



Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources.
Minutes.

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3/26/97

**BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES
CONFERENCE ROOM, ONE WEST WATER STREET
ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA 55107
MARCH 26, 1997**

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Barbara Cobb, Dwain Otte, Barb Uppgaard, Darrell Bruggman, Marv Tripp, LeRoy Stensgaard, Kathleen Roer, Ginny Imholte, Tim Hvidsten, Glenn Annexstad

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Ted Lovdahl, Jim Rossman

AGENCY MEMBERS PRESENT:

Marge Velky, Pollution Control Agency
Kim Benson-Johnson, Department of Health
Paul Burns, Department of Agriculture
Wayne Edgerton, Department of Natural Resources
Jim Anderson, Minnesota Extension Service

OTHERS PRESENT:

LeAnn Buck and D'Wayne DeZiel, Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts (MASWCD)
Rick Reimer and Kevin Scheidecker, Minnesota Association of Conservation District Employees (MACDE)
Franklin Denn, Minnesota Association of Townships (MAT)

STAFF PRESENT: Ron Harnack, Al Kean, Jim Haertel, and Mary Jo Anderson

BWSR Meeting Minutes

March 26, 1997

Page Two

Chair Cobb called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

97-22** **Adopt Agenda** - Moved by Tim Hvidsten, seconded by Barb Uppgaard, to approve the agenda as presented. Chair Cobb stated that two additional items will be added to the agenda: 1) Andersen Window Utility Plan, and 2) Minnehaha Creek Plan Hearing Request. Motion passed on a voice vote.

97-23** **Minutes of February 26, 1997** - Moved by Marv Tripp, seconded by Tim Hvidsten, to approve the minutes of February 26, 1997, as circulated. Motion passed on a voice vote.

Chair's Report - Chair Cobb vacationed in Washington, D.C. and Williamsburg in March. She attended the MASWCD meeting yesterday; and the Metro SWCD Association. She introduced Kevin Scheidecker, new president of MACDE. He offers any assistance, and really appreciates the opportunity to work with BWSR.

Executive Director's Report - Ron Harnack distributed a legislative update and commented on the various initiatives. The BWSR budget overview will be heard on April 1 in the Senate Environment Finance Committee, the hearing will also include reviewing the pilot CRP/RIM program in five counties.

Ron attended the NACD Spring Leadership Meeting in Washington, D. C., March 9-12. Also attending were Dwain Otte, NACD director; Vern Wilker and Owen Knutson, MASWCD; and Bill Hunt, NRCS. They met with the Minnesota congressional delegation and had a very successful trip.

Committee Reports

Dispute Resolution Committee (DRC) - Kathy Roer reported that there are no active appeals pending so the DRC will not meet in April.

Agency Reports

Jim Anderson, Minnesota Extension Service (MES), reported that MES is concerned with flooding and the "great Minnesota meltdown." Jim reported that the joint MES/BWSR education position has not yet been filled; a conference call will be held on March 31, and a decision will be made at that time. MES is involved with a statewide soil map digitization project. Also, MES remains involved with PCA and BWSR on the ISTS legislation.

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Wayne Edgerton, Department of Natural Resources (DNR), stated that the flood outlook is a big concern; severe flooding is predicted of the Red River of the North. DNR is working with River Friendly Farmer Program. He stated that this is a fun project and invited BWSR members and staff to attend upcoming tours. DNR is working with the Farm Bureau on this project; a schedule will be distributed next month to board members. Wayne stated that DNR is sincerely trying to change their perspectives in working with the agricultural community--no longer looking at farmers as the problem, but looking to farmers as the solution to fix the problem. DNR is involved with the legislative session and various initiatives; a big concern is the treaty rights in northern Minnesota.

Consent Agenda

97-24**

County Water Plan Approvals - Dwain Otte reported that the review committee recommends approval of the Murray and Lincoln County Water Plans. Moved by Dwain Otte, seconded by Glenn Annexstad, to approve the Murray and Lincoln County Water Plans. Motion passed on a voice vote. LeRoy Stensgaard thanked Dwain and Glenn for attending on his behalf.

Chair Cobb called for a break in the meeting at 10:15 a.m. The meeting reconvened at 10:30 a.m.

Tim Hvidsten left the meeting.

New Business

97-25**

Wetland Conservation Act (WCA) Compensation Application - Jim Haertel reported that an application has been received for compensation under WCA from Andrew Froehlich in Pine County resulting from a replacement plan application denial. Chair Cobb introduced Dick Noyes, Pine SWCD. Moved by Kathy Roer, seconded by Glenn Annexstad, that the WCA compensation application for Andrew Froehlich in Pine County be approved at a payment rate of \$16,650 upon full completion of all application requirements, including conveyance of a permanent conservation easement. Motion passed on a voice vote.

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97-27**

Andersen Window Utility Plan - Ron Harnack reported that the City of Bayport began construction without proper prior approval of a utility plan. The DNR, Middle St. Croix WMO, and the Washington SWCD are in support of the BWSR's decision. Al Kean distributed informational material for the Board's review. Discussion followed. The BWSR approved the preliminary site plan in 1992; the BWSR action today would be for the first phase of this site plan. Moved by Barb Uppgaard, seconded by Dwain Otte, that final approval be granted for the sanitary sewer installation phase of the Andersen Window Corporation site development plan, subject to implementation of the erosion and sediment control recommendations outlined in the Washington SWCD memo dated March 25, 1997 and associated coordination with the DNR and MPCA. The Board authorizes staff to act on further issues as an outgrowth of this coordination. Motion passed on a voice vote.

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Minnehaha Creek Plan Hearing Request - Ron Harnack reported that five formal hearing requests have been received for the Minnehaha Creek Plan. Moved by Kathy Roer, seconded by Ginny Imholte, that the metro sub-committee preside over all future hearings regarding watershed management plans in the seven county metro area, including the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District hearing. Motion passed on a voice vote. Jim Haertel will work with this committee.

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Minnesota Association of Townships (MAT): Franklin Denn reported that MAT is busy with the legislative session as well as township workshops.

Minnesota Association of Conservation District Employees (MACDE): Rick Reimer reported that the annual summer training session is June 8-10, at Cragun's in Brainerd. MACDE is a supporter of farmstead windbreaks. It's a busy time with CRP sign-up -- 500 potential landowners with 6,000 acres. The MACDE invited board members to participate in regional Envirothons.

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Chair Cobb adjourned the meeting at 11:55 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Barbara Cobb". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Barbara Cobb

Bd. of Water/Soil Res. Fax:612-297-5615

Apr 3 '97 10:35 P.01/04

DRAFT

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Post-it	Date	# of pages
Fax Note		4
To	Mary Jo	
Fax	297-5615	
From	Barb Cobb	
Phone		

Ron please credit

*These are great!
Wow.
Thank for everything, Mary Jo
- you've often been
a life saver!
B*

Post-It Fax Note	7671	Date	4/3/97	# of pages	4
To	Barb Cobb	From	Mary Jo		
Co./Dept.		Co.	BW52		
Phone		Phone	297-4290		
Fax	436-2190	Fax	297-5615		

Bd. of Water/Soil Res. Fax:612-297-5615

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Apr 3 '97 10:37 P.04/04

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Handwritten signature: MJ
Handwritten note: Ron - please review & edit. mja

h: marchmeet

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Respectfully submitted,
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From: "Ronald Harnack" <Ronald.Harnack@bwsr.state.mn.us>
Organization: MN Board of Water & Soil Resources
To: Everyone at BWSR,
Central Office,
Field Office
Date sent: Wed, 26 Mar 1997 08:35:00 +0600 CST
Subject: Legislative Update
Send reply to: ronald.harnack@bwsr.state.mn.us
Priority: normal

BUDGET:

A: We have BWSR overview in the Senate Env Finance on April 1, @ 7:00pm. This hearing will also include reviewing the pilot CRP/RIM program in the 5 counties. The interagency initiatives have already been reviewed with the senate.

No other hearings on the BWSR are scheduled. The next hearings will be associated with the formal allocations by the house and senate committees. I am scheduling another round of meetings with members of the env fin committees to answer questions that have been raised.

OTHER BUDGET INITIATIVES

1: Living snow fences with \$'s coming from the highway trunk fund was heard in house and senate committees. Although there was interest in the living snow fence approach use of additional highway funds was not recieved very well. There was desire to have more discussion on the issue and how the CRP program could be leveraged with DOT and local initiatives to get living snow fences in place. There is also an interagency effort underway to enhance coordination, education and understanding of the living snow fence issue.

2: Cost-share increase with a short term focus on shelter belts and a long term increase in cost-share for all types of practices. This is a \$4,000,000 proposal that has passed the hs env and referred to hs env fin. The chair of the hs env fin asked what the priority for swcds was as they cannot expect each proposal for \$4 million to be funded. Although know answer was expected at the meeting it will be needed during the allocations in a couple of weeks.

3: General services increase to \$30,000 with and without a match from the county. The senate will hear the bill on April 1.

4: Area 2 funding for Lazerous Creek has been introduced requesting \$1,200,000 for the state's share of the funding. Since the permits have not been issued, support will be tempered. It is more appropriate to have this in the bonding bill next year rather than general fund.

5: Mn River Joint Board, \$1,200,000 for watershed based management initiatives including plan development and implementation. Envisions working through the 12 major watersheds in the basin and developing targeted and prioritized efforts for water quality improvement.

6: ISTS, \$1,000,000 for individual sewage treatment system cost share program. The PCA already has a proposal that would enhance the grant and loan program that is moving through the process. Expanding the availability of the loan program and grants to counties for implementation and increasing the flexibility for counties in administration of the program appears to have been worked out.

7: Fillmore County Soil Survey for \$65,000 to continue the state supported effort of LCMR. It appears that reallocation of some remaining \$'s in LCMR is more likely than a general fund allocation.

8: Chisago/Washington Co Jnt D 1 for \$200,000 to pay the costs incurred by the counties. Unique due to the urbanization and trying to use a agr law to address urban issues. Includes legislative ditch abandonment. This will allow the WMO to assume the water management responsibilities with a clear slate. If \$'s are not appropriated the counties need general authority to pay the costs from general levy.

9: Nonpt Engrg for \$330,000 to pay the full cost for the engineering teams. A hearing has been scheduled for agr committee and will likely be referred to hs env fin.

These "other" funding bills are not in the Gov's budget and therefore cannot be promoted by BWSR. However we are being asked to provide some background and history. Also we have identified some of these issues in our general budget narrative. Please familiarize yourselves with the narrative and will provide some perspective. Our priorities are the ones formally endorsed as part of the administration budget and we will stick to those that are unique to BWSR and those that are interagency cluster initiatives.

Legislative Policy

1: Agency voting has passed the house and the senate with slightly different language, however I expect the house to accept the senate language and be passed in the next couple weeks.

2: SWCD 6 to 4 year terms has passed the senate and is in the house elections committee. It will be amended to allow the existing 6 year terms to be completed. The bill will likely be heard again next week and then go to the full house for action.

3: Gift & donations is in the finance committees of both houses and will likely be part of the funding bills.

4: Ramsey/Washington swcd bill to have supervisors elected from districts rather than county wide have moved forward and will require a conference committee to resolve final issues.

That's all for now.

3-26-97

RE: Anderson Window Corp. request for final approval of sanitary sewer installation plan, as part of the overall site development plan for land purchased from the DNR in Bayport, MN.

Suggested Motion:

That final approval be granted for the sanitary sewer installation phase of the Anderson Window Corporation site development plan, subject to implementation of the erosion and sediment control recommendations outlined in the Washington SWCD memo dated March 25, 1997 and associated coordination with the DNR and MPCA. The Board authorizes staff to act on further issues as an outgrowth of this coordination.

Meeting Called to Order - Chairman Nielsen called the meeting to order at 9:07 a.m.

**
92-15 Adopt Agenda - Moved by Ogaard, seconded by Boulton, to adopt the agenda as presented. Affirmative: Nielsen, Ogaard, Boulton, Warner, Graba, Otte, Brooks, Jr., Harste, Rodning, Peterson, Rossman, and Clark. Opposed: None. Carried.

**
92-16 Approval of Minutes of January 22, 1992 - Moved by Warner, seconded by Otte, to approve the minutes of January 22, 1992, as circulated. Howard Peterson stated that he's concerned with the action on page five, motion #07-92, regarding the watershed districts legislation. This will be brought up again later in the meeting today. Chairman Nielsen stated that on page four, motion #05-92, regarding the Andersen Window Corporation land exchange with DNR, the motion should read, "that preliminary approval be granted for releasing marginal land from easement based on the preliminary site plan and the concurrence of DNR, subject to final approval by the BWSR of the site development plan developed by Andersen Window Corporation." Affirmative: Nielsen, Ogaard, Boulton, Warner, Graba, Otte, Brooks, Jr., Harste, Rodning, Peterson, Rossman, and Clark. Opposed: None. Carried.

Chairman Nielsen introduced Sharon K. Clark, newly appointed board member.

Chairman's Report - Chairman Nielsen reported that the Wetlands Heritage Advisory Committee (WHAC) met on February 13. Joan Miska was appointed chairperson of the wetlands rules working committee.

Chairman Nielsen reported that the two other BWSR appointments have not yet been made by the governor's office, but he suspects those will be in place by the March meeting.

Executive Director's Report - Ron Harnack reported on the wetlands rules working committee. Discussion followed on the public awareness that is needed on federal/state delineation of wetlands.

Ron gave a brief legislative update. Dwain Otte suggested that contacts need to be made with the legislative committee members and not just their staff.

Ron briefly updated the Board on the budget situation. The Board has not heard anything to date on the Governor's budget reduction. The governor's budget comes out March 5.

**
92-17 Ron discussed a wetlands funding option for the interim program. \$300,000 from challenge grants could be available to counties who accepted certification of the wetlands program. Ron stated that the management team discussed the issue and supported the option. Discussion followed. Moved by Boulton, seconded by Rossman, to proceed with the option of counties receiving the allocation for the wetland interim program. Affirmative: Nielsen, Ogaard, Boulton, Warner, Graba, Otte, Brooks, Jr., Harste, Rodning, Peterson, Rossman, and Clark. Opposed: None. Carried.



**MINNESOTA
SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS**

**WASHINGTON SOIL AND WATER
CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

1825 Curve Crest Blvd., Room 101
Stillwater, MN 55082
(612) 439-6361

March 25, 1997

Mr. Ken Hartung, City Administrator
City of Bayport
294 North Third Street
Bayport, MN 55003

FAXED AND MAILED

RE: Anderson Site Sanitary Sewer

Dear Ken:

Our office has received and reviewed the construction plans and specifications dated December 11, 1996, for the sanitary sewer system for the Anderson site, located in Section 10, Town 29 North, Range 20 West, City of Bayport. As part of our review we visited the site along with numerous other agency and city staff on Monday, March 24, 1997. Since our agency has no direct approval authority over the project, our review is being made on behalf of the Middle St. Croix Watershed Management Organization and the Board of Water and Soil Resources from which approvals must be obtained. While most of our comments could apply to the entire project corridor, this letter specifically address construction activity on the Anderson property. Based upon the site conditions observed and the proposed plans we would offer the following comments:

- 1) Maintain compliance with MPCA permit.

