diane to the organization as its newest Board member.

Following are details on scheduling and lodging and meal arrangements for the two days. Enclosed is a reminder of the lodging arrangements which have been made at the Shoreline in Grand Marais. The Board meeting will be held at the Harbor Light Supper Club which is about one mile away on the west end of Grand Marais just as you drive into town. Several meetings will be happening at the same time as our BWSR meeting. The Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts will also be meeting at the Harbor Light Supper Club at the same time as our meeting. Beginning at 2:00 p.m. on Wednesday, the Minnesota Association of Conservation District Employees will conduct a brief meeting and then join with all employees from the area to talk about training needs and other discussion items. We will have an opportunity to have lunch together with the other groups and also you are encouraged to sit in on any meetings which run beyond the adjournment of the BWSR meeting. On Wednesday evening a buffet dinner is planned at the Harbor Light Supper Club from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. From 7:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. entertainment has been planned by the Cook SWCD. The program will consist of their speech contest winners and John Patton, who will speak on a dog-sledding trip in Russia.

On Thursday, we will meet at the Harbor Light (breakfast on your own) and leave promptly on the tour at 8:30 a.m. The tour will return to the Harbor Light at approximately 2:00 p.m. From 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, the thirteen Area III districts of the Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts will hold an area meeting. Board members and staff are welcome to attend this meeting. Please note that Mary Jo has arranged for a master billing for Board members and staff lodging, registration fee and meals, covering Wednesday lunch and dinner, Thursday lunch, the tour, and refreshment breaks. All other meals are on your own.

Please take note of the enclosure in your packet entitled, "Self-Guided North Shore Tour". This has been prepared by the Cook, Lake, and South St. Louis Soil and Water Conservation Districts to highlight points of interest along the north shore. Please take special note of site #6, the Flood Bay Stabilization Project. You will note on item 10 of the agenda that additional funding has been requested to adequately cover the cost of this project.

I would like to draw your attention to the following items relating to the agenda for the Wednesday Board meeting:

- Northeast Meeting and Tour. Our meeting convenes at the usual time, 9:00 a.m. at the Harbor Light Supper Club. Breakfast is on your own prior to the meeting. Chris Hofstede will brief us on the meeting and tour arrangements. The entire Cook County Soil and Water Conservation District board and staff will be joining us for at least part of the meeting. We will make appropriate introductions early in the meeting.
- Strategic Plan Final Draft Review. Included in your packet is an amended final draft strategic plan prepared by Mel Sinn. This draft is based on feedback obtained during and between meetings since the strategic plan was originally previewed last spring. At this point, the plan is subject to any final revisions and Board adoption. Please take time to read and reflect on the plan as amended and bring your comments to the meeting.
- BWSR Forestry Activities Report. Jim Lemmerman, our forestry specialist in our Duluth office has been actively been working with Soil and Water Conservation Districts on forestry activities. We will hear from Jim, Chris Hofstede, and John Gebhart from the Natural Resources Research Institute in Duluth regarding current forestry activities in northern Minnesota. After lunch Larry Himanga from the DNR/Division of Forestry will cover for us interagency forestry cooperation and activities going on in southeast Minnesota in the hardwood

forest. This is an opportunity for Board members to discuss the role that local governments play in forestry and related land use issues and specifically zero in on ways that the BWSR can help enhance forest management efforts.

- Local Government Actions. Listed under this agenda item are several items requiring attention or a decision.
 - Flood Bay Stabilization Supplemental Funding Request. Enclosed is a copy of a letter of request from the Lake County Soil and Water Conservation District for additional funding to cover the full cost of the final estimate of the Flood Bay Shoreline Erosion Control Project. Staff is working to quantify the final costs of the project and we hope to have more information available at the meeting. Again a reminder that this is stop #6 on the self-guided tour of the north shore. It would be helpful if Board members could stop and view the site prior to considering this agenda item.
 - RIM Easement Modification Request. Enclosed is a explanation of the requested RIM easement modification in Stearns County. It should be self-explanatory.
 - Middle DeMoines River Watershed District Overall Plan Amendment. Enclosed is a memo from Mel Sinn explaining the amendments to the plan and the current plan status. Also attached is a draft order prescribing the amended overall plan for the Middle DeMoines Watershed District. Board approval is required.
 - Study Area II Office Budget. Enclosed is the new Area II Technical Office Budget Agreement for FY91. Mel Sinn's cover memo explains the background for the budget. Staff recommendation is that the office budget be approved as circulated. Related to this item is a supplemental project agreement for the Wellner-Hageman Multi-Purpose Flood Control Reservoir in Brown County. This supplemental project agreement requires approval by the Board because of the appropriation of \$1.645 million which appeared in the bonding bill approved by the 1990 legislature. Board approval would formalize the final budget for the project.
 - Local Water Resources Protection and Management Program Rule Update. Greg Larson will give an update on comments received and suggested amendments to the draft rule at the meeting.

BWSR Members, Staff, and Advisors
September 18, 1990
Page Four

- MAWD/BWSR Blue Ribbon Panel Report. Last winter the BWSR joined with the Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts in a joint panel to analyze the future working relationship between the Board and Watershed Districts. Board members John Boulton, John Brooks, and Jack Graba joined with three representatives from MAWD and were assisted by BWSR staff to prepare a report. Please review the report prior to the meeting and come prepared to discuss any of the items in it. After discussion Board acceptance should occur either at this meeting or a subsequent meeting so that it can be used to coordinate work between the Board and Watershed Districts.
- FY 92-93 Biennial Budget Request. The last agenda item will deal with our biennial budget request. Since Department of Finance has directed us to request no additional funds, this item can be fairly short. However, a no increase scenario for the next biennium, is in effect, a budget reduction. We need to discuss the impacts of such a reduction to our programs.