I understand that this permit has been applied for and the site has coverage under the MPCA's National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit program. As a reminder, that permit has specific requirements for temporary protection and permanent cover for exposed soil areas. These requirements are both slope and duration specific. Since much of the site work is located on steep slopes and or fragile soils in a shaded environment, these requirements will need to be closely followed to minimize soil erosion. If a straw mulch is used for temporary protection, it must be weed and seed free. (Also see comment #3)

- 2) Replace straw or hay "bale checks" with geotextile silt fence.

It has been our experience that straw or hay bales are not effective in reducing sediment from leaving construction sites. Due to the steep slopes and sandy soil conditions prevalent on this site, we recommend substituting heavy duty, geotextile silt fence in place of the straw or hay "bale checks". We believe that the spacing of these practices is appropriate, just simply replace bale checks with silt fence and keep the other existing silt fence as shown.

Mr. Ken Hartung
March 25, 1997
Page Two

- 3) Use weed and seed free mulch.

We understand that there is a concern about introducing non-native species onto the site from low quality mulch, therefore, any mulch used on the Anderson property should be clean straw that is weed and seed free.

- 4) Be prepared to add silt fence.

In the event of concentrated flow leaving the site, we would recommend that the contractor be prepared to place an additional row of silt fence in low areas to minimize sediment from leaving the site. Silt fence along the project perimeter and over the excavation areas should remain in place until the site is restored and stabilized.

- 5) Erosion control matting should be used on steep slopes.

The specifications require the mechanical anchoring of straw mulch on the contour, however, most equipment can not operate safely on slopes steeper than 4:1. Therefore, we recommend that all slopes steeper than 4:1 be covered with erosion control matting, such as a wood fiber blanket, instead of straw mulch.

- 6) Final site restoration specifications need DNR approval.

We recommend that the final seed specifications be approved by the DNR, however, it is important to remember that when negotiating the final site restoration seed mix that soil stabilization needs to be the first priority in order to minimize erosion. This is especially important for this site because of the steep slopes and fragile soils in a shaded environment. Based upon the discussions that occurred at the meeting in Bayport on Friday, March 21, 1997, and the during the site review, the DNR desires to establish native plant species back on the site. Since the proposed seed mix is MNDOT type 500, we would recommend considering MNDOT types 150 or 200. The seed type and source should be carefully coordinated with the appropriate staff at DNR.

I hope that these comments will assist you with the completion of the approval and construction phases of this project.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call me at 430-6826.

Sincerely,



Mark J. Doneux
Water Resource Specialist

Mr. Ken Hartung
March 25, 1997
Page Three

cc: Al Kean, Board of Water and Soil Resources
Doug Renier, Anderson Corporation
Barry Peters, Short Elliott and Hendrickson, Inc.
Barb Cobb, Middle St. Croix Watershed Management Organization
Kim Hennings, DNR Wildlife
Bob Djupstrom, DNR, State Natural Areas
Lloyd Kepple, Oppenheimer, Wolff & Donnelly
Carl Conney, Attorney General's Office
Jerry Larson, Landwehr Construction

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100 Fourth Avenue North
Bayport, MN 55003

Andersen Corporation

March 25, 1997

Ron Harnack
Executive Director
Board of Water and Soil Resources
1 West Water Street
Suite 200
St. Paul, MN 55107

Post-it® Fax Note	7671	Date	# of pages ▶
To	AL KEAN	From	DOUG RENIER
Co./Dept.		Co.	
Phone #		Phone #	430-5584
Fax #	297-5615	Fax #	

Dear Ron:

We are writing to request formal final approval by the Board of Water and Soil Resources for the construction of the City of Bayport/Andersen Corporation Sanitary Sewer.

The subject sewer layout substantially conforms to the Andersen Corporation Site Plans prepared in 1995 (dated 6/09/95). Those plans were reviewed in 1995 by Mr. Mark Doneux of the Washington Soil and Water Conservation District. Some minor adjustments in the sewer location have been made to respond to requests of various project reviewers. Attached is a revision to the alignment agreed upon during an on-site meeting on March 24, 1997. The sewer project plans specify erosion and sediment control requirements to be adhered to.

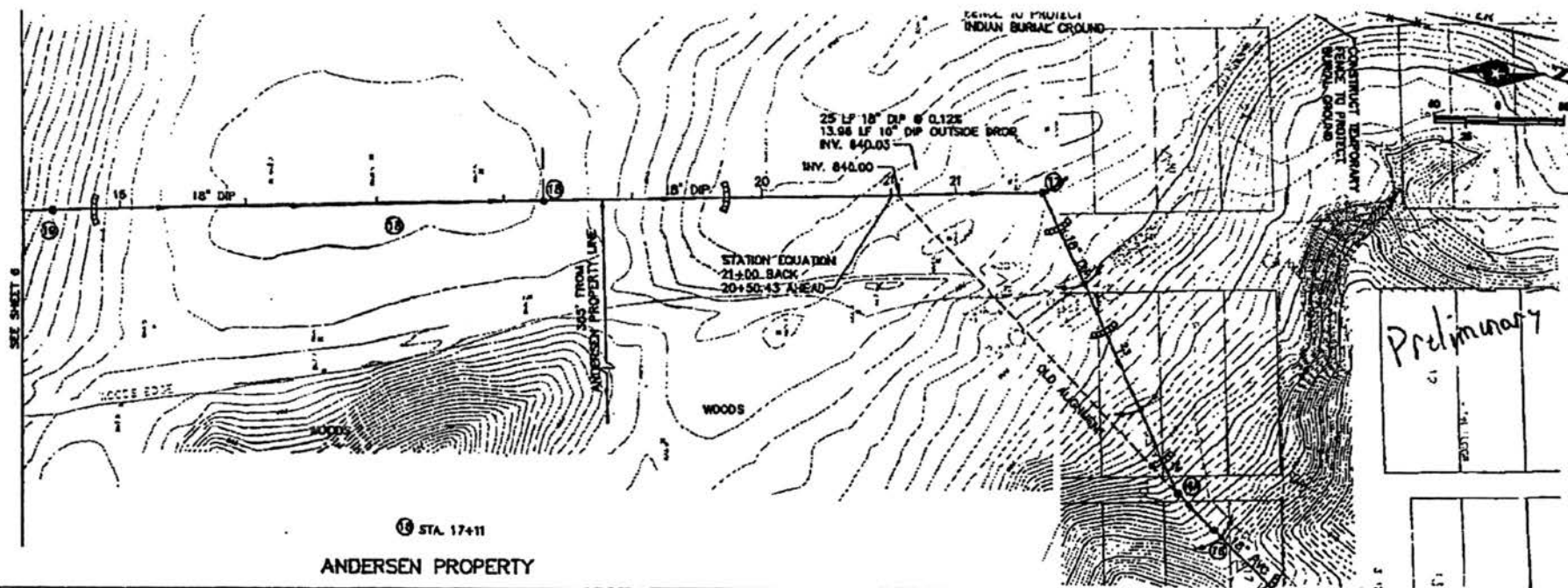
This city sewer extension is the first step to allow expansion of our manufacturing facilities to that site in the future. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact us at 430-5584.

Sincerely,

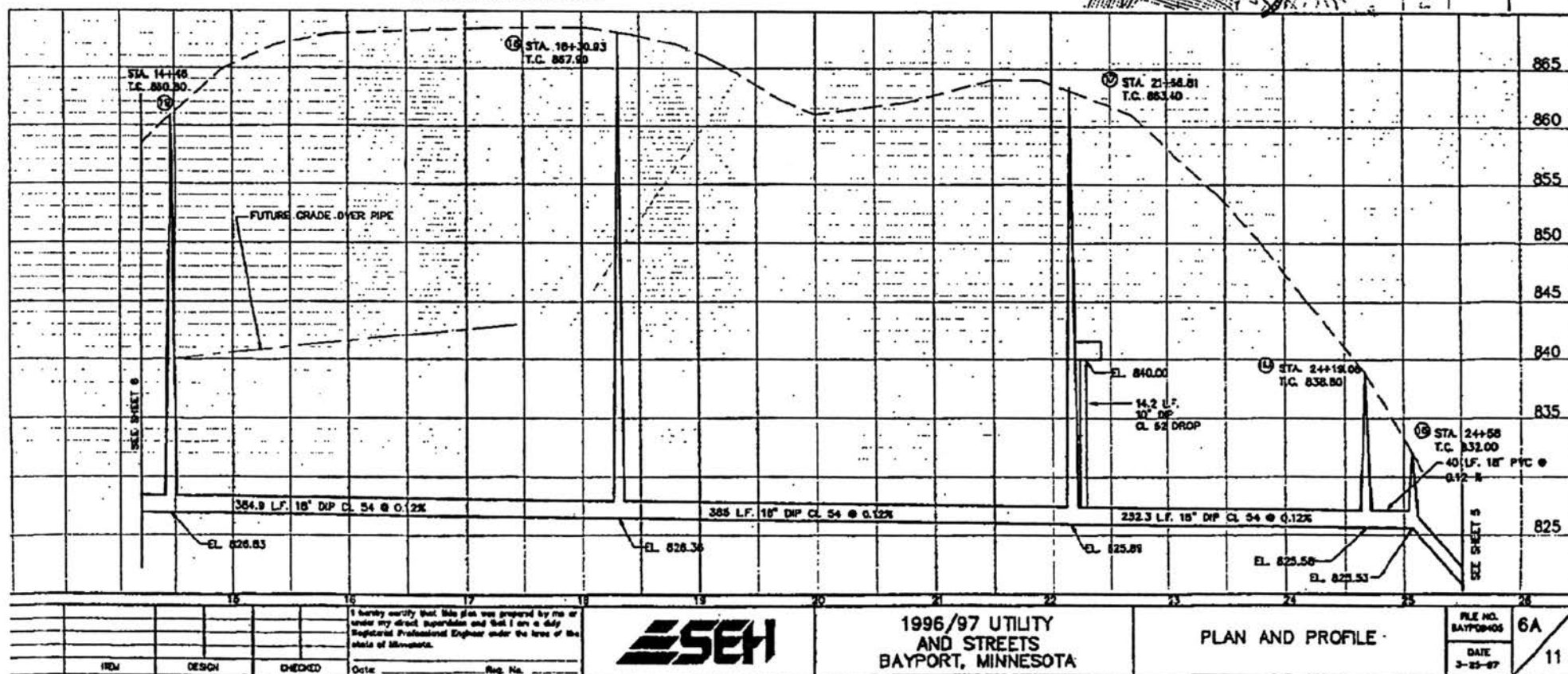
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Douglas Renier", is written over the typed name.

Douglas Renier P.E.
Manager of Facility Engineering
Andersen Corporation

cc: Al Kean-Chief Engineer-Board of Water and Soil Resources
Jerry Larson-Andersen Corporation
Ken Hartung-City of Bayport
Barry Peters-Short Elliott Hendrickson
Mark Doneux-Washington Soil and Water Conservation District
Carl Jensen-Oppenheimer, Wolff, Donnelly



ANDERSEN PROPERTY



I hereby certify that this plan was prepared by me or under my direct supervision and that I am a duly Registered Professional Engineer under the laws of the state of Minnesota.

Date: _____ Reg. No. _____



1996/97 UTILITY
AND STREETS
BAYPORT, MINNESOTA

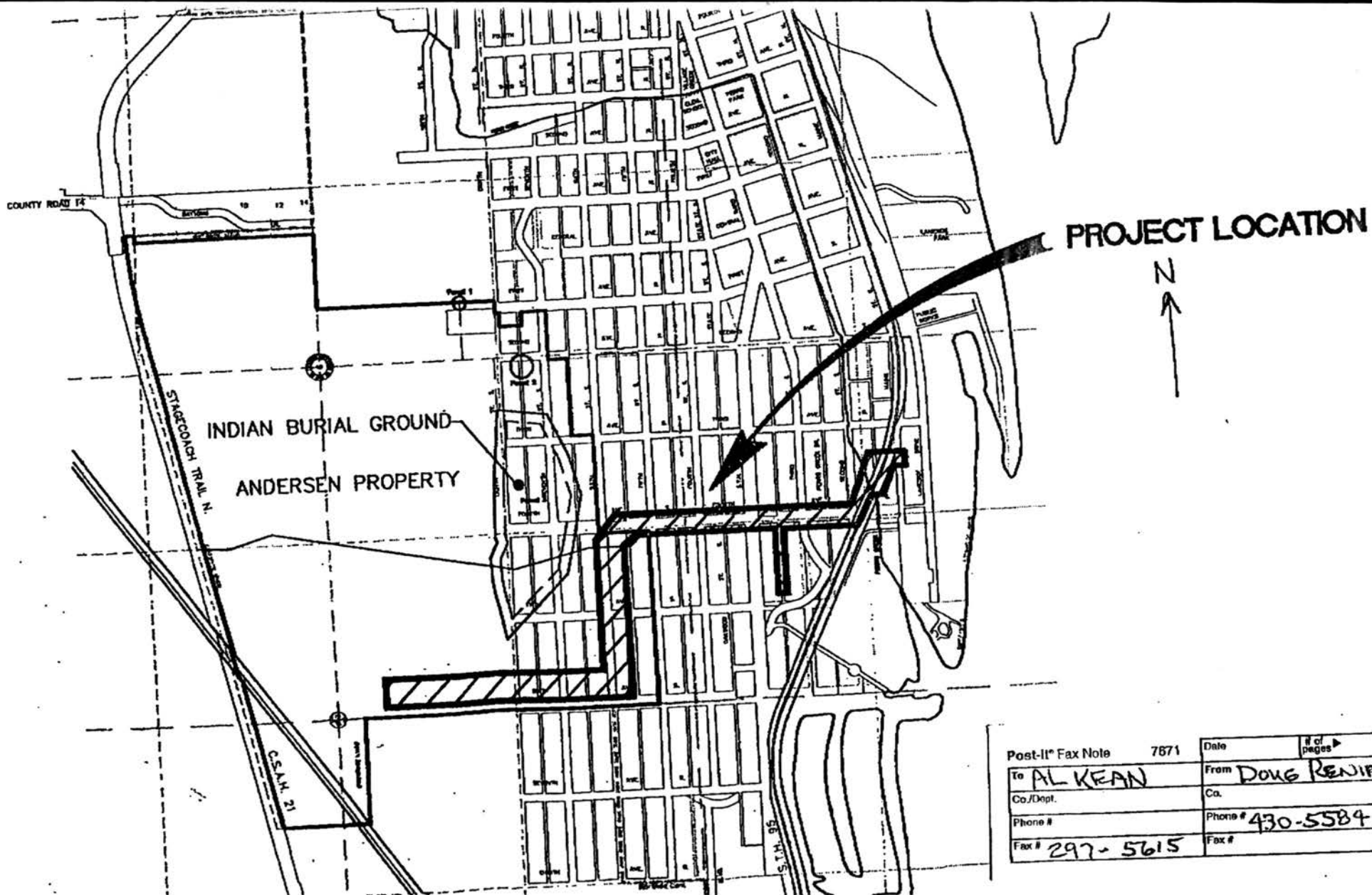
PLAN AND PROFILE

FILE NO.
BAYPORT405

DATE
3-25-97

6A

11



Post-It® Fax Note 7871		Date	# of pages
To	AL KEAN	From	DOUG RENIER
Co./Dept.		Co.	
Phone #		Phone #	430-5584
Fax #	297-5615	Fax #	

Abstract

For Presentation at the Minnesota Water '96 Convention

Title: Wetlands Management Planning Using Geographic Information System Technology and the MPCA Guidance for Evaluating Urban Storm Water and Snowmelt Runoff Impacts to Wetlands

Presenter: Clifton J. Aichinger, Administrator
Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed District

Background

In 1990 the District was in the process of planning for the completion of several major water quality improvements in the Phalen watershed. These improvements were identified in the Phalen Chain of Lakes Watershed Management Plan (1987). These improvements were located in existing wetlands due to land availability constraints. When the District staff began discussions with the involved state and federal agencies, they were met with strong opposition to the concept of altering the existing wetlands to provide surface water runoff treatment. These agency staff believed the wetlands involved were of high value in their existing condition and should not be altered by excavation or by the discharge of urban storm water without mitigation of the acreage and type of wetlands that would be changed to a different type. Replacement of the wetland types plus the cost of the project was not possible. The District felt that the goal of protection of the downstream resource (the Phalen Chain of Lakes) outweighed the significance of the one wetland basin. The agencies demanded to know if the specific wetland type was rare in the District and whether the alteration would be a significant resource loss in the watershed.

A common message from the state and federal agencies was the need to have a good "plan" for wetland management. Since the content and process for such a plan did not exist at the time, the District requested and received a grant from the U.S. EPA to prepare a first phase wetland plan for the Phalen Watershed. Through this plan the District developed a inventory methodology and GIS mapping system. The plan provided a complete statistical analysis of the existing and historical wetland resource.

The WCA was also amended in 1994 to allow for the preparation of wetland management plans that may modify the strict provisions of the Act. The District believed it would be appropriate to complete a Wetland Management Plan as part of the District's second generation Watershed Management Plan to address the needs requested by the state and federal agencies and to meet the intent of the WCA provision. The objectives of this process are as follows:

- To provide an accurate data base and GIS record of existing wetlands.
- To assess the function and value of each wetland basin in the district.
- To develop a process for local and District management of the wetland resource.
- To obtain general permit approval of the plan for local implementation without the need for state or federal approvals of activities included within the plan.

Process

The District began its air photo and field inventory, GIS mapping, and function and value assessment of each wetland basin in 1994. The method of determining the management approach for each basin was not clear in the initial stages of the study. However, through the District's involvement in the MPCA urban stormwater and wetlands study, a process was identified that appeared reasonable to apply. This plan is based on the approach identified in the report Guidance for Evaluating Urban Storm Water and Snowmelt Runoff Impacts to Wetlands, prepared by the State of Minnesota Storm Water Advisory Group in May 1995. The Storm Water Advisory Group was formed and staffed by the MPCA. Preliminary draft versions were used for the majority of this wetland planning process.

The premise of the guidance document was as follows:

- Wetlands can be affected, even destroyed, by hydrologic changes.
- Hydrologic changes can be caused by direct discharges and outlet changes, but also by indirect impacts from development with impervious surfaces.
- The amount of damage caused by hydrologic changes is directly related to the sensitivity of the wetland vegetation.
- Highly sensitive wetlands should avoid hydrologic changes.
- Less sensitive wetlands can sustain some hydrologic modification.
- A systematic plan that avoids, minimizes, and mitigates the broad spectrum of potential impacts is the only viable option for sustainable wetland protection, maintenance, and management.
- The local wetland management plan should seek to maintain the existing wetland conditions and allow for natural ecological change.

The Storm Water Advisory Group concluded that all discharge of all storm water to wetlands should not be prohibited. Wetlands require storm water for their existence. However, changes in the quality or quantity of storm water discharges can effect or even destroy a wetlands ability to support aquatic life and other sensitive functions. The analysis concluded that the type of wetland is the primary indicator of the wetland sensitivity and that a planning process that adequately addressed wetland sensitivity will not allow storm water discharges that destroy the existing nature of the wetland, including its functions and values.

The approach recommended by the Storm Water Advisory Group involves developing a plan which contains an inventory of wetlands by vegetation type which can then be placed into a sensitivity group. The sensitivity groups defined the levels of protection needed to maintain the integrity of the vegetative community. The more sensitive the wetland vegetative community the more stringent the controls on hydrologic alterations.

The District wetland management planning process included the following steps:

1. Inventory
2. Mapping
3. Data Management
4. Historical analysis/trends
5. Function & Value Assessment
6. Vegetative susceptibility classification
7. Define wetland condition
8. Local significance determination
9. Existing and proposed hydrologic conditions
10. Identify consistency with vegetative management standards
11. Management category determination
12. Develop management standards (buffers, stormwater pre treatment) for each category.
13. Identify mitigation requirements for wetland impacts of stormwater or anticipated development and potential wetland replacement or mitigation sites

These steps were slightly modified from those proposed by the Storm Water Advisory Group guidance document. These adjustments were made to better conform with the resource and technical conditions in the District.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

(THIS MATERIAL DOES NOT PERTAIN TO THE MEETING TODAY)

1. Board Member Update.
2. Letter to Ervin Windschitl, Brown SWCD, dated March 18, 1997, regarding legislation to change supervisor terms of office from six to four years.
3. Letters to agency heads regarding state review and comment period of Martin, Mahnomen, Cottonwood and Rice Counties Comprehensive Local Water Plan Update.
4. Letter from City of Richfield regarding hearing request.
5. Notice of Filing of Watershed Management Plan for the Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed District



Board Member Update

March 1997

Our mission:

to manage water
and soil resources
and to help all
citizens be
stewards of our
irreplaceable
natural
resources.

Southern Region

Board Conservationists (BCs) recently began the installation/training process of the local government unit (LGU) Annual Reporting System (LARS). Counties and SWCDs have initially stated that the package looks good and should be beneficial to them throughout the year as well as at year-end reporting time.

BCs have been busy with review and approval recommendations for Natural Resource Block Grant (NRBG) applications and reports. In general, this year's applications and reports are in better shape than those of 1996.

The Renville SWCD/County technical evaluation panel (TEP) met with a landowner to mediate a violation. The meeting did not start out very well, but resulted in a replacement plan satisfactory to all.

BC Tom Fischer received a request from McLeod County asking how to bring closure to the Bullhead Lake situation. (This court case was found in favor of the state.) Tom, with

review approval provided by John Jaschke of BWSR and Matt Seltzer of the Minnesota Attorney General's Office, drafted a letter of response to McLeod County. As of yet, we have not received word from McLeod County.

Marshall BC Tabor Hoek reports a successful riparian buffer project undertaken in the Heron Lake watershed. Tabor proposed a block of RIM funding specified for narrow buffers, the Heron Lake Watershed District (HLWD) added 30 percent cash to the payment rate to achieve near market value rates, the DNR wildlife managers talked to landowners, and the SWCDs managed the sign-ups. This was all accomplished in 30 days. The final outcome was 10 easements totaling 150 acres and resulting in 7.5 miles of stream buffered. The BWSR and HLWD have committed to sponsor the program again next year with marketing to start in June. It is also anticipated that all local and state contributions to the project will be matched with federal funds from the North American Wetland Conservation Act (NAWCA).

The southern region received 211 RIM Reserve applications from 38 SWCDs.

Rochester Wetland Conservation Act (WCA) activities included a number of technical evaluation panel (TEP) meetings and the participation in the early stages of environmental review for a major expansion of the Rochester Airport.

The southern region received 211 RIM Reserve applications from 38 SWCDs during the recent sign-up. BCs recommended 124 applications for funding. Many quality applications continue to be submitted by SWCDs, mainly covering wetland restorations and riparian protection.

Engineering and Technical Services

Lakeshore Engineering

As the deadline for special project cost-share applications approaches, North Shore SWCDs have been doing some prioritization of the 50 or so potential shoreline stabilization projects for which Gene Clark, BWSR lakeshore engineer, has provided feasibility studies and cost estimates during the past year. Gene also assisted the SWCDs with the prioritization efforts. Future special project cost-share availability is a concern as the Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts (MASWCD) Areas adopt the area allocation option that keeps roll-over funds within the areas and, therefore, not available for statewide competitive special project funding.

Gene and Brad Matlack, part-time lakeshore engineering technician, have been very busy since the first of the year preparing project plans and

specifications for the upcoming construction season. They have also been providing technical assistance for the associated permit applications. In the process, Brad is moving back up the learning curve for using computer-aided drafting and design (CADD) software, after having been away from it for some time. BWSR, the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and the SWCD joint powers agreement (JPA) staff do most all of our project plans via CADD these days.

Sonia Jacobsen of the NRCS is currently updating a design manual (TR-2) for lakeshore stabilization in collaboration with Gene and Al Kean, chief engineer, as well as several other NRCS staff. Al had served as a reference for the first version of this design manual about 10 years ago when he was working for the Corps of Engineers. John Brach, NRCS state conservation engineer, is looking into having this design manual become a national document for the NRCS. Gene will be helping instruct at a related partnership training course in Area III next month.

Gene and Lake Superior SWCD staff recently met with MnDOT staff to discuss potential rock availability from planned road improvements along the North Shore in the next few years. Gene has also been communicating with Barr Engineering about a client of theirs who may have rock for sale. Locations and quantity are the primary questions that are being asked at this time. We always try to keep watch for cheap rock.

Itasca SWCD is working on an erosion control video (with funding

from a BWSR Challenge Grant) for which Gene has been providing some technical assistance.

Technical Coordination and Training

We've been working on a great deal of technical coordination in the past couple of months regarding feedlot and manure management issues, CADD hardware and software, design standards and methods, workload priorities, etc. Here's a brief summary.

Four interagency workshops were held around the state in January entitled "Manure Management: An Update on State and Federal Programs and Policies". These workshops were sponsored by the interagency Feedlot and Manure Management Coordinating Committee for Information and Education, which includes the Extension Service and has been around for about a year and a half now. A total of more than 300 people with a wide range of interests attended. Al was the presenter for the BWSR.

An interorganizational committee for feedlot and manure management research also met recently to help identify and prioritize research needs. This committee is becoming more comfortable with coordination, but has room for growth. Al and/or Justin represent the BWSR.

A semiannual meeting of NRCS, SWCD JPA and BWSR engineers was held in early February to share technical and policy information. A commercial manure pumper and pump supplier were also invited to share

their perspectives regarding the design and operation of manure storage facilities. BWSR and SWCD JPA engineers also met separately to discuss current issues, directions and coordination.

The partnership CADD Coordination Subcommittee met recently to advance our efforts to maintain compatibility while advancing our expertise in using CADD. Tom Wenzel, design engineer, is co-chair of this subcommittee of the Technical Advisory Committee, and Jim Luniewski, BWSR's lead CADD technician, is a key member. Standardization and simplification of CADD and related total station surveying procedures is a major focus. Development of partnership CADD training methods is another area of focus. Justin Jeffery, training and design engineer, is helping lead this effort. We have found that outside vendors cannot provide the application-specific training that partnership engineers and technicians need. User groups is a training method that is happening to some extent now and we are continuing to promote. Other training methods are being explored.

Al recently negotiated a deal with Eagle Point, our partnership CADD software provider, to sell additional software directly to the SWCD JPAs for a very reduced price. Three individual SWCDs heard of this deal and asked about getting in on it. Al worked with Eagle Point to extend the deal to all SWCDs through the end of April 1997. It appears that individual SWCDs are beginning to be ready to go high tech with CADD for technical assistance.

Justin has been making the rounds

It appears that individual SWCDs are beginning to be ready to go high tech with CADD for technical assistance.

The technical training initiative is moving ahead to improve the Partnership Training Database and reinvigorate field staff and area training committee involvement...

visiting all of the SWCD JPA offices and staff to listen to specific concerns, share experiences and provide some one-on-one training. He has also responded to numerous telephone and e-mail requests for technical assistance from JPA staff.

Al and Justin are working with the PCA and NRCS on a number of feedlot technical guidance and policy documents for such things as the karst region of southeast Minnesota, earthen basins, concrete basins, land application, filter strips, and more. We're trying to ensure consistency and practicality of the technical and regulatory policies. Substantial coordination and collaboration is needed.

Al and John Brach met with the MASWCD board in February to discuss an update regarding technical approval authority, a partnership technical experts list and technical training that was sent to all SWCD, NRCS and BWSR offices.

Al also recently participated in a meeting called by the NRCS and Land Improvement Contractors Association to discuss the potential for contractor certification for design,

layout and checkout of conservation practices. Attendees included contractors, farmers, MASWCD president and vice president, NRCS and SWCD technical staff. This was an exploration meeting. We'll keep you posted.

The technical training initiative is moving ahead to improve the Partnership Training Database, reinvigorate field staff and area training committee involvement and make use of the engineering course descriptions and catalog that Justin prepared last year. Joe Wiltsey, BWSR/NRCS Training Coordinator, has been a great addition to this initiative. Joe, Justin and Al are preparing a dog and pony show to present at area staff meetings.

Conservation Easements

Below are the final numbers for the 1996-01 sign-up.

The limited duration are 20 year easements in Northwest Minnesota authorized by the Board to address land damaged by severe floods in 1996. The total acreage includes 1,416 acres of expiring Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) contract

1996-01 Conservation Easement Sign-Up

<u>TYPE</u>	<u>NO.</u>	<u>COST</u>	<u>ACRES</u>
Wetland Restoration	36	\$1,626,577	1,279
Marginal Ag.	29	\$818,977	1,538
Riparian	91	\$2,522,269	2,858
PWP	15	\$432,071	727
Other	2	\$47,168	169
Limited Duration	6	\$36,390	126
TOTALS	180	5,483,453	6,698

acres and 144 acres of 10-year RIM Reserve easements that expire in 1997.

Tom Wenzel, design engineer, Jim Luniewski, engineering technician, and Jeff Hedtke, wetland restoration technician, collaborated with each other, BCs and SWCD staff to review the wetland restoration easement applications to ensure restoration and land rights feasibility and verify eligibility before funding. This review procedure substantially helps to avoid later cancellation. Tom, Jim and Jeff have also been busy preparing construction plans and specifications for wetland restorations to be implemented during the upcoming construction season.