Many of you received a direct mailing regarding the Area III Annual Meeting activities occurring on the 26th and 27th. This should give you an idea of all the various activities taking place over the two days. If you have any questions regarding any of the arrangements for the Board meeting or tour, please call Mary Jo at the Board office. Please drive safely to Grand Marais and remember to take the self-guided tour on route. I'm looking forward to seeing you on September 26th!

JB:mja
Enc.

**BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES
HARBOR LIGHT SUPPER CLUB
GRAND MARAIS, MINNESOTA
SEPTEMBER 26, 1990**

PRELIMINARY AGENDA

- | | |
|------------|--|
| 9:00 a.m. | 1. Call to Order |
| | 2. Adopt Agenda |
| | 3. Approval of Minutes of August 22, 1990 |
| | 4. Reports <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Northeast Meeting and Tour - Chris Hofstede● Chairman's Report - Donald Ogaard● Executive Director's Report - Jim Birkholz● EQB/Water Resources Committee Report - Donald Ogaard |
| 9:30 a.m. | 5. Cook Soil and Water Conservation District - Board and Staff Introductions |
| 9:45 a.m. | 6. Strategic Plan - final draft review - Mel Sinn |
| 11:00 a.m. | 7. BWSR Forestry Activities Report - for information and discussion - Chris Hofstede, Jim Lemmerman, and John Gebhart, NRRI |
| | 8. Advisor Comments |
| Noon | Lunch |
| 1:00 p.m. | 9. Interagency forestry cooperation and activities in Southeast Minnesota - Larry Himanga, DNR Division of Forestry |
| 1:30 p.m. | 10. Local Government Actions <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Flood Bay shoreline stabilization supplemental funding request● RIM Easement modification request● Middle DesMoines River Watershed District Overall plans amendment approval |

- Study Area II office budget - for approval
- Local Water Resources Protection and Management Program rule update - Greg Larson

- | | | |
|-----------|-----|--|
| 2:30 p.m. | 11. | MAWD/BWSR Committee Report - for discussion - Mel Sinn |
| 3:30 p.m. | 12. | FY 92-93 Biennial Budget request - Jim Birkholz |
| 4:00 p.m. | | Adjourn |

SELF GUIDED NORTH SHORE TOUR

We're glad you'll be able to join us in Cook County for the Area III Annual Meeting. To help make your trip up the north shore more enjoyable we have put together a self-guided tour. We have included points of interest that include District projects and areas of historical and scenic interest. The sites are listed in order from Duluth to Grand Marais and include mile post references.

Duluth

As you arrive in Duluth, you will have a panoramic view of Duluth. To your right you will see the St. Louis River. The St. Louis River is one of the "International Joint Commissions on the Great Lakes" Areas Of Concern (AOC). AOC's are eligible for federal money based on a locally developed Remedial Action Plan (RAP). The St. Louis is in the planning phase at this point. It is interesting to note that the St. Louis AOC is the 23rd out of 27 to be planned and the first to consider upland soil and water management systems!

Spirit Island, the large island upstream in the St. Louis, is sacred ceremonial ground for Indian tribes of the midwest. It is haunted, but the spirits speak an ancient language not known by modern tribes.

The Twin Ports at one time was the third most active seaport and is still quite active in grain transport to northern Europe. As you look at a flat map of the world, one would wonder why all the shipping activity in Duluth-Superior. Iron ore and the port being 330 miles closer to northern Europe than many eastern seaports are the justifications for the 340 miles of ship dock space. The boom came with the opening of the St. Mary's River locks in the 40's along with the World War II build up. With ocean vessels common on the Great Lakes came sea lamprey and Ruffe, two fish that threw the natural aquatic balance into a tail spin by competing for habitat and parasitic activity. Most recently, the Zebra Mussel (see attached) proposes millions of dollars in damage not only to the Great Lakes but all inland lakes as well.

Quick Stop: There are several restaurants in the Canal Park area (two blocks off the expressway.) The Canal Park area offers a waterfront park, the Aerial Lift Bridge, a marine museum, shops, restaurants and a BWSR office (take Lake Avenue exit to Canal Park Drive.)

NOTE: Check you odometer for a mileage reading at the start of Scenic Highway 61 since the first three sites do not have milepost markers for reference points. Instead, we will provide a mileage reading from the start of Scenic 61.

Site #1 - Shoreline Stabilization Project [located across from the Clifton Fire Department Hall 4.6 miles from the start of the Scenic Highway].

This project was a joint effort between the St. Louis County Highway Department and the South St. Louis SWCD. The District provided \$ 53,399 in cost share assistance to armor the shoreline. The shoreline in this area consists of clay soil over bedrock. The clay was actively eroding and the roadbed of Highway 61 was threatened. The completed project utilized a concrete retaining wall anchored into bedrock, rock rip-rap and a landscaped planting area on top of the structure. The project was completed in 1988.

Note: As you continue up the shore, notice how a large portion of the shoreline in this area is made up of clay bluffs. Thousands of years ago, Lake Superior was approximately 550 feet higher than it is today. The clay material you're seeing had settled to the bottom of the lake. Underneath the clay is bedrock. As you drive further north, you will begin to see less clay and more ledgerock along the shoreline.