Steve Miller, realty specialist; Polly Remick, easement processing specialist; and Al completed the legal descriptions and Exhibit As for the Grass Lake easements during the past couple of months. These were some of the most complex ownerships and legal descriptions we've dealt with in a long time.

The Minnesota River Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) proposal seems to be moving ahead. The first meeting to develop an agreement regarding Food Service Administration (FSA) and BWSR collaboration procedures was held on March 20. This interagency agreement appears to be key to further progress on USDA collaboration.

Tim Fredbo, easement program manager, and others are working with the FSA to resolve the critical issue

of expiring 10-year RIM Reserve parcels. It seems that the FSA is unwilling to consider lands that had a cropping history before being put in a RIM Reserve easement as having a crop history for CRP eligibility. Governor Carlson has sent a letter to the Secretary of Agriculture, and Ron Harnack recently reviewed this issue with USDA officials and the Minnesota congressional delegation in Washington. We will continue to push for speedy resolution of this issue.

Northern Region

Regional staff get involved in a variety of things this time of year as the "meeting season" starts to wane and people have one eye on nicer weather and the field work that will follow. In now particular order, here's a rundown of some of the highlights from the "Land of the Jack Pine".

Dan Ekland, new BWSR wetland specialist, has begun to hit his stride as he has been out on several projects with north region BCs. Of particular note is the pre-settlement wetland reclassification in Wadena County and the comprehensive wetland management planning process in Cass. Dan is establishing his own migratory habits as he begins to make trips to St. Paul to deal with WCA administrative duties.

Duluth BC Mark Nelson is cooking up a scheme with the PCA to propose a North Shore Clean Water Partnership Loan project. The purpose of this project will be to access loan dollars for Lake Superior shoreline erosion control projects. These projects are often spendy, and spreading the cost out through a loan program offers

The Minnesota River Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) proposal seems to be moving ahead.

The Great Lakes Commission recently approved two (out of three) grant proposals Gene submitted for some low cost and demonstration approaches to shoreline erosion control.

great potential to make it affordable for landowners.

Mark also reports that the coastal zone management (CZM) process is alive and well on the north shore in spite of some reluctance from the locals. The BWSR model is being touted as a model of how a "Coastal Council" might work.

Gene continues to plug away seeking grant dollars for erosion control around Lake Superior. The Great Lakes Commission recently approved two (out of three) grant proposals Gene submitted for some low cost and demonstration approaches to shoreline erosion control. Each proposal received approximately \$15,000.

Jim Lemmerman, staff forester, has been working with Wilkin SWCD to put together a proposal for a demonstration site for windbreak thinning land pruning. Jim has submitted a proposal to the national Agroforestry Center.

LARS (LGU Annual Reporting System) has been hitting the street as BCs statewide continue to distribute and train clientele on the use of the program. So far, so good--no major glitches. Improvements will continue to be made this year as we respond to comments from our clientele.

Brainerd BC Pete Waller reports that our new computer guys, Matt Heldstab and Tim Ogg, were able to provide him with some land use information for the Chippewa River Watershed. Locals were impressed with the quality of the information and stated that this

type of info had been hard for them to round up in the past. The Chippewa River group will use this land use information with other resource information to assess the resource management needs in the watershed with an eye on accessing implementation dollars down the road.

BC Dale Krystosek reports a new initiative to explore the potential restoration of a portion of the Otter Tail River in Wilkin County. Key components of the new initiative would be exploring the feasibility of reestablishing a natural meander in the river, and the use of bonus RIM payments to lock up the riparian areas into permanent easements. This project was identified in the updated Wilkin County Water Plan. The SWCD and county are working cooperatively on it.

Brian Dwight, Bemidji BC, has been talking to Area I NRCS folks about the possibility of combining the BWSR district evaluation process with the NRCS office appraisal process. This team approach could bring many resources to the SWCD that wants to take a hard look at its operation. They will be trying out the combined process in Pennington SWCD this spring.

Dan Steward, Brainerd BC, has been busy building BWSR relationships with the Minnesota Lakes Association (MLA). Dan attended a recent MLA board meeting in Brainerd. Dan summarized BWSR legislative initiatives and helped build support for the Lakeshed proposal. MLA and MASWCD have been working closely to lobby for this proposal.



One West Water Street
Suite 200
St. Paul, MN 55107
(612) 296-3767
Fax (612) 297-5615

Field Offices

Northern Region:

394 S. Lake Avenue
Room 403
Duluth, MN 55802
(218) 723-4752
Fax (218) 723-4794

3217 Bemidji Avenue N.
Bemidji, MN 56601
(218) 755-4235
Fax (218) 755-4201

217 S. 7th Street
Suite 202
Brainerd, MN 56401-3660
(218) 828-2383
Fax (218) 828-6036

Southern Region:

261 Highway 15 S.
New Ulm, MN 56073-8915
(507) 359-6074
Fax (507) 359-6018

40--16th Street SE
Suite A
Rochester, MN 55904
(507) 285-7458
Fax (507) 280-2875

Box 267
1400 E. Lyon Street
Marshall, MN 56258
(507) 537-6060
Fax (507) 537-6363

Metro Region:

One West Water Street
Suite 250
St. Paul, MN 55107
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March 18, 1997

Ervin Windschitl, Chair
Brown Soil and Water
Conservation District (SWCD)
300 - 2nd Avenue Southwest
Sleepy Eye, MN 56085

Dear Chairman Windschitl:

Thank you for writing myself and Barbara Cobb regarding the legislation to change supervisor terms of office from six years to four years. Chairperson Cobb and I discussed your letter and she asked that I respond to you for both of us. We appreciate you communicating your concern about the process; that is, why did our agency pursue this legislation when the Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts (MASWCD) voted it down at their last annual convention? We also appreciate that the majority of your district board is not opposed to four year terms.

The decision for the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) to pursue this legislation has been several years in the making. As you know, the length of term for SWCD supervisor has consistently been on the list of resolutions voted on at MASWCD annual conventions over the years. Several years ago the vote was usually very resoundingly against changing to a four year term. BWSR respected that position of the MASWCD and proposed no changes. In recent years the MASWCD has been more evenly split on the issue. Preballoting before the annual convention revealed a nearly even split, with the slight majority in opposition to the change to four year terms. The voting at the meeting was also very close. The more even split on the issue within the MASWCD was one factor in our decision.

Additionally, BWSR has been increasingly involved in publicizing SWCD supervisor elections in the past few years. This has come about because of the increasing numbers of requests made of our offices for information regarding the office of supervisor, its responsibilities, how to file and "what is an SWCD?". These requests are coming from citizens who are interested in becoming involved, various interest groups and organizations, and the press to name a few. This interest is great to see. It reflects well on the current activities and accomplishments of SWCDs across the state. More people than ever are interested in what you are doing. Even so, while more people seem to be interested in SWCDs, when they have considered becoming involved by

Chairman Windschitl

March 18, 1997

Page Two

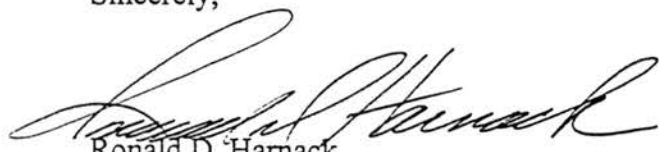
filing for office, a significant number have balked when informed that the term of office is six years. Six years is a long time. Longer than any other elected office in this state except for U.S. Senator and judges. It has gotten to the point that a significant number of people are not filing for the office because of the length of term. From a statewide perspective we think that SWCDs are losing out on some good leadership because of the length of terms.

Our statutory responsibilities require our agency to develop approaches to increase awareness of soil and water resources problems and awareness of opportunities for local governments to solve them. Part of accomplishing this is to work with all districts to publicize opportunities for good, qualified individuals to get involved by filing for the office of supervisor. When we considered that the MASWCD had become nearly evenly split on the issue, together with our recent feedback from potential candidates for the office, we felt it was time to move this legislation. The Governor's office and the majority of the legislature to date have agreed.

In summary, we did not pursue this legislation without careful thought and consideration of the MASWCD position. We had several discussions with the MASWCD about the issue and kept them informed of the status of our initiative to reduce the term of office to four years. We always prefer to move on issues which have the full support of MASWCD but, in this case, felt that moving ahead with the legislation was a "good government" initiative whose time had come.

Again, thank you for taking the time to discuss this and to write us concerning your thoughts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Ronald D. Harnack", written in a cursive style.

Ronald D. Harnack
Executive Director

cc: Barbara Cobb
MASWCD
Chris Hughes
Jeff Nielsen

**Board of Water and Soil Resources
Metro Region**

Internal Memorandum

March 19, 1997

To: Jim Heartel

From: Bruce Sandstrom

Bruce S.

Re: Richfield Hearing Request

As we discussed I am herewith transmitting the March 14, 1997 letter from Richfield requesting a hearing on the Minnehaha plan. The official request was sent to me and was received on March 18 and so I believe it is a valid request that we must begin to process. Based on input from Matt Seltzer, I believe that if there is a hearing it should be before the DRC. If so, the DRC chair should be consulted to keep her informed of the situation and involved as she and Matt S. feel appropriate.

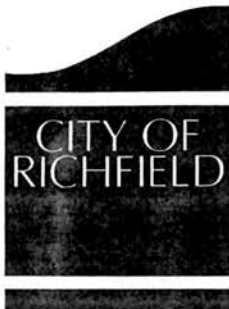
As you know, the city indicated that they are willing to meet and discuss and resolve the issues in an effort to avoid a hearing if possible. Also, since a hearing might result if negotiations fail, I hope that our legal council participates in any and all meetings. Please advise Metro Region of any meetings and define what assistance you might need from us.

Encl

cc Ron Harnack
Dave Johnson
Barb Cobb / *Kathy R.*
Phil Belfiori
Jim Birkholz

h:hear-req.mem

*mf - Please
include in the
Board info packet
the request for
hearing.
idh
3/20*



RECEIVED

MAR 18 1997

City Manager
James D. Prosser

Mayor
Martin J. Kirsch

Council
Susan Rosenberg
Michael Sandahl
Kristal Stokes
Russ Susag

March 14, 1997

Mr. Bruce Sandstrom, Supervisor
Minnesota Board of Water & Soil Resources
1 West Water Street, Suite 200
St. Paul, MN 55107

Re: Review of Minnehaha Creek Watershed District Storm Water Management Plan

Dear Mr. Sandstrom:

We have recently received notice that the State Board of Water & Soil Resources is requesting comments concerning the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District plan from interested parties. The City has concerns regarding the content of the plan that were not addressed during the comment period. Please find outlined below an outline of the City's concerns:

1. Earlier in the comment period, the City requested that the District amend the watershed plan to address an anticipated change in the Minnehaha Creek Watershed boundary in the vicinity of Richfield Lake. No response to this request was received.
2. The City requested that water resource management activity, such as dredging, be allowed to be permitted by the City once its watershed management plan was approved by the District. No formal reaction to this concern was provided during the plan review process.
3. The capital improvement section of the Minnehaha Creek Plan has identified over \$15 million worth of projects to be undertaken in the next five years. A review of the proposed projects indicates it is highly questionable that the anticipated benefits associated with these projects could even approach their estimated cost. Furthermore, there is virtually no documentation that provides adequate justification for incorporating any of these projects into a capital improvement program. Most proposed projects are described in a single paragraph and there is no significant discussion relative to the benefits of these projects. Furthermore, the City of Richfield is extremely concerned that the costs associated with these projects will be spread out to unbenefitted areas through ad valorem tax increases.
4. The Minnehaha Creek Watershed District has had an ongoing program in the past and appears intent on continuing a program in the future regarding permitting a wide variety of activities within the watershed district. We believe this permitting program is set up in such a manner that it routinely imposes requirements that are both redundant from a city planning and city development review perspective, adds

The Urban Hometown

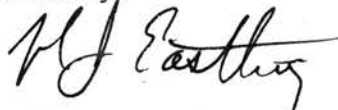
Mr. Bruce Sandstrom
Supervisor
Minnesota Board of Water & Soil Resources
St. Paul, MN
March 14, 1997
Page 2

considerable review time and cost associated with securing these redundant permits, and in the past, has obstructed efforts of the City of Richfield to properly manage water resources. (In the past five years, the City of Richfield has expended over \$100,000 in addressing permit-related issues that were brought up by the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District.) Furthermore, private development within the City has been discouraged by being subject to significant added costs and delay at a time when the City of Richfield is attempting to maintain a livable city and encourage investment in the core areas.

Based on the above, the City of Richfield hereby requests that the Board of Water & Soil Resources hold a public hearing regarding approval of this watershed management plan. At this hearing, the City of Richfield will provide additional information that we believe further supports concerns that the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District Plan will not provide cost-effective water resource management services to its constituents, and that implementation of this plan as currently drafted will further accelerate the problems we have outlined in this letter.

Thank you for your attention and we look forward to further discussions with the Board on this matter in the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "M. J. Eastling", written in a cursive style.

Michael J. Eastling, P.E.
City Engineer
City of Richfield

Ron

**Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources
One West Water Street
Suite 200
St. Paul, Minnesota 55107**

In the Matter of Reviewing the Watershed
Management Plan for the
Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed District
(Minnesota Statutes Section 103B.231, Subd. 9)

NOTICE OF FILING OF WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PLAN

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Watershed Management Plan (Plan) was filed with the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (Board), the Metropolitan Council, the Department of Natural Resources, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, the Minnesota Department of Health, Minnesota Department of Agriculture, Ramsey County, Washington County, Ramsey Soil and Water Conservation District, Washington Soil and Water Conservation District the Cities of Little Canada, Maplewood, North St. Paul, St. Paul, Vadnais Heights, White Bear Lake, Landfall, Oakdale, Woodbury, by the Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed District (District) pursuant to the requirements of the Metropolitan Surface Water Management Act (Minnesota Statutes Sections 103B.201 to 103B.251) (Act).

The District encompasses approximately 41 square miles of land in Ramsey and 12 square miles in Washington County. It includes land in the Cities listed above.

The Plan sets forth an explanation and analysis of the Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed District. Specific sections in the plan include the watershed inventory and problems; goals and policies; management priorities; regulatory controls and criteria; capital improvement program; and standards for the development of municipal water management plans. Specific topics in the implementation section include management programs for water quantity and quality, wetlands, shoreland, groundwater, and soil erosion and sediment control

The Board must review the Plan for conformance with the requirements of Minnesota Statutes Section 103D and the Act. The Board may approve all or parts of the Plan which are in conformance with state law.

The Board invites written comment on the proposed Plan. All comments and information received by the Board will be considered before a decision is made on the Plan. Any person who objects to the proposed Plan may submit a written request for a hearing to the Board of Water and Soil Resources. If no written requests for a hearing are received within 30 days of the second publication of this Notice, the Board will consider all information and comments received and will make a decision on the Plan at a future regular meeting of the Board. If a request for a hearing is received, the Board's scope of review will be limited to the plan's consistency with applicable rule and law and not the merits of any particular project or program.