Site #2 - French River Hatchery located 6.4 miles from the start of the Scenic Highway [1.9 miles from the shoreline stabilization project].

In the fall, chinook salmon are being collected for egg taking operations. During regular daytime hours, visitors are welcome to view this procedure. Stop and take a look!

Site #3 - Knife River Streambank Stabilization Project [12.9 miles from the start of Scenic 61. The project site is located directly across Highway 61 from the Depot Campground].

The Lake County SWCD worked with the Lake County Highway Department to secure funding and provide technical assistance on this project. The east bank of the Knife River between the two bridges was eroding during spring runoff and high rainfall conditions. The roadbed of Highway 61 was being undermined and large portions of the shoulder were lost. The District applied for and received a grant of \$9,667.50 from the Minnesota Soil and Water Conservation Board in 1981. The total project cost was \$19,335.50.

Site #4 - Skunk Creek Streambank Stabilization Project in Two Harbors [turn right at the Dairy Queen (second stoplight) and proceed one block towards downtown. The project will be located on the west side of Waterfront Drive.]

The Lake County SWCD provided cost-share assistance to the City of Two Harbors and Lake County to correct this severe erosion problem. Even though the stream appears small, it runs high in the spring and was undermining Waterfront Drive. The Lake County SWCD received a grant from the Minnesota Soil and Water Conservation Board for \$13,025. The project used a newer type of stabilization technique - Loffelstein blocks. The 94 pound concrete blocks dovetail together to form a retaining wall that will support the growth of vegetation in the top of the block. Two Harbors is very proud of this project because it not only solved an erosion problem but it helped beautify the city and minimized sediment pollution.

Site #5 - Two Harbors Golf Course [turn left at the third stoplight - Holiday Gas Station - and proceed north for approximately one half mile.]

This project was a cooperative effort between the City of Two Harbors and the Lake County SWCD. Due to increased housing development in Two Harbors, the stream channel was eroding and a large gully head was moving upstream at a rate of about 15 - 20 feet per year. The District received \$16,457.00 in Special Project Funds and used \$6,048 in District funds to cost share the project at a 75 percent rate. A grade stabilization structure was constructed to pool the water and then release it through a pipe to a lower elevation. The project minimizes sediment pollution, corrects a severe safety problem and indirectly adds a water hazard to the course. The project was completed in July 1990.

Site #6 - Flood Bay Shoreline Stabilization Project (MP 327.5) [You can turn in to the Wayside Rest area and park at the entrance.]

This project is a joint effort between the Lake County SWCD, Minnesota DNR, Minnesota DOT and four private property owners. Severe shoreline erosion is occurring on approximately 1400 feet of Flood Bay. The site is mapped as being an "Erosion Hazard Area"

Site #6 (cont.)

as identified by the North Shore Management Board. MNDOT was able to include the site as a disposal site for waste rock from the Lafayette Bluff Highway Project. With the rock provided "free" to the site, the remaining costs included reshaping the bank, filter fabric, placement of the rip-rap and reseeding disturbed areas. The District received \$11,075 from the Minnesota BOWSR to provide a 50 percent cost-share match. The DNR completed the design work for the state property and a private engineer was hired by the private property owners. The project is unique because it corrects a severe problem on both public and private property. It also generated a unique working relationship between the three agencies and private citizens. The Wayside Rest and private property will be protected from further erosion and property damage when the project is completed.

Site #7 - Lafayette Bluff Highway Tunnel Project (MP 334.0).

The Minnesota Department of Transportation (MNDOT) is constructing a 850 foot tunnel at Lafayette Bluff to correct a severe safety problem along Highway 61. The tunnel will be completed in 1991 at a cost of \$ 13.7 million. Rock for the Flood Bay project was hauled from this work site. This will be the longest tunnel of its kind in the state of Minnesota. Silver Creek Cliff (four miles back) is slated for construction of a 1600 foot long tunnel with a possible start date in 1991. The estimated cost is \$20 - 25 million.

Site #8 - Split Rock Lighthouse Historical Site (MP 345.9)

This stop will allow you to see the past "come alive" as you tour the Split Rock Lighthouse. Situated atop a high rocky outcrop, you will be able to see for miles across Lake Superior. The movie is highly recommended because it provides the historical details to help you understand the importance of this site to the shipping industry. The stop, complete with movie, will take about 45 minutes...well worth the time!

Site #9 - City of Beaver Bay (MP 348.4)

Beaver Bay is the oldest settlement along the north shore of Lake Superior. It began as a fishing village due to the rich fisheries located in this area of Lake Superior. It is also hailed as the home of John Beargrease. John's name has become widely known because of its association with the John Beargrease Sled Dog Marathon. During the winter, John carried mail by dogsled up and down the shore.

Site #10 - Beaver River Access Project (MP 349.0)

The river mouth trail on the east side of the Beaver River is eroding badly. The trail is on a steep slope and becomes treacherous under wet conditions. It receives heavy use and has

Site #10 (cont.)

become a severe safety problem. The Lake SWCD received a grant from the Minnesota BOWSR for \$14,268 to correct this problem along with a similar one on the Knife River. The Lake Superior Steelhead Association has also contributed \$7,502 for the projects. The project will involve installing treated timber stairways, constructing a diversion and installing a pipe to carry runoff water to the base of the slope.

Site #11 - Cypress North Shore Mining (MP 353.0)

This plant site was the former home of Reserve Mining Company which declared bankruptcy in 1986. Cypress Mining reopened the plant in 1989 and now have approximately 400 employees.

Site #12 - Palisade Head (MP 357.0)

Don't miss this birds eye view of Lake Superior and the rugged rocky shoreline that is visible for miles. Though the road up is steep, you will be rewarded by one of the most scenic sites along the north shore of Lake Superior. If you're fortunate, there may be rock climbers climbing the vertical rock face. Be careful on this stop!

Site #13 - Caribou River (MP 370.5)

In the fall of 1977, a heavy rainstorm caused the Caribou River to wash out Highway 61. The high water carried trees and other debris downstream which then blocked the opening in the concrete box culvert. The water backed up and overtopped the highway causing the entire roadbed to be eroded away. Evidence of this event is still visible as you look downstream and notice the streambank erosion along the access road.

Site #14 - Temperance River Wayside Rest (MP 380.1)

Don't miss an opportunity to view this beautiful river as it enters Lake Superior. Trails and a walking bridge bring you directly to this spectacular site. It's a short hike and worth the effort!

Site #15 - Caribou Trail (MP 392+)

Many of you may have heard of the Rainbow gathering that took place in Cook County. The actual site was located up the Caribou Trail near Barker Lake. Approximately 8,000 people participated in this year's event.

Site #16 - Cascade River (MP 400.0)

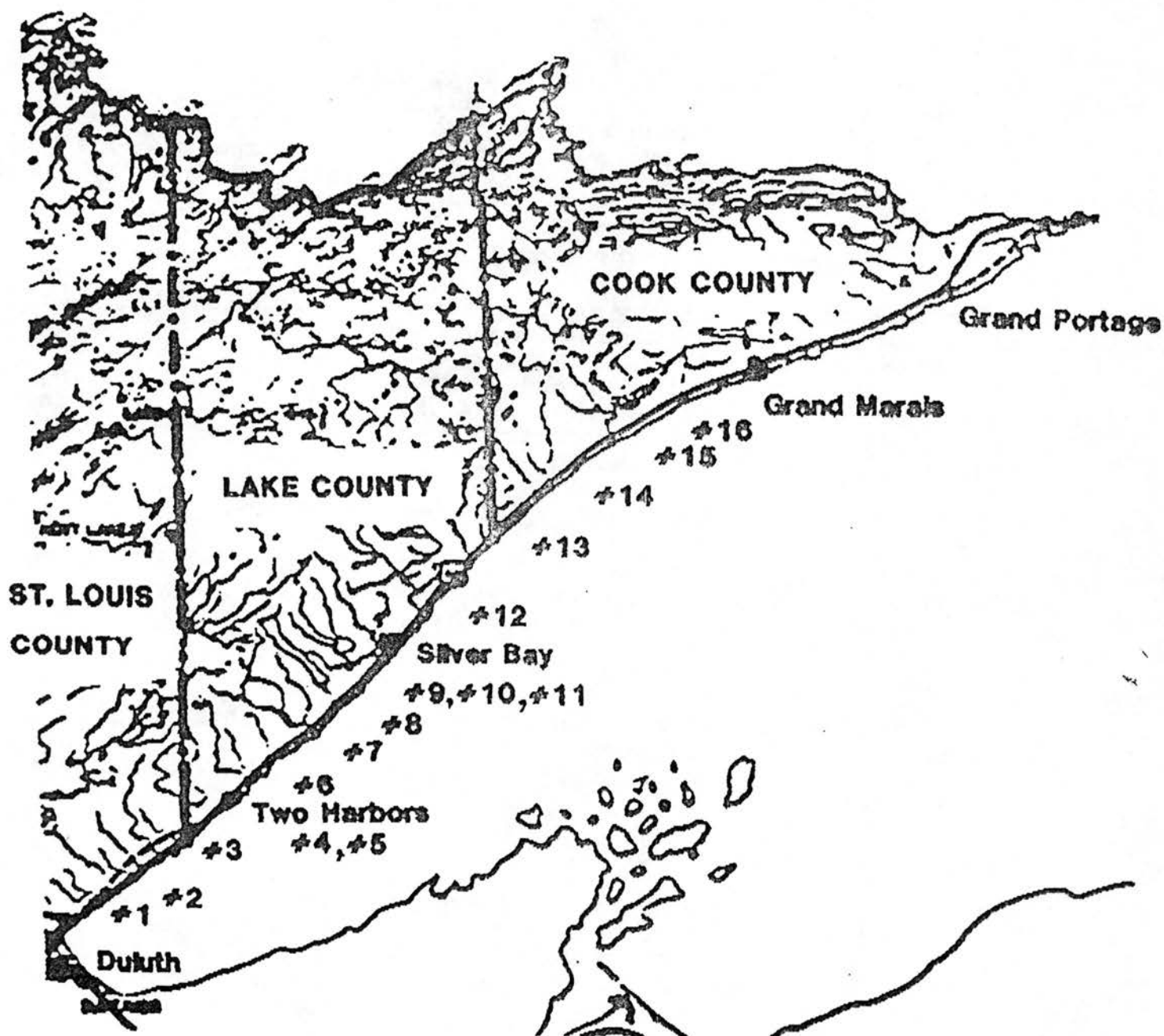
The Cascade River gorge is considered by many to be the most beautiful river along the north shore. Take a few minutes to hike inland on one of the many trails to view the upper falls...you will not be disappointed! If you've remembered to bring your fishing

Site #16 (cont.)

rod, the mouth of the Cascade River is also a good fishing spot for salmon and lake trout. Good Luck!