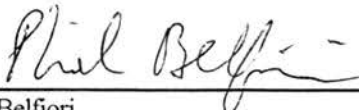
The Plan may be viewed at the Ramsey-Washington Metro WD office at 1902 Co. Rd. B, Maplewood, (612) 777-3665.

Additional information regarding the Plan and project is available from Mr. Steve Klien, Barr Engineering, Co., Mpls., Minnesota, (612) 832-2809.

For further information, contact Phil Belfiori at the Board of Water and Soil Resources, at 297-8026.

Dated in St. Paul, Minnesota this **6th day of March 1997.**

MINNESOTA BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES



Phil Belfiori
BWSR - Metro Board Conservationist



March 10, 1997

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2515 East Seventh Avenue
North St. Paul, MN 55109

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Fax (507) 537-6368

Metro Region:

One West Water Street
Suite 250
St. Paul, MN 55107
(612) 282-9969
Fax (612) 297-5615

RE: Notice of Filing of Watershed Management Plan for the Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed District

Attn: Legal Advertisement - Barb

Enclosed is a Notice of Filing of Watershed Management Plan (PLAN) for the above referenced Watershed District. The Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) received the plan dated February, 1997, and will be reviewing the PLAN pursuant to the requirements of the Metropolitan Surface Water Management Act.

Please print the enclosed notice (previously received by fax) in the Legal Advertisement section of the Ramsey County Review and the Washington County Review on March 12, 1997 and March 19, 1997. After each publication of the notice, please forward Affidavits of Publication to the BWSR metro office, to the attention of Char Sokatch.

A Department Purchase Order is enclosed for payment of the publication. Please sign and return the Purchase Order, with your invoice, to the BWSR central office.

If you have any questions or need additional information please contact me at 282-9969.

Thank you.

Sincerely,
Board of Water and Soil Resources

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Char Sokatch".

Char Sokatch
Metro Region Secretary

enclosure

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H:\USR\CHAR\NOTICE.LTR

4/23/97

**BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES
CONFERENCE ROOM, ONE WEST WATER STREET
ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA 55107
APRIL 23, 1997**

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Kathleen Roer, Barbara Cobb, Barbara Uppgaard, Allan Oehlke, Ginny Imholte, Darrell Bruggman, Tim Hvidsten, LeRoy Stensgaard, Jim Dahlvang, Marv Tripp, Dwain Otte

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Ted Lovdahl, Jr.
Jim Rossman
Glenn Annexstad

AGENCY MEMBERS PRESENT:

Jim Anderson, Minnesota Extension Service
Marge Velky, Pollution Control Agency
Kim Benson-Johnson, Department of Health
Paul Burns, Department of Agriculture
Wayne Edgerton, Department of Natural Resources

OTHERS PRESENT:

D'Wayne DeZiel, Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts (MASWCD)
Ray Bohn, Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts (MAWD)
Franklin Denn, Minnesota Association of Townships (MAT)
Roger Mussetter, Natural Resources Conservation Services (NRCS)

STAFF PRESENT:

Ron Harnack, Jim Birkholz, Greg Larson, John Jaschke, Marybeth Block, Al Kean, Jim Haertel, Jim Lemmerman, Tim Ogg, Mary Jo Anderson

BWSR Meeting Minutes

April 23, 1997

Page Two

Chair Roer called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.

Chair Roer welcomed everyone and recognized Barb Cobb for her fine efforts as chair. On behalf of BWSR, Chair Roer presented Barb with a print and a certificate of commendation from Governor Carlson. Barb Cobb, on behalf of BWSR, presented LeRoy Stensgaard with a print and also a certificate of commendation. LeRoy stated that he looks forward to seeing the BWSR in Redwood Falls in June.

Ron Harnack introduced Kathy Roer as the new chair; he introduced the two new board members: Jim Dahlvang, county commissioner from Chippewa County; and Allan Oehlke, SWCD supervisor from Mower County.

97-29 **Adopt Agenda-** Moved by Tim Hvidsten, seconded by Ginny Imholte, to approve the agenda as presented. Motion passed on a voice vote.

97-30 **Approval of the Minutes of March 26, 1997 -** Moved by Barb Uppgaard, seconded by Darrell Bruggman, to approve the minutes of March 26, 1997 as circulated. Motion passed on a voice vote.

Chair's Report - Chair Roer attended the Environmental Cluster meeting last week. Peder Larson at PCA has been appointed by the Governor to serve as the task force leader to deal with the flood issues; agencies are assisting where they can.

Jim Birkholz reported that the Department of Public Safety/Division of Emergency Management (DEM) is organizing flood mitigation to focus on efforts of repair and damage assessment. A tour of the Minnesota River communities of Granite Falls, Montevideo, and Marshall will be visited the week of May 5. The Red River Valley communities of Breckenridge, Moorhead, Ada, and East Grant Forks will be visited the week of May 12. A response plan at the federal, state and local level will be finalized and funds allocated after the assessment. BWSR staff will assist the DEM as necessary.

Chair Roer asked board members to return the executive director's performance evaluation today. Chair Roer also asked that board members and agency members let her know their preference on BWSR committees.

Executive Director's Report - Ron Harnack stated that two board tours will be held this summer; June 24-25 in Redwood Falls and August 27-28 in Crookston. Board members are concerned with the June 24 date as county commissioners meet on Tuesday - will check into this. Ron gave a budget and legislative update; the agency members voting legislation was signed by the Governor on April 11, effective at the August meeting. Ron will distribute conference

BWSR Meeting Minutes

April 23, 1997

Page Three

committee conferees to board members so they can make contacts as appropriate. Staff continues to meet with NRCS and Farm Service Agency (FSA) on the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP); also the memorandum of agreement with NRCS regarding the wetland reserve program continues to move forward. The BWSR's strategic plan update will be reviewed at the June meeting; Marybeth Block has been coordinating this effort.

Committee Reports

Dispute Resolution Committee (DRC) - Chair Roer stated that one appeal is pending regarding a wetland issue in Big Lake; this appeal is scheduled to be heard the second Tuesday in May.

Education Committee - Barb Uppgaard reported that the Education Committee will meet after the May BWSR meeting, and will make a report to the Board in June.

Wetlands Committee - Darrell Bruggman reported on the statewide drainage workshops which have been fairly well attended; although he was very disappointed that more county commissioners and staff responsible for county ditches did not attend; although, flooding kept some attendees away. Other board members stated that the workshops were excellent. It would be good to repeat sessions annually.

Financial Oversight Committee - Ginny Imholte reported that she and Darrell are meeting tomorrow regarding the East Ottertail issue, a report will be made at the May meeting.

Agency Reports

Jim Anderson, MES, reported that MES is coordinating the education program dealing with the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP).

Chair Roer called for a break in the meeting at 10:15 a.m. The meeting reconvened at 10:25 a.m.

Marge Velky, PCA, reported that PCA's two priorities at this time are the legislative session; and Goal 21 - service delivery to provide assistance where needed.

Kim Benson-Johnson, MDH, reported that MDH is busy with legislative initiatives and flooding issues. MDH is supplying water sample kits to private well owners in the flood disaster declared counties.

Paul Burns, MDA, reported that MDA's priorities at this time are legislative and budget and initiatives.

Wayne Edgerton, DNR, reported that DNR is purchasing the Nerstrand Farm from the Nature Conservancy; the farm will be a state park. Wayne briefly commented on rotational grazing

BWSR Meeting Minutes

April 23, 1997

Page Four

standards which he visited yesterday near Lake City. Wayne invited board members to tour this area as well as the Nerstrand Farm, to see first-hand some good projects. Wayne stated that programs will be implemented at the local level as a result of EQIP - cost-sharing aspect of the federal farm bill. Wayne reported that the fishing season opens May 10!

Tim Hvidsten reported on the devastating flood in the Red River Valley. Tim said, "the Red River is like a war zone, it's a losing battle -- the hardest thing to face is the 50,000 people losing their homes; nothing is functioning." He stated that young farmers five miles from the flood area that needed a good year have been beaten. Tim said, "the upside of all this is the support from people and communities; it's gratifying to see support from the federal and state." Discussion followed. Tim stated that there is a need for cost-share dollars for grassed waterways; watershed districts now have a challenge as to a plan.

Jim Dahlvang commented on the flood in Montevideo. He stated that Montevideo felt they won the war with dikes and sandbagging; this saved their water and sewer plants, but lost county roads; they're surviving.

Chair Roer stated that the BWSR's contribution to the flood is long term. Ron Harnack stated that BWSR's role is to move forward in coordinating efforts with other agencies.

Consent Agenda

97-31 Extension of the Clay County Water Plan - Ron Harnack stated that staff supports the extension of the Clay County Water Plan and recommends approval. Moved by Dwain Otte, seconded by Marv Tripp, to approve the extension of the Clay County Water Plan. Motion passed on a voice vote.

97-32 Six Cities Water Management Organization (WMO) Watershed Management Plan - Chair Roer stated that the metro committee reviewed the Six Cities WMO Plan and recommends approval after receiving a letter from the Six Cities WMO stating their intent to update their Joint Powers Agreement to meet the requirements of the law. Moved by Barb Cobb, seconded by Dwain Otte, to approve the Six Cities WMO Watershed Management Plan. Motion passed on a voice vote.

New Business

97-33 Revised Priority Review Schedule - Jim Haertel explained the revised schedule and recommends approval. Discussion followed. Moved by Barb Cobb, seconded by Marv Tripp, to accept the revised priority review schedule. Motion passed on a voice vote.

Cass County Comprehensive Wetland Protection and Management Plan Update - Ron Harnack introduced John Sumption, Cass County SWCD, and Bob Wright, wetland specialist. A copy of the "Cass County Wetland Evaluation Model and Ordinance" was distributed for the Board's

BWSR Meeting Minutes

April 23, 1997

Page Five

information. John presented the GIS model and thanked the BWSR for their support in developing this plan, as it would never have happened without BWSR assistance. John stated that this model ordinance will come before the Board for review in May, he invited board members to comment. John stated that this program is free, contact the Cass SWCD. Ron Harnack stated that he is impressed with the GIS model, it shows coordination at the local and state level in putting this wetland plan proposal together. Chair Roer thanked John for his presentation and hoped that this work will provide a model for other counties.

Conservation Easement Program, Six Month Status Report - Tim Fredbo gave a brief program status report for the RIM Reserve and Permanent Wetland Preserves Conservation Easement Programs. Chair Roer thanked Tim for his update.

Advisory Comments

Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts (MAWD): Ray Bohn congratulated Kathleen Roer on her appointment as chair, and also the two other new appointments. He gave a special thanks to Barb Cobb for her great efforts as chair. Ray gave a brief legislative update and stated that watershed initiatives are now in the tax bill; he's optimistic on the outcome. Ray invited board members to attend the MAWD summer tour, June 20-21; the tour will include the flood area.

Minnesota Association of Townships (MAT): Franklin Denn stated that townships have their share of the flooding in the northwest. MAT has spent much time on the land use planning bill.

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS): Roger Mussetter reported that there was a tremendous interest and workload for the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) sign-up effort; an announcement will be made who has been accepted into CRP the week of May 23. Roger stated that training will be held next week for applicants of EQIP; contracts for EQIP to be written before October 1. Roger reported that six vacancies exist for district conservationists in Olivia, Wheaton, Blue Earth, Luverne, Mankato and Baudette. Two engineers in the state office will be leaving; one engineer is going to a field office and the other engineer is going out-of-state. Roger reported that USDA issued instructions to field staff for relief efforts in local communities.

Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts (MASWCD): D'Wayne DeZiel reported that sixteen EQIP training sessions are being planned. D'Wayne stated that the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) is ^{supporting direct grants of} granting \$100,000,000 to SWCDs from the federal government; ~~possible matching state funds.~~ ^{on a nationwide basis with a possible requirement of matching funds.}
Jim Lemmerman, BWSR Duluth forester; and Al Kean, BWSR chief engineer, were introduced.

BWSR Meeting Minutes
April 23, 1997
Page Six

The next BWSR meeting is May 28, 1997, in St. Paul.

The Local Water Planning Conference is scheduled for June 8-10, 1997 in Two Harbors. Ron encouraged board members to attend, let him know if you plan to attend.

Ron Harnack stated that flood issues will be addressed at the next few meetings when damages have been assessed.

97-34

Moved by Barb Uppgaard, seconded by Ginny Imholte, to adjourn the meeting at 12:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Kathleen Roer', written in dark ink.

Kathleen Roer
Chair

5/28/97

**BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES
CONFERENCE ROOM, ONE WEST WATER STREET
ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA 55107
MAY 28, 1997**

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Kathleen Roer, Barb Cobb, Barb Uppgaard, Allan Oehlke, Ginny Imholte, Darrell Bruggman, Tim Hvidsten, Jim Dahlvang, Marv Tripp, Dwain Otte, Glenn Annexstad.

AGENCY MEMBERS PRESENT:

Paul Burns, Department of Agriculture (MDA)
Kent Lokkesmoe, Department of Natural Resources (DNR)
Kim Benson-Johnson, Department of Health (MDH)

AGENCY MEMBERS ABSENT:

Jim Anderson, Minnesota Extension Service
Wayne Anderson, Pollution Control Agency

OTHERS PRESENT:

Vern Wilker, LeAnn Buck and D'Wayne DeZiel, Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts (MASWCD)
Woody Love and Ray Bohn, Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts (MAWD)
Roger Mussetter, Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS)
Len Kremer, Barr Engineering

STAFF PRESENT:

Ron Harnack, Jim Birkholz, Jim Haertel, Marybeth Block, Mary Jo Anderson

BWSR Meeting Minutes

May 28, 1997

Page Two

Chair Roer called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.

Adopt Agenda - Chair Roer stated that the following items have been added to the agenda: a Wetland Conservation Act (WCA) appeal under the Consent Agenda; Legislative Update under Old Business; and "Minnesota Recovers" Flood Disaster Task Force under Old Business.

97-35 Motion by Barb Cobb, seconded by Barb Uppgaard to adopt the agenda as presented. Motion passed on a voice vote.

Minutes of April 23, 1997 - Chair Roer stated that a change is needed on page five, last paragraph, regarding D'Wayne DeZiel's comments. It should read, "D'Wayne stated that the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) is supporting direct grants of \$100,000,000 to SWCDs from the federal government on a nationwide basis with a possible requirement of state matching funds". Moved by Tim Hvidsten, seconded by Allan Oehlke, to approve the minutes of April 23, 1997, as corrected. Motion passed on voice vote

97-36

Reports

Chair Roer reported that she attended the environmental cluster meetings; it had been a relatively quiet month.

Executive Director - Ron Harnack reported that the legislative session has ended and it's already time to plan for next year's initiatives. Ron commended staff and association representatives (AMC, MAWD, MASWCD) for their support and assistance during the legislative session.