We hope you've enjoyed this self-guided tour up the North Shore of Lake Superior. Northeastern Minnesota has a tremendous abundance of natural resources and it is our responsibility to be good stewards. Enjoy your stay and come visit again!

NORTHEASTERN MINNESOTA





RUDY PERPICH

Governor of the State of Minnesota

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT

Diane Jensen

3721 17th Avenue South, Minneapolis, MN 55407

of Hennepin County, Congressional District 5

Reposing especial trust and confidence in your prudence, integrity and ability I have appointed and commissioned you to have and to hold the said office of

Member, Board of Water and Soil Resources

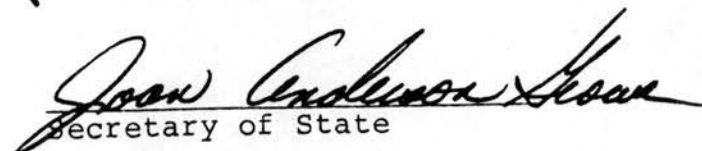
Effective Effective August 29, 1990

Expiring Expiring January 6, 1992

together with all rights, powers and emoluments to the said office belonging, or by law in anywise pertaining, until this commission shall be by me or other lawful authority, superseded or annulled, or expire by force or reason of any law of this State.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Minnesota to be affixed at the Capitol in the City of Saint Paul, July 20, 1990.


Governor


Secretary of State

Replacing: Loni Kemp

OVERVIEW OF THE SIBLEY COUNTY LOCAL WATER PLAN
FOR THE SEPTEMBER 26, 1990 BOARD MEETING

INTRODUCTION

Sibley County is located in southcentral Minnesota and is part of the Southcentral Minnesota County Comprehensive Local Water Planning Project. The County has a total land area of 386,480 acres of which 99% is privately owned. The County seat is Gaylord with surrounding cities including Henderson, Arlington, Winthrop and Gibbon. The County economy is predominantly agricultural. The original vegetation consisted of prairie, wetland and river bottom forest.

PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE COUNTY

Most of Sibley County is in the Lower Minnesota River watershed with the southwestern corner of the County draining to Hawk Creek. Also, parts of northern and northeastern Sibley County flow to the Crow River and Bevens Creek. High Island Creek, Bevens Creek and the Lower Minnesota are all subjects of proposed or on-going water and related land resource assessment projects. The topography of Sibley County is nearly flat to slightly undulating with the exception of the eastern boundary which is dominated by the Minnesota River valley. The dominant soils are Nicollet and Webster with most erosion prone soils being in the eastern one-third of the County where wind and water can greatly affect the land. The soils consist of glacial till and glacial outwash. In addition to the surficial sand and gravel deposits there are extensive buried sand and gravel deposits. New Auburn, Winthrop, Gaylord, Gibbon and many private wells draw water from these buried deposits. Bedrock depths range from 300 feet in the east to 500 feet in the center of the County. The County can draw water from the St Lawrence, Franconian, Ironston-Galesville and Eau Claire aquifers. The County plans to cooperate with Carver County and the Bevens Creek Watershed Management Organization on the development of a water resource management and protection plan for the Bevens Creek watershed. The County is also corresponding with Lesueur County regarding wastewater treatment lagoons serving the City of Lesueur but located in Sibley County. The County is concerned that the lagoons may be contaminating the Minnesota River. A flooding problem exists along High Island Creek from the Mcleod County line to near Arlington. Reasons for the flooding include upstream drainage as well as cross-sectional changes of High Island Creek as it passes from Mcleod to Sibley County. The County plans to cooperate with High Island Creek Watershed District to reduce flooding along it's shores. One action will be to establish control structures on wetlands in Mcleod County.

STAFF REVIEW

The Sibley County water plan was submitted for final review on September 1, 1990. Staff is waiting for final state agency comments and will work with the County to appropriately address those comments.

RECEIVED

SEP 18 1990

EX-100

OVERVIEW OF THE BLUE EARTH COUNTY LOCAL WATER PLAN
FOR THE SEPTEMBER 26, 1990 BOARD MEETING

INTRODUCTION

Blue earth County is located in the southcentral region of Minnesota. The County is part of the Southcentral Minnesota County Comprehensive Local Water Planning Project. The County has a total area of 492,480 acres of which approximately 96% is privately owned. The County is largely agricultural however a significant decline (approximately 20%) in cultivated land has occurred between 1969 and the present. The County seat is Mankato which is located at the bend of the Minnesota River. Surrounding cities in the County are Lake Crystal, Vernon Center, Judson, Cambria, Amboy, Mapleton, St. Clair and Madison Lake.

PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE COUNTY

Blue Earth County is nearly level to gently undulating with extreme elevation changes occurring at the rivers which dominate this County. These rivers include the Le Sueur, Blue Earth, Watonwan and Maple. These rivers flow to the Minnesota River at or near Mankato. The rivers of Blue Earth County and of Mankato give the area a special treat for visitors to the area. The surficial soils in Blue earth County consist of areas of glacial till and glacial outwash. The glacial till is an unlayered compact mixture of sand, silt, clay, gravel and boulders with average water yields of less than one gallon per minute. Glacial outwash is a mixture of sand and gravel with some silt and clay left by glacial rivers in alluvial plains. Water yields in glacial outwash are 100 to 500 gallons per minute. The average depth to bedrock is 100 to 200 feet with extremes located in Southbend Township along the Minnesota River and Blue Earth River where bedrock is exposed and 300 feet deep near Madison Lake. Aquifers available to Blue earth County include the Prairie du Chien, Jordan, St Lawrence, Franconia and Dresbach group. Blue Earth County recognizes a need to make decisions based on geologic information and is participating in the development of a geologic atlas. Drainage for agriculture has resulted in increased flooding of low lying areas and has lowered water quality of surface water bodies. Drainage has been a controversial issue with basins like Lost Marsh being the subject of many meetings. Lost Marsh is a recently restored wetland drained in the early 1980's. The County has chosen to actively seek partnerships to map and restore drained wetlands. The Ponderosa Landfill is known to have leaked volatile organic compounds and metals. The County is in litigation over the now closed Hansen Sanitary Landfill. The County expects other landfills will prove to be leaking. The County has identified several actions to prevent hazardous waste and recyclable resources from being placed in landfills.