Ron reported that the State Envirothon was held last week at Tamarac National Wildlife Refuge near Detroit Lakes. Willow River High School from Pine County was the winner; they will be attending the National Envirothon in Johnstown, Pennsylvania in August. Ron commended Susan Tsakakis for coordinating the State Envirothon, and the assistance from MACDE.

Ron reported that a new 22 member board is being organized -- the Red River Basin Board (R2B2), to provide coordination of water resource management in the Red River Valley. The Red River Basin Board (represents Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Manitoba) will meet on May 29 in Grand Forks.

Ron has scheduled five regional meetings with staff and encouraged board members to attend; he will let them know of the meeting dates.

Dispute Resolution Committee (DRC) Report - Marv Tripp reported that the DRC had affirmed Douglas County's decision on an appeal. The Board's decision has been appealed to the State Court of Appeals. Marv stated that there are no cases pending at this time.

BWSR Meeting Minutes

May 28, 1997

Page Three

Education and Public Relations Committee - Barb Uppgaard reported that the Education Committee will meet in June in Redwood Falls. Barb stated that she and Susan Tsakakis will attend the Environment Education Conference today in St. Paul.

Chair Roer stated that BWSR committee appointments have been made; the committees are listed in board members' packets.

Cost Share/Soil Conservation Committee - Dwain Otte reported that the committee will meet this afternoon.

Administrative Advisory Committee - Chair Roer reported that this committee is an adhoc type committee and meets as needed. This committee will meet in June in Redwood Falls; Barb Cobb should be listed as a committee member.

Financial Oversight Committee (FOC) - Ginny Imholte reported that Sara Johnson is working with the FOC on SWCD computer programs.

Agency Reports

Paul Burns, MDA, reported that \$10.2 million has been disbursed for Agricultural Best Management Practices (AgBMP). Paul stated that the legislative session has kept MDA busy. Paul reported that Agriecoregion (assistance to agricultural professions working with farmers) has just added soil survey information. Ron Harnack asked Paul to make an informational presentation regarding Agriecoregion to the Board at a future meeting.

Kent Lokkesmoe, DNR, reported that the legislative session and the flood situation has occupied most of DNR's time. Kent stated that key players involved in the flooding issues are meeting next week to discuss Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) mediation and drainage floodplain issues; with the amount of national interest in the flood, several meetings will be held.

Kim Benson-Johnson, MDH, reported that the main concern at this time is the flood; private well owners sanitary surveys and water testing continue in the Red River Valley.

Consent Agenda

Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed District Watershed Management Plan (Plan) - Metro Water Planning Committee Recommendation - Barb Cobb reported that there is a wetland management component of this plan and two expectations to be followed by the Ramsey-Washington Watershed District are recommended to be incorporated in the Board's final order. The Metro Water Planning Committee recommends approval of the Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed District Watershed Management Plan. Moved by Barb Cobb, seconded by Dwain Otte, to approve the Plan. Motion passed on a voice vote.

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97-38**

Minnehaha Creek Watershed District Watershed Management Plan (Plan) - Metro Water Planning Committee Recommendation - Barb Cobb reported that the committee was very impressed with the excellent job of the District, Hennepin County, and BWSR staff. The Metro Water Planning Committee recommends approval of the Plan. Moved by Barb Cobb, seconded by Dwain Otte, to approve the Plan. Motion passed on a voice vote. Chair Roer commended Minnehaha Creek for their excellent work; and introduced Louis Smith, attorney for the District; Janet Leick, Hennepin County; and District Managers Woody Love and Thomas LaBounty. Woody Love appreciated BWSR staff Jim Birkholz and Jim Haertel for their wonderful assistance.

97-39**

WCA Appeal: Fleskes, Huehn, et al., vs City of Big Lake - Marv Tripp, reported that the DRC met on May 13 to hear this appeal; the DRC met again this morning and recommended that this appeal be remanded back to the City of Big Lake for a written TEP report to be provided to the City Council before they make their decision. Motion by Marv Tripp, seconded by Allan Oehlke, to remand to the City of Big Lake for a written TEP report. Motion passed on a voice vote.

Old Business

97-40**

Recommendation of BWSR Committee Regarding the Return of Cost Share Funds from the East Ottertail SWCD - Ginny Imholte stated that the recommendation of the committee is that the Board accept and approve the repayment schedule negotiated with the East Ottertail SWCD regarding the return of Cost Share and MFIP funds for FY88 through FY 94 and authorize the executive director to sign the final agreement upon its completion by attorneys for the state and the district. Moved by Ginny Imholte, seconded by Darrell Bruggman, to accept the committee's recommendation. Motion passed on a voice vote. Chair Roer thanked Ginny Imholte, Darrell Bruggman, Ted Lovdahl, Barb Cobb, Ron Shelito and Jim Birkholz for their time spent on this.

Chair Roer stated that the June BWSR tour and meeting will be held in Redwood Falls. The tour will be Tuesday, June 24 and the BWSR meeting Wednesday, June 25. The Education Committee and the Administrative Advisory Committee will meet at some time in Redwood Falls.

Chair Roer called for a break in the meeting at 9:50 a.m. The meeting reconvened at 10:05 a.m.

Strategic Plan Update - Jim Birkholz and Marybeth Block presented the BWSR Draft Strategic Plan. Jim gave background information on the draft strategic plan and explained that the plan was compiled by a staff team of Jim Birkholz, Marybeth Block, Al Kean, Matt Moore, Susan Tsakakis, Tom Schwanke, Dan Steward, Dave Peterson, and economist Steve Taff. Marybeth described the comment process and where we go from here. Board members were asked to comment on the draft strategic plan by June 6; time will be spent at the June meeting to review

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the BWSR's strategic plan; with additional time spent on this in July. Discussion followed. The objective of the draft strategic plan is to bring closure to the plan over the summer and by early fall. Chair Roer appreciated the time spent by staff on the draft strategic plan.

Legislative Update - Ron Harnack reported on the BWSR's 1998-99 budget as appropriated by the legislature. All of the BWSR's policy legislation has been signed by the Governor. Ron stated that overall BWSR had a very successful session. Ron thanked Ray Bohn, MAWD; Sally Westby, MASWCD; and Dave Weirens, AMC, for their assistance as lobbyists.

Paul Burns commented on the Department of Agriculture's legislative appropriations for feedlots; beaver control; and LCMR projects. MDA has been allocated an additional \$4 million for AgBMP septic systems.

Kent Lokkesmoe commented on the multi-agency proposals; DNR allocated \$420,000 for various community services/assistance program. DNR appreciated their appropriation for monitoring programs; they received \$4 million for flood issues. The general permit issue was the primary policy bill.

Kim Benson-Johnson commented on MDH's legislative increase for their well ~~sealing~~ program.

Ron asked agencies to comment on the "Water Billboard".

"Minnesota Recovers" Flood Disaster Task Force - Ron Harnack commented on the "Ag Erosion Flood Damage Survey Summary as of May 19, 1997. Ron stated that the Flood Disaster Committee has taken up almost as much time as the legislative session. The Flood Task Force group meets every Monday, Wednesday and Friday; each subcommittee meets on Thursday. He stated that there are two processes that each agency concurs with: 1) public infrastructure; and 2) all other damages. The biggest glitch at this time is congress not making a determination on the massive housing issue. Ron stated that he, Greg Larson, and Wayne Zellmer are the BWSR staff most actively involved in the flood issue.

Advisory Comments

Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts (MAWD): Ray Bohn reported that MAWD made good progress in the legislative session; optimistic that the Governor will sign all their bills. Ray thanked Ron Harnack and Doug Thomas for their assistance during the legislative session.

Woody Love, MAWD President, invited board members to attend the MAWD summer tour in Marshall, June 20-21. He stated that MAWD is on the internet and looks forward to working with everyone on the internet.

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Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS): Roger Mussetter reported that only 37-39% of applications have been accepted for CRP. EQIP applications are being submitted, allocations must be made by October 1, 1997.

Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts (MASWCD): D'Wayne DeZiel reported that he and LeAnn Buck traveled statewide for the EQIP training. Vern Wilker thanked BWSR for supporting MASWCD during the legislative session. Vern commended BWSR for making the six to four-year term limit happen. Vern thanked Barb Cobb for attending the MASWCD meetings; and he's glad to see Allan Oehlke as a BWSR member.

Chair Roer stated that June 30 is the end of the fiscal year, she asked members to submit their expense claims.

Allan Oehlke reported that the MASWCD auxiliary is selling State of Minnesota pins as a fundraiser.

****** Moved by Dwain Otte, seconded by Glenn Annexstad, to adjourn the meeting at 12:30 p.m.
97-41 Motion passed on a voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Kathleen M. Roer".

Kathleen M. Roer
Chair

East Otter Tail Cost-Share Repayment Committee Report

In April of 1995, supervisors from the East Otter Tail SWCD discovered that an employee had likely been embezzling funds from the SWCD. BWSR staff were contacted for advice and assistance by East Otter Tail supervisors at this time. It was later determined through detailed investigation that the employee had been embezzling funds for a number of years and the total exceeded \$150,000. The employee was tried and convicted. The employee was sentenced in January 1996.

As part of the overall investigation BWSR accounting specialist Sara Johnson assisted the East Otter Tail SWCD board in restoring their books. Sara spent parts of several weeks during 1995 working with the district to determine their financial situation. In May of 1995 Ron Shelito and Dale Krystosek began an extensive audit of East Otter Tail SWCD's state cost-share program. The purpose of the audit was to determine if any state funds were part of the money embezzled by the employee, and to review the East Otter Tail cost-share program for technical and financial consistency with rules and statutes. Fiscal years 83 through 95 were reviewed for the State Cost-Share Program, and fiscal years 84 through 93 were reviewed for the Minnesota Forestry Improvement Program (MFIP). The final cost-share audit was completed in August of 1995. The final report documented that from fiscal years 1988 through 1994, \$73,236.79 of state cost share funds and state MFIP funds had not been spent for grant purposes and should have been returned to the state treasurer but was not.

At the February 1996 BWSR board meeting, the board appointed a committee and authorized them to work out a repayment schedule with East Otter Tail SWCD. The members of the committee were, Ted Lovdahl, Chair, Ginny Imholte, and Darrel Bruggman. The committee met and negotiated with members of the East Otter Tail SWCD board in March 1996. A settlement was not reached and in May of 1996 the committee agreed to refer the matter to the Attorney General's office for collection.

Marty Casserly, Assistant Attorney General was assigned to the case. Marty Casserly communicated by phone and letter with Wally Senyk, Ottertail County attorney representing the East Ottertail SWCD, over the next several month's in an effort to reach a settlement agreement. On April 24, 1997, Carl Annalora and John Blashack, East Otter Tail supervisors, Wally Senyk, Otter Tail county attorney, Marty Casserly Assistant Attorney General, Ginny Imholte and Darrel Bruggman, BWSR board members, and Jim Birkholz and Ron Shelito, BWSR staff, met in Brainerd. The settlement agreement reached at this meeting is as follows:

1. East Otter Tail SWCD will pay \$15,000 to BWSR by June 6, 1997.
2. East Otter Tail SWCD will return \$3,900 in unencumbered funds from FY 1997 grant agreement by June 30, 1997.
3. Beginning with the FY 1998 cost-share grant payment, BWSR will offset \$3,900 of cost-share payment for five fiscal years.
4. East Otter Tail SWCD will make direct payment to BWSR in the amount of \$3,600 on February 1 of each year for the next six years.

By this agreement BWSR agrees to accept repayment of \$60,00 from East Otter Tail SWCD over a six year period. As authorized by M. S. Chapter 16D, The Debt Collection Act, \$13,236.79 is determined to be uncollectible due to the financial situation of East Otter Tail SWCD.

Recommendation: The recommendation of the committee for the May 28, 1997 meeting is that the Board accept and approve the repayment schedule negotiated with the East Ottertail SWCD regarding the return of Cost Share and MFIP funds for FY 88 through FY 94 and authorize the Executive Director to sign the final agreement upon its completion by attorneys for the state and the district.



Draft

STRATEGIC PLAN
1997

About the Board

Creation

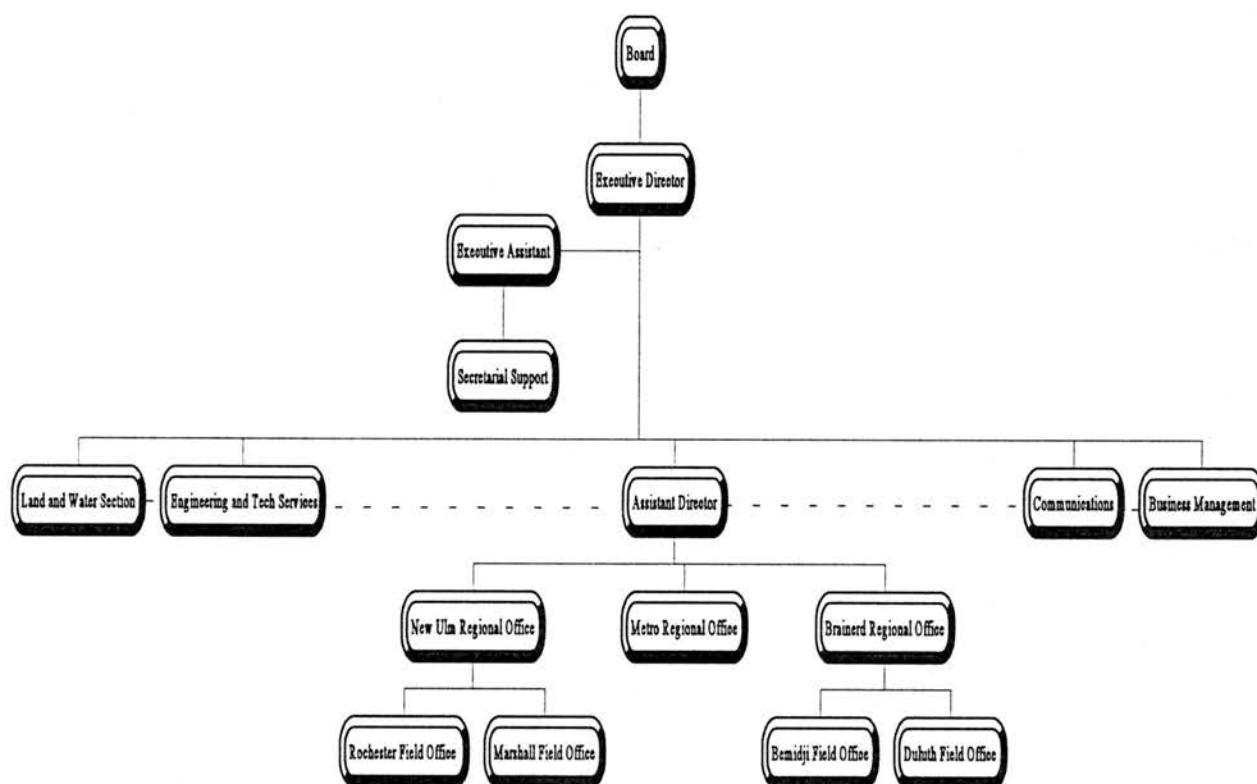
The Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR or "the board") is a Minnesota state agency formed in 1987 with the merger of the state Soil and Water Conservation Board, the Water Resources Board and the Southern Minnesota Rivers Basin Council.

Board Membership

Twelve members serve on the board including three county commissioners, three soil and water conservation district supervisors, three watershed district representatives and three unaffiliated public members. These voting members, along with the designated chair, are appointed by the Governor to staggered four-year terms. Representatives from the Department of Natural Resources, the Pollution Control Agency, the Department of Health, the Department of Agriculture and the University of Minnesota serve as advisory members. The state Legislature granted advisory members voting privileges in August of 1997.

Board Staff

The board employs an executive director who serves as the head of agency operations. Approximately one half of the BWSR staff are located in the central office in St. Paul and one half in field offices located in Bemidji, Brainerd, Duluth, Marshall, New Ulm, Rochester and St. Paul.



As part of the strategic planning effort the committee discussed the board's mission statement. There was consensus that the statement needed to be updated, and in particular it needs to be shorter. The committee offers the following for discussion:

The mission of the Board of Water and Soil Resources is to work with local governments to effectively manage water and soil resources.

The wording "work with" was one of many alternatives discussed:
"assist" "support" "enable" "empower"

A lot of the discussion centered around being sensitive to the fact that local governments CAN manage their water and soil resources on their own, so perhaps terms like enable may be condescending.

We also debated working in the idea of capability building, e.g., ... "to build the capability of local governments to effectively manage. . ."

We also discussed order - should "manage soil and water resources" come before "through local governments" .

The mission statement will be explained in the "Board Vision" section on page 4.

Board Tenets:

The board believes that water and soil management is best implemented . . .

at the local level. Water and soil resource management is primarily a land use issue -- both in terms of the type of land use and the quality of resource management. In Minnesota, land use authority is vested primarily in local government. Over the past two decades, the state Legislature has reinforced this fact by passing landmark legislation for conservation practice cost-sharing, local water planning, conservation easements and wetland conservation that identifies local units of government as the primary implementors. The federal government has also moved toward more state and local leadership for non-point source pollution abatement involving water and soil resource management. Land use authority is a fundamental factor involved in these programs and trends.

Water, soil and other natural resources, and associated management issues, vary substantially from one corner of the state to another. The most appropriate resource management priorities vary widely as well. Local governments working directly with landowners, resource managers and other citizenry provides a grassroots approach to resource management. Approaches developed at this level tend to be realistic and address local needs. Citizens know where to direct their comments about the approach. Locally developed approaches help target resources to high priority problems and watersheds. State and federal technical and financial assistance provided to and through local government enables a healthy balance between statewide consistency and local flexibility for sound resource management.

voluntarily. Successful resource management (stewardship) is based on landowners embracing attitudes and methods that preserve and enhance resources for the benefit of themselves and others. Over 77% of land is privately owned and those owners have strong feelings about their right to manage the land they own as they see fit. They, and all citizens, also perceive the right to have a clean, healthy environment. Education and incentives influence individuals to voluntarily implement resource management practices that protect the environment. Education provides the basis of understanding that helps landowners realize the results of their land use decisions. Incentives may help overcome their restrictions (financial or other) to changing their land use practices.

Most people want to do what's right and do it most effectively when they have the knowledge, means and choice. Regulation is best used sparingly for resource management to provide a level playing field and disincentives for those who choose not to do what's right for public health and safety.

comprehensively and collaboratively. Most of the local governments the board serves are organized along political boundaries. The exception is the 42 watershed districts that are organized along hydrologic or watershed boundaries. Natural resource issues and problems seldom follow political boundaries, but that doesn't limit local units of government organized along political boundaries from being primary leaders in protecting and managing land and water resources. Abundant opportunities exist for local governments to collaborate with their neighbors to collectively manage land and water to achieve mutual goals. Whether through creation of new entities, formal joint powers agreements or more informal working arrangements, local governments have the unique opportunity and responsibility to help bring people and their local political structures together to meet the challenges of managing land and water resources wisely.

The management approaches of the state and federal natural resource agencies are compatible and complementary with local government roles. Some examples are the Department of Natural Resources' Ecosystem Based Management approach, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency's Basin Management approach and the Minnesota Department of Agriculture's Agri-ecoregion approach. Each of these management strategies affords new opportunities for local governments to team up with appropriate agencies to tap into expertise, funding and new collaborations. Local governments are an essential partner to implement natural resource protection initiatives regardless of the management approach that is used. Effective partnerships with these agencies will enable local governments, whether they are organized along political or watershed boundaries, to assert their implementation responsibilities in an ever more comprehensive and collaborative fashion. The board strives to encourage and facilitate successful partnerships that build communication, help all levels of government cooperate, inspire creativity and build trust between partners as well as with the public we all serve.

Minnesota is rich with natural resources. The wealth generated from Minnesota's natural resources contributes to the well being of its citizens. A healthy state economy depends on the proper management of soil, water and forest resources to maintain the agriculture, tourism and timber and other industries dependent on these resources. The citizens of Minnesota value the quality of life that the environment and the economy have historically provided. The Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) is committed to promoting wise use of the state's natural resources to help insure that future generations may also find such satisfaction in the quality of life of the state.

Minnesota's resources

Water

Water covers about 5 percent of Minnesota's surface area with nearly 12,000 lakes and more than 10,000 wetlands. Minnesota's rivers and streams span 25,000 miles. There are about 208,000 miles of shoreline in the state.

Minnesota's significant water resources include those found beneath the land surface. The 14 major aquifers in the state are of "glacial drift" or "bedrock" origin. Two out of every three Minnesotans rely on groundwater for their domestic water use.

There are many threats to this rich water heritage. About 60 percent of the state's wetlands have been drained over the last one hundred years and losses are still occurring. Only 51 percent of the state's lakes less than 5,000 acres (99 percent of the lakes) fully support swimmable use. Sediment is, by volume the greatest pollutant of our surface water. Nutrients and pesticides pose a real threat to the quality of both surface and ground water resources.

Soil

Soil is a valuable resource in Minnesota. About one-half of Minnesota is covered by soils capable of supporting agricultural uses. Our fertile topsoil and favorable climate make Minnesota one of the outstanding crop producing regions of the world. Soil not only functions as a medium to grow plants, it regulates the flow of water in the environment and it decomposes organic wastes. Conserving and enhancing soil quality is fundamental to wise natural resource management.

Disturbing the natural cover of the land makes it susceptible to soil erosion. The forces of wind and water erode approximately 168 million tons of Minnesota soil annually - only Texas loses more soil from cropland erosion. Land conversion in urban areas also contributes substantially to soil loss. Average sediment loading rates from construction sites are estimated to vary from 36.5 to 1,100 tons/ac/year.

Economic and Land Uses Dependent on Water and Soil Resources

Water, soil and forest resources are the foundation for Minnesota's main economic industries. The history of Minnesota's development is deeply rooted in *Agriculture*. It remains a dominant land use with nearly 43 percent of Minnesota's surface area in cropland or pastureland (Natural Resource Inventory, 1992 NRCS-USDA). Every region of the state has land devoted to raising crops and livestock, including approximately one half of the seven county metropolitan (metro) area. In 1993 the state ranked seventh in the nation for total cash receipts from crops, livestock and livestock products, with about \$7 billion generated annually from 1991-93 (Minnesota Agricultural Statistics 1996, MDA). In 1996, 162,00 jobs in Minnesota were directly related to farming and food production, and 257,000 were indirectly related to agriculture (MDA, Commissioner's Office, 1997).

Statewide, the *Travel and Tourism Industry* is also a significant contributor to Minnesota's economy. The industry generated a total of 133,000 jobs, 2.8 billion in wages and salaries and \$6.9 billion in gross receipts (Minnesota Office of Tourism, April 1996.) Water-related activities are major contributors to the tourism industry. In 1985 water-related purchases generated \$1.9 billion for Minnesota businesses. These activities also generate about \$128 million from associated fees and taxes (Minnesota Office of Tourism, Todd, 1989). With a significant portion of the state's economy depended on water-related outdoor recreation, the need to protect and improve water quality is obvious.

Minnesotans also have a long history harvesting timber. For well over a century the *Forest Industry* in the state has continued to thrive. Minnesota's Forest Resource Plan says that the forest products industry directly provides 58,960 jobs in the state. Factor in the indirect influences, and the forestry and forest products industry generates about 111,000 jobs, \$2.8 billion in employee compensation and \$10.1 billion in total industry output (Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Division of Forestry, 1995).

Agroforestry is an important component of the forest industry. Agroforestry means putting trees and shrubs to work in both rural areas and communities. Working trees are trees planted in the right place, in the right design, for a specific purpose - often conservation related. The tree plantings can be designed to serve as a windbreak, living snow fence, a buffer strip to protect water resources, a high value crop (e.g., nuts), fuel wood plantations or wildlife habitats.

While *Urban growth* is not an economic industry parse, the geographic area of the cities of Saint Paul and Minneapolis, along with numerous suburbs of these cities, cannot be overlooked as the economic nucleus of the state. The seven county metro area encompasses only 5 percent of the land in the state, yet it is home to one half of the state's four million residents. Of the property value of the state of Minnesota, 65 percent is within the metro area. Building permits are indicators of economic growth and of all the permits applied for in the state during 1990 and 1991, 59 percent were located in the metro area. Soils, water quality, wetlands and forest resources are all affected by urban growth. Sustaining these resources must be encouraged by comprehensive urban planning and management efforts.

Minnesota's Vision

In Minnesota's long-range plan, *Minnesota Milestones*, a vision for the state in the year 2020 is described. Minnesotans created the vision in the early 1990s. The plan identifies common themes of that vision:

Minnesota will be a community of people who respect and care for one another.

We will sustain and enjoy the natural world.

Minnesota will have an economy that creates and shares wealth.

Our citizens will be good thinkers, creative, always learning, with the skills to compete internationally.

Our government will be responsive, efficient and close to its citizens.

The plan acknowledges many water and soil related experiences that contribute to quality of life:

"... pure lakes, rivers and aquifers, scenic highways with vistas of cornfields or forests, and easy access to parks, lakes and woods."

"...by the year 2020 Minnesota will forge a balance between metropolitan and rural growth. Urban growth will be managed and healthy rural communities will be nurtured, while the scenic beauty and rural character of rural Minnesota will be preserved. Family farms will prosper hand-in-hand with agricultural processing industries that employ rural Minnesotans and keep the profits from Minnesota-grown companies in Minnesota."

"Services will be delivered on a multi community or regional basis, but customized to the wishes of neighborhood and town-level decision-making bodies. New multi community coalitions will carry out bold grassroots plans to enhance lakes, watersheds and green space."

The Board's Vision

The board's mission is to work with local units of government to effectively manage their water and soil resources. *(note - this will change based on the mission statement discussion. From those discussions we will draft a paragraph explaining the intent of the mission)*

The Trends Shaping the Future

Once a vision or a mission is created, it is important to try and identify the forces or trends impacting how, and if, one is moving toward those purports. The board believes the following trends will impact how water and soil resources are managed in the state.

As a society, we continue to move towards ***governance close to the citizens***. The board sees three primary catalysts for placing more authority and responsibility with local governmental units: **decreasing state and federal budgets and staff; the mingling of country and city; and the increasing involvement of citizens.**

As state and federal budgets and staff decrease the responsibilities they we charged with are being passed to local government - often without funding to carry them out. To insure responsibilities are successfully carried out, administrative dollars must be passed from the federal government to the states, who can pass them to the local unit of government best equipped to provide the solutions to meet the program intentions. States have the important role of transferring the dollars, programs and policies to the local units of government and insuring that they carry out responsibilities imparted to them.

Governance at the local level is also being propelled because the country and the city are becoming increasingly intertwined - physically and socially. More and more people are moving to the country - outside of a city, town or village. Open spaces, blufflands and woodlands are being developed to home sites. Consequently, rural homeowners, like their urban counterparts, have more interaction with their neighbors. This can lead to disputes, particularly regarding land use issues. Local government is called upon first to resolve the conflict. Sometimes, citizens attempt to use environmental standards to influence land use decisions.

Local citizens are taking the time to be involved in issues, especially those pertaining to the environment. They see a healthy environment as economically and socially benefiting their well being. The per capita income has been steadily rising in Minnesota, as has the number of environmentally educated citizens. There appears to be a link between these circumstances and the increased involvement of citizens in environmental issues. Again, these activists often look to local governmental units to address the problem.

Managing resources at the watershed level is increasingly recognized as a wise management scale. The most efficient use of human and financial resources is to treat problems in the context of an integrated resource management approach. Cumulative impacts on water and soil resources require that we approach the problem from a resource, rather than a political, perspective. Watershed level management precipitates ***integration and collaboration of efforts*** and encourages agencies, local units of government and community members work together to craft solutions to natural resource management problems. As the competition for the financial and technical resources increases the edge will go to the projects that have a high level of collaboration among a diverse group of partners.

Redefining of Rural Minnesota. Rural Minnesota is changing. Many rural areas are experiencing a decrease in their population as people move to urban centers. Conversely, people from urban areas are taking up residence in rural areas within commuting distance to a town or city - again the mingling of city and country. It is interesting to note that recent surveys indicate that the majority of rural residents are no longer involved in or affiliated with agriculture - a major departure from the early and mid part of the 20th century.

Those who are involved in agriculture often no longer fit the traditional definition of "farm" and "farmer." There are a variety of operations from large livestock establishments that concentrate on one

product and process and market or export that product to sustainable farms that practice low input and direct markets. More and more land is being operated by someone other than the owner. The bottom line is fewer and fewer farmers operate more land.

Small tract ownership in agriculture and forested landscapes is also rapidly increasing. Often labeled as "hobby farms" these small tracts require new water and soil resource management approaches. These small parcels alter wildlife habitat and reduce the ability to produce agricultural crops or forest products.

Finally, *technology* has, and will continue to change how we do business. It will allow us to more precisely measure the reduction in pollution resulting from projects implemented at the watershed level.

Strategies

1. We will encourage local resource planning and protection efforts. We will continue to use **comprehensive local water planning** as the primary method to plan for and implement water and related land resource protection strategies. The local water planning process is an effective way to define the roles and responsibilities of each of the local resource partners in a county or watershed management organization, and for establishing measures of success. This process also enables state and federal agencies to align their programs, authorities, and technical and financial assistance with local government resource priorities, and increase the efficiency of individual efforts.