STAFF REVIEW

The Blue Earth County local water plan was submitted for final State Agency review on September 1, 1990. Staff will continue to work with the County to appropriately address forthcoming comments.

OVERVIEW OF THE JACKSON COUNTY LOCAL WATER PLAN

FOR THE SEPTEMBER 26, 1990 BOARD MEETING

INTRODUCTION

In August of 1987 Jackson County began comprehensive local water planning by entering into the Southcentral County Comprehensive Local Water Planning Project. The County seat of Jackson County is the City of Jackson with other surrounding cities being Heron Lake, Okabena and Lakefield. Jackson County has a population of 13,690. The original vegetation of the County was upland prairie and prairie wetland with woodland and brushland along the Des Moines River and South Heron Lake respectively. About 95% of the County is farmland and pasture with corn and soybeans the main crops. Livestock production is also important to Jackson County's economy. It is interesting to note that more than 13000 acres of Jackson County is water.

PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE COUNTY

The landscape of Jackson County is the result of glacial activity and is flat to undulating to hilly. The watershed divide between the Mississippi River and the Missouri River runs through Jackson County. The West Fork Des Moines River and its tributaries drain the northern and eastern parts of the County to the Mississippi River. The southwest corner of the County is in the Little Sioux River watershed which eventually flows into the Missouri River. The soils in Jackson County formed in the glacial drift and related sediments of the late Wisconsin glaciation. The surficial soils in the County consist of areas of glacial till and outwash. The Heron Lake system is the focus of many on-going water resource actions. A broad based partnership of citizens, governmental units at all levels and private organizations has erupted in an effort to restore Heron Lake to the nationally known waterfowl producer it once was. Sedimentation entering surface water from erosion prone soils is affecting surface water quality in Jackson County particularly in the Des Moines River Watershed. Also, the past drainage of wetlands is seen as a problem affecting every watershed within the County. These wetlands served to trap sediment before it entered lakes and streams. Enforcement of Chapter 106A buffer strip requirements is emphasized as well as education on upland conservation practices. Reduced erosion and sedimentation is sighted as an urgent need in the County. Planting of erodible soils to cover and restoration of drained wetlands are also identified as urgent needs. Implementation of the Heron Lake Watershed Management Plan is also seen as vitally important and represents a significant breakthrough in what has been a water management stalemate.

STAFF REVIEW

The Jackson County water plan was submitted for final state agency review on September 1, 1990. Staff will continue to work with the County to appropriately address those forthcoming comments.



Southbridge Office Building
155 South Wabasha St., Suite 104
St. Paul, Minnesota 55107

(612) 296-3767
Fax (612) 297-5615

Regional Offices

Northwest Region
1106 Paul Bunyan Drive, NE
Bemidji, MN 56601
218-755-3963

Northeast Region
394 South Lake Avenue
Room 402
Duluth, MN 55802
218-723-4752

West Central Region
503 Washington Street
Brainerd, MN 56401
218-828-2604

South Central Region
Box 756
New Ulm, MN 56073
507-354-2196

Southeast Region
Friedell Bldg., Room 100
1200 S. Broadway
Rochester, MN 55904
507-285-7458

Southwest Region
Box 111
1400 E. Lyon Street
Marshall, MN 56258
507-537-7260

East Central Region
Southbridge Office Building
155 South Wabasha Ave., Suite 104
St. Paul, MN 55107
612-296-3767

September 18, 1990

TO: BWSR Members

FR: Mel Sinn

SU: Snake River Hearing Reminder

The public hearing on the proposed Snake River Watershed District will reconvene on Saturday, September 22, 1990, beginning at 9:30 a.m. in the cafeteria of Mora High School at 400 East Maple in Mora. Having concluded public testimony on the evening of September 10th, the Administrative Law Judge intends to hear the petitioner's testimony this Saturday.

BWSR members are encouraged to attend.



MINNESOTA
SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

RECEIVED
AUG 27 1990

August 24, 1990

Greg Larson
Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources
115 South Wabasha Suite 104
St. Paul, Minnesota 55107

Dear Greg,

I am writing in regards to the Flood Bay shoreline erosion control project that is being partially funded by rollover cost-share dollars. The original cost estimate of \$22,150 that was calculated using DNR figures, appears to be low. Though the project will be let for bids in the next two weeks, a preliminary estimate was received in the amount of \$52,500. This estimate was from Hoover Construction, which is the company that is completing the Lafayette Bluff tunnel on Scenic Highway #61. They are experienced in shoreline stabilization work and have the necessary equipment already mobilized within seven miles of the site.

Two reasons account for the difference in cost estimates. First, the local labor/equipment costs were underestimated by the DNR and, secondly, the DNR was legally unable to provide engineering design assistance on the private property portion of the project. The private property owners have jointly hired a registered professional engineer for design and certification purposes.

Successful completion of this project is critical because of the public/private partnership and the severe erosion problem. The project is located in an Erosion Hazard Area as defined in the North Shore Management Plan. MNDOT has already delivered the rock rip-rap to the site, free of charge to the project participants. Typical costs of a project of this magnitude are estimated at \$200 - 300 per lineal foot. Our costs, even at the higher estimate, average around \$40 per lineal foot.

Due to the dilemma we are facing, we request your consideration of providing emergency funding in the amount of \$15,175. This amount, coupled with our original grant of \$11,075, will allow us to cost-share at the full 50 percent rate. Cost-

sharing at the full rate is especially critical for the continued participation of the private property owners.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Wayne Seidel".

Wayne Seidel, Conservation Specialist
Lake County Soil and Water Conservation District

cc: Jim Birkholtz
Ruth Hofmeister
Chris Hofstede
Memos Katsoulis
Rich Ojard
Pauline Olund
John Mattson
Paul Sundberg
Floyd Walters
file

DRAFT

MAWD/BWSR BLUE RIBBON PANEL REPORT

SEPTEMBER 1990

TO: MINNESOTA ASSOCIATION OF WATERSHED DISTRICTS
MINNESOTA BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES

The members of the MAWD/BWSR Blue Ribbon Panel are pleased to submit their findings and recommendations to the Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts and the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources.

The Panel was created to examine issues important to both watershed districts and the state board, and consider potential opportunities for cooperative efforts between MAWD and BWSR in addressing these issues. Each organization appointed three of its members to serve on the Panel. MAWD members were Al Dornfeld of Valley Branch Watershed District, Dean Oleson of Buffalo Creek Watershed District, and Gerald VanAmburg of Buffalo-Red Watershed District. BWSR members were John Boulton of the Lincoln Soil and Water Conservation District, John Brooks of the Clearwater County Board of Commissioners, and Jack Graba a public BWSR member from Wadena County.

The Panel met four times in Saint Paul between April and July of 1990. Staff support was provided by the BWSR. Panel deliberations focused on MAWD and BWSR roles in addressing watershed district needs in the following nine areas: 1) Accounting, 2) Annual Reporting, 3) Training Workshops, 4) Legislation, 5) Communications, 6) State/Federal Agency Relationships, 7) Program Evaluation, 8) Technical Assistance, and 9) Personnel Management. The Panel's findings and recommendations are organized under these nine categories.

Improving training workshop opportunities for managers and strengthening working relationships between watershed districts and soil and water conservation districts came up many times during the Panel's discussions. In the Panel's view, these two needs are very high priorities.

We urge all MAWD and BWSR members to read this report and make use of its recommendations in developing future training activities and policy initiatives.

MAWD Members

Al Dornfeld

Dean Oleson

Gerald VanAmburg

BWSR Members

John Boulton

John Brooks

Jack Graba

MAWD/BWSR Blue Ribbon Panel Report

Findings and Recommendations

ACCOUNTING

Findings:

- * Sound accounting practices and preparation of quality annual financial reports are important in all watershed districts to keep managers well-informed of their financial position and to be accountable for public funds.
- * A uniform watershed district financial reporting format is needed to make district data comparable.

Recommendations:

- * MAWD and BWSR should work jointly to develop, distribute, and promote the use of a model uniform accounting system and financial reporting format for watershed districts.

ANNUAL REPORTING

Findings:

- * Annual reports are an important tool for recording and communicating the activities and accomplishments of watershed districts.
- * Preparation of quality annual activity reports can help districts and the BWSR better inform interested persons and organizations about watershed district activities.

Recommendations:

- * MAWD and BWSR should encourage watershed districts to prepare quality annual activity reports in a timely manner, and in a general format consistent with the BWSR's model annual report.

TRAINING WORKSHOPS

Findings:

- * Improving training opportunities for managers is a high priority need because water management issues are complex and water laws and programs are continually changing.
- * MAWD needs to be an active participant in designing training opportunities for managers.

Recommendations:

- * "Basic" manager training needs should be addressed at the MAWD Annual Meeting where the highest number of managers are present.
- * A MAWD representative should be a member of the BWSR "Training Team".
- * BWSR should develop a pocket handbook for managers with review and input from watershed districts.

LEGISLATION

Findings:

- * It is important for MAWD and BWSR to fully communicate on legislative issues to avoid "crossing wires" on important legislative initiatives and to maximize opportunities for joint support of needed legislation.

Recommendations:

- * MAWD should generally take the lead role in pursuing amendments to the Watershed Act because it directly represents district needs and interests.
- * BWSR should extend an open invitation to MAWD to request BWSR sponsorship of those legislative initiatives best-suited to introduction as "agency" bills.

COMMUNICATIONS

Findings:

- * MAWD needs to maintain its own newsletter to get important information to managers in a timely and effective manner.

- * MAWD participation at BWSR meetings and BWSR participation in MAWD meetings, both in advisory roles, is important to maintaining effective communication between the two organizations.

- * Managers and district staff would benefit from being provided with better information about Soil and Water Conservation District roles and how SWCD programs can help watershed districts achieve their resource management objectives.

Recommendations:

- * MAWD and BWSR should continue to participate in each others' meetings to ensure good communications are maintained.

- * BWSR should provide watershed districts with better information on SWCD roles and programs and promote cooperative working relationships between the two organizations.

STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY RELATIONSHIPS

Findings:

- * Managers need to be kept up-to-date about state and federal resource management agency programs and policies, and agencies need to become more aware of watershed district activities, so opportunities for use of agency programs are not missed and better coordination occurs in permit administration.

Recommendations:

- * MAWD and BWSR should get other agencies more involved in manager training activities.

- * BWSR should list other state and federal resource agencies in its Directory.

- * MAWD and BWSR should examine ways to ensure good communication among watershed districts and state and federal regulatory agencies in permit actions.

PROGRAM EVALUATION

Findings:

- * BWSR's program evaluation process is a valuable service to watershed districts interested in having an outside party assess their overall operating procedures and provide constructive suggestions where appropriate.

Recommendations:

- * BWSR should continue to conduct district program evaluations upon request.
- * MAWD should inform watershed districts about the program evaluation process and encourage interested districts to request this service.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Findings:

- * Watershed districts need to utilize competent technical advice in planning, implementing projects, and administering permit programs.
- * Watershed districts would benefit from a greater sharing of technical information and sources of technical assistance.

Recommendations:

- * Watershed districts should continue to rely primarily on their own employees and consultants for technical support.
- * The proposed managers handbook should contain a description of BWSR staff and the types of technical assistance they can provide to watershed districts.
- * MAWD and BWSR should consider co-sponsoring periodic meetings of small groups of watershed districts located in the same region to facilitate sharing of information among districts and better understanding of BWSR staff roles.

PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT

Findings:

- * Some watershed districts have full-time employees and would benefit from additional BWSR guidance on personnel issues.

Recommendations:

- * The proposed managers handbook should contain general guidance on the topic of personnel management and inform watershed districts of sources of more detailed guidance on personnel issues.



CONSERVATION BRIEFS

News and information for the nation's conservation district leaders and their cooperating partners

Vol. 1, No. 18

September 14, 1990

FARM BILL HEADS FOR CONFERENCE

As *Conservation Briefs* goes to press, we're still awaiting the appointment of House and Senate conference committee members to debate the 1990 Farm Bill. Conference action could begin as early as Monday, September 17.

The Senate is expected to have seven conferees, including Agriculture Committee Chairman Patrick Leahy. Other Democratic possibilities include David Pryor of Arkansas and one or two "Prairie Populists" (Robert Kerrey of Nebraska, Thomas Daschle of South Dakota and/or Kent Conrad of North Dakota). Likely Republicans include Richard Lugar of Indiana, Robert Dole of Kansas and perhaps Thad Cochran of Mississippi. We are expecting about 15 House conferees, including Agriculture Committee Chairman Kika de la Garza, the chairs of the eight Agriculture subcommittees and six Republicans.

Both agricultural and conservation/wildlife management interests have prepared letters addressing key issues to be resolved by the conferees. The positions taken by the two groups are amazingly similar and, for the most part, in line with NACD's positions. However, NACD is uncomfortable with language in the agricultural community's proposal that would deem compliance plans adequate as long as they reduce erosion by 50 percent of the maximum potential erosion rate. We're also negotiating with conservation interests who want a "T" standard on all future CRP contracts when land is brought back into production.

Budget Poses Problems

The final outcome of the 1990 Farm Bill cannot be determined until the federal budget impasse is resolved. Bush administration officials and congressional leaders continue to meet at Andrews Air Force Base outside Washington. They are seeking ways to reduce the deficit by \$50 billion for FY 1991 and by \$500 billion over the next five years. Budget cuts are expected to have a significant impact on domestic spending, which currently totals about \$400 billion per year.

SENATE MOVING ON USDA APPROPRIATIONS

On Tuesday, September 11, the Senate Appropriations subcommittee on agriculture, rural development and related agencies marked up its FY 1991 funding bill. Specific figures for USDA are not yet available and no date has been set for full committee action. We'll keep you posted.

WETLANDS HEARINGS WINDING DOWN

The White House Domestic Policy Council's Task Force on Wetlands is wrapping up its nationwide series of public meetings regarding strategies for working toward a national goal of "no net loss" of wetlands. The gatherings have been fairly well attended. But, from what we've heard, participants were carefully selected and there wasn't as much candid dialogue as many had hoped.

There's still time to submit written comments which will be summarized and used by the Task Force in formulating its policy recommendations. NACD will be completing and mailing its comments within the next week. We encourage you to make your views known also.

The public comment period closes on September 28. Comments should be sent to:

Wetlands Coordination Team
Room 5138, Main Interior Building
1849 C St., NW
Washington, DC 20240

Published biweekly by:

National Association of Conservation Districts
509 Capitol Court, NE
Washington, DC 20002
(202) 547-6223

COALITION DEVELOPING OLD GROWTH PRINCIPLES

Legislation addressing the management of the nation's old growth forests is moving through the House. Meanwhile, NACD is working with a coalition of forestry, conservation and wildlife management interests to develop a series of principles designed to assist in shaping a long-term solution to the old growth/spotted owl issue.

The group's principal concern is that Congress emerge with a scientifically and economically sound approach to old growth forest management that is consistent with the Endangered Species Act and other land management laws and that allows federal agencies flexibility in their resource management activities.

The coalition is finalizing its recommendations and working to transmit them to Congress in time to have an impact on current legislative activity.

EPA ACCEPTING 319 COMMENTS

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is accepting comments until September 27 regarding allocation criteria and methodology for FY 1991 Section 319 nonpoint source pollution control funds.

For background information and guidelines consult the August 28 *Federal Register* (pp. 35248-35264) or contact:

Stu Tuller

Assessment & Watershed Protection
Division, WH-555

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
401 M St., SW
Washington, DC 20460
(202) 382-7085