We will continue to use our agency responsibilities to assist local units of government organized along political boundaries to plan and implement their responsibilities in a **watershed-based management** approach. We recognize that implementing watershed protection requires that local units of government take action. Such commitment to action is a political decision by a political body. The key is to bring the commitment to action by political units together with a watershed management approach so that problems are not addressed as isolated cases but as part of an integrated and collaborative effort. The result should be a more effective and efficient use of scarce human and financial resources.

2. We will support local resource management implementation. We will utilize our board as a forum to foster state and local government working relationships and to maximize local government effectiveness in attaining mutual land and water management goals. We will share information and facilitate discussions with and among local governments to help them build on successes, initiate new cooperative ventures and explore alternative organizational options.

As resource management trends and needs evolve, so must state programs. The board will work with local government units to maintain and **enhance the efficiency and effectiveness** of the resource management programs it administers. We will involve local units of government and other partners in periodically updating program rules and procedures, including reporting requirements, to foster efficient local implementation while maintaining accountability and the ability to measure success. We will also periodically assess, in cooperation with the local government units we serve, the ability of board-administered programs to effectively address current high priority resource management needs. The board will strive to allocate financial, technical and administrative support to achieve the best return on the investments of all involved. Innovation, streamlining, flexibility, teamwork, customer service and results will be characteristics promoted within and through the programs we administer.

3. We will further develop and maintain our capability to deliver competent service to local governments. Technical capability in the areas of soil conservation, engineering, wetlands, groundwater, information management, communication, planning and administration are crucial to the mission of the board. We will develop and maintain the capability of staff and board members to provide competent technical and leadership assistance to local units of government for water and soil resource management. We will work to maintain an organization that attracts, develops and maintains highly qualified members, including both generalists and specialists who, together, will effectively carry out the board's mission.

As the lead state agency for soil conservation, the board will work with local units of government to give renewed emphasis to the critical relationships between soil conservation, water quality, soil quality and sustainability.

Board Responsibilities

The board of water and soil resources' (board) responsibilities can be found throughout Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 103, which pertains to water. Listed below are the references to policies or procedures that are germane to the board. Normal type indicates the text has been transcribed as it appears in statute. Italic text indicates the statute has been paraphrased to highlight the subjects found within the statutory reference.

General Policies

103A.204 Groundwater policy

Outlines the various state agencies' responsibilities in terms of groundwater protection. The board of water and soil resources has the responsibility to report on groundwater education and outreach with local government officials, local water planning and management, and local cost share programs.

103A.206 Soil and Water Conservation Policy

Improper land use practices have caused serious wind and water erosion of the land of this state, the runoff of polluting materials, increased costs to maintain agricultural productivity, increased energy costs and increased flood damage. Land occupiers have the responsibility to implement practices to correct these conditions and conserve the soil and water resources of the state. It is the policy of the state to encourage land occupiers to conserve soil and water resources through the implementation of practices that effectively reduce or prevent erosion, sedimentation, siltation and agriculturally related pollution in order to preserve natural resources, insure continued soil productivity, control floods, prevent impairment of dams and reservoirs, assist in maintaining the navigability of rivers and harbors, preserve wildlife, protect the tax base, and protect public lands.

103a.209 Marginal, Erodible Land Retirement Policy

It is state policy to encourage the retirement of marginal, highly erodible land, particularly land adjacent to public waters and drainage systems, from crop production and to reestablish a cover of perennial vegetation.

103A.211 Water law policy

The water law of this state is contained in many statutes that must be considered as a whole to systematically administer water policy for the public welfare. . .

103A.301 to Determination of Water law and Policy

103A.341 *Gives authority for the board to intervene in a proceeding (a procedure under any of the laws listed in 103A.305, jurisdiction) if a petition is filed with the board for referral of a question of water policy involved in the proceeding and lays out the procedure the board follows to make a policy determination.*

General Board Responsibilities

103B.101 Board of Water and Soil Resources. Establishes the board and defines the following duties:

- 1) *coordinate the water and soil resources planning activities of counties, soil and water conservation districts, watershed districts, watershed management organizations, and any other local units of government through its various authorities for approval of local plans, administration of state grants, and by other means as may be appropriate;*
- 2) *facilitate communication and coordination among state agencies in cooperation with the environmental quality board, and between state and local units of government, in order to make the expertise and resources of state agencies involved in soil and water resources management available to the local units of government to the greatest extent possible;*
- 3) *coordinate state and local interests with respect to the study in southwestern Minnesota under U.S. Code, title 16, section 1009;*
- 4) *develop information and education programs designed to increase awareness of water and soil resource problems and awareness of opportunities for local government involvement in preventing or solving them;*
- 5) *provide a forum for the discussion of local issues and opportunities relating to water and soil resources management;*

- 6) *adopt an annual budget and work program that integrate the various functions and responsibilities assigned to it by law; and*
- 7) *report to the governor and the legislature by October 15 of each even-numbered year with an assessment of board programs and recommendations for any program changes and board membership changes necessary to improve state and local efforts in water and soil resources management.*

In addition to these duties the board must establish a dispute resolution committee to hear and resolve disputes, appeals and interventions pertaining to water law and policy.

Local Water Planning

103B.201 to Metropolitan Surface Water Management

103B.251 *These sections outline the purpose of water management planning in the metropolitan area and provide direction regarding watershed management organizations and watershed plans. It gives joint powers watershed management organizations the authority to prepare, adopt and implement a plan for the watershed; to review and approve local water management plans; to, under certain conditions, regulate land use; and other authorities pertaining to budgets, assessments and contracts. It requires that the board adopt rules prescribing minimum requirements for the content of watershed management organization joint powers agreements. A watershed management plan must be prepared for all watersheds wholly or partially within the metropolitan area. The plan must be reviewed by the board and other state agencies. The board has the authority to disapprove all or parts of a plan. The watershed management organization is responsible for preparing and implementing the plan. If the watershed management organization is terminated or the board determines they are not implementing the plan, counties or cities can petition to establish a watershed district under chapter 103D. Persons believing there has been a failure to comply with a plan may request the board review the plan and its implementation and act according to a procedure established to resolve disputes and making an implementation compliance determination. The board is directed to adopt rules establishing the requirements for annual financial reports to the board, standards for annual financial audits and requirements for the content of activity reports.*

103B.252 Groundwater Management

This section outlines the authority and procedures for counties to prepare and adopt groundwater plans including advisory committees, general standards, contents, review, approval, adoption and implementation, amendments and property tax levies.

103B.301 to Comprehensive Local Water Planning and Management

103B.335 *These sections encourage counties outside of the metropolitan area to prepare, adopt and implement a comprehensive water plan. The process must be completed in coordination with local government units and contiguous counties. The board must review the draft plan and all written comments received regarding the plan in consultation with other state agencies involved in resource management. The board may disapprove a comprehensive water plan if they determine it is not consistent with state law. The board shall:*

- 1) *develop guidelines for the contents of the comprehensive plan that provide a flexible approach to meeting the resource needs;*
- 2) *coordinate the planning assistance provided by state agencies;*
- 3) *provide education & information about the planning process;*
- 4) *determine contested cases;*
- 5) *establish a review process;*
- 6) *report to the legislature;*
- 7) *make grants to counties for comprehensive local water planning, implementation of priority actions and sealing of abandoned wells.*

103B.3369 Local Water Resources Protection and Management Program

This section authorizes the board to provide financial assistance to counties for activities that protect or manage water and related land quality. Outlines how counties request funds, the contracts between the state and the county and what the grants may be used for. It directs the board to adopt rules and gives guidance regarding what requests the board will give priority to.

103B.345 Resolution of Disputes

Provides that counties or other local units of government can request the board to informally, or through a hearing, resolve a dispute pertaining to: 1) the interpretation and implementation of a local comprehensive water plan; 2) two or more counties disagreeing about the apportionment of the costs of a project; or 3) a county and another local unit of government disagree about a change in a local water and related land resources plan or official control.

Soil and Water Conservation Districts

103C.401 Duties of the State Board. *The state board shall:*

- 1) Offer to assist the district boards to implement their programs . . .*
- 2) Keep the district boards informed of the activities and experience of other districts and facilitate cooperation and an interchange of advice and experience.*
- 3) Coordinate the programs and activities of the districts with appropriate agencies by advice and consultation.*
- 4) Approve or disapprove the plans or programs of districts relating to the use of state funds administered by the state board.*
- 5) Secure the cooperation and assistance of agencies in the work of the districts. . .*
- 6) compliance with statewide programs and policies established by the state board by advice, consultation and approval of grant agreements with the districts.*
- 7) Provide operating funds to districts as provided by the legislature.*

Watershed Districts

103D.101 Board of Water and Soil Resources. *This section authorizes the board to:*

- 1) Establish a watershed district b) define its boundaries c) appoint the first board of managers.*
- 2) The board has the right to hold hearings, subpoena witnesses, examine and cross examine witnesses.*
- 3) The board must keep and maintain a record of all proceedings.*

Throughout this chapter are procedures to establish the watershed district, to change watershed district boundaries, to consolidate or terminate watershed districts and to appoint managers.

Protection of Water Resources

103C.501 Cost-Sharing Contracts

This section authorizes the state board to allocate funds to districts to share the cost of conservation practices and says how districts request funds, how the state approves requests and allocates funds and the terms of the contract between the district and the landowner requesting funds. Also requires the state board to adopt administrative rules.

103F.171 Southern Minnesota Rivers Basin Area III

This section describes the boundaries of the Southern Minnesota River Basin Area II, the grant-in-aid pilot program, the aid formula and how the area operates within the board of water and soil resources.

103F.401 Soil Erosion

to 103F.460 *These sections give local units of government (that have planning and zoning authority) the authority to adopt a soil loss ordinance. It says the board will adopt a model ordinance and rules to guide local governments to implement soil loss controls, and the board shall review the model ordinance and rules, in cooperation with local government, every five years.*

103F.461 Groundwater Education

This section states that the board shall biennially review groundwater education activities with local units of government and develop recommendations for improvement and submit a report containing such information to the environmental quality board for review. The report must be coordinated with the Minnesota environmental education advisor board and the pollution control agency. The board is given the authority to give grants for innovative groundwater education strategies.

103F.501 Reinvest in Minnesota Resources Act

to 103F.515 *These sections authorize the board to enter into conservation easements with private landowners to keep marginal agricultural land out of crop production to protect soil and water quality and support fish and wildlife habitats. It encourages the retirement of land adjacent to public waters, drainage systems, wetlands, and locally designated priority waters, from crop production. The act explains 1) eligible land; 2) conservation easements and the nature of the property rights acquired; 3) agreements by a landowner; 4) payments for easement and cover; 5) easement renewal; 6) correction of boundaries; and 7) enforcement.*

103F.515 Permanent Wetlands Preserve Act

to 103F.521 *These sections authorize the board to enter into conservation easements with private landowners on lands containing type 1,2,3, or 6 wetlands. The act explains 1) easements; 2) the nature of the property rights acquired; 3) payments; 4) cooperation; and 5) technical assistance.*

Protection of Wetlands

103B.3355 Wetland Functions for determining public values

This section outlines how to determine the public values of a wetland based on functions of wetlands for water quality, floodwater and stormwater retention, public recreation, commercial uses, habitats, low-flow augmentation and other public uses. The board is given the authority to adopt rules citing what methods and criteria will be used to make such determinations.

103F.901 Wetlands Establishment and Restoration Program

to 103F.905 *These sections allow a landowner to apply to restore a wetland on their property provided it is within a board-designated high priority wetland region and identified as a high priority wetland area in the local comprehensive water plan. It outlines the procedures in which the application is reviewed and approved, and outlines the cost-share assistance available.*

103G.222 Replacement of Wetlands

to 103G.2241 *These sections legislate that wetlands cannot be drained or filled without restoring or creating wetland areas of at least equal public value in accordance with a local comprehensive wetland protection and management plan approved by the board. The board must maintain a public list of restoration opportunities within the metropolitan area. Disputes about restoration opportunities for wetland replacement may be appealed to the board's committee for dispute resolution. For new transportation projects wetland credits may be purchased from the wetland bank (103G.2242). The board receives reports of wetland impacts on existing public transportation projects and must replace the lost wetland areas.*

103G.2242 Wetland value replacement plans

This section directs the board to adopt rules governing the approval of wetland value replacement plans and addressing criteria, procedure, timing and location of acceptable replacement wetland values. In addition, the rules may address the establishment and administration of a wetland banking program. Evaluation of replacement plans is done by a technical evaluation panel that includes an employee of the board. Appeals of replacement plans, exemptions or no-loss decisions may be made to the board. The board must decide whether to grant the petition and hear the appeal. All appeals are heard by the committee for dispute resolution of the board. A wetland heritage advisory committee, established by the governor, will advise the board on the development of rules and implementation of the program.

103G.2243 Local comprehensive wetland protection and management plans

This section provides an alternative to replacement plans as required in 103G.2242 and public value criteria in 103B.3355. Local governments can develop and seek board approval of a local comprehensive wetland protection and management plan follows the general requirements and plan contents identified in this section.

103G.237 Compensation for loss of private use

This section authorizes the board to compensate landowners for the loss of private use provided they meet eligibility requirements and apply for compensation.

103G.2373 Annual wetlands report

This section requires the board and the commissioner of the department of natural resources jointly prepare a report to the legislature regarding the status of implementing state laws and programs relating to wetlands, the quantity, quality, acreage, types and public value of wetlands in the state and the changes in those figures from the previous reporting year.

Draft Strategic Plan Comments

STRATEGIC PLANNING involves a set of concepts, procedures and tools designed to help an organization *figure out what they need to do to survive and prosper.*

STRATEGIC PLANNING GENERALLY INVOLVES:

focusing on the mission statement
general policy and direction setting
situation assessments (strengths/weaknesses)
strategic issues identification
strategy development
decision making
implementation
evaluation

AND IT ADDRESSES . . .

Where are we going?
How do we get there?
What is our blueprint for action?
How do we know if we are on track?

SOMEWHAT RELATED: Characteristics of High Performance Organizations:

- ⇒ anyone on staff can tell you the organization's mission and values
- ⇒ its always looking into something new
- ⇒ they empower their employees
- ⇒ customer's satisfaction level is high
- ⇒ a failure is considered a learning experience
- ⇒ frequently work in teams
- ⇒ leader is a partner to staff members
- ⇒ they define outcomes and focus on results
- ⇒ they are flexible, adaptable and quick to adjust
- ⇒ they maintain open and productive communication

Please use the following format to write any comments you have pertaining to a particular section.

Initial Reaction:

Mission statement:

About the Board:

Board Tenets:

Minnesota's Resources:

Economics and Land Uses Dependent on Water and Soil Resources:

Minnesota's Vision:



The Board's Vision:

Trends Shaping the Future:



Strategies:



Board Responsibilities:

Companion Documents:

Other:

May 19, 1997



Des Moines River



AG EROSION FLOOD DAMAGE SURVEY SUMMARY AS OF MAY 19, 1997

BWSR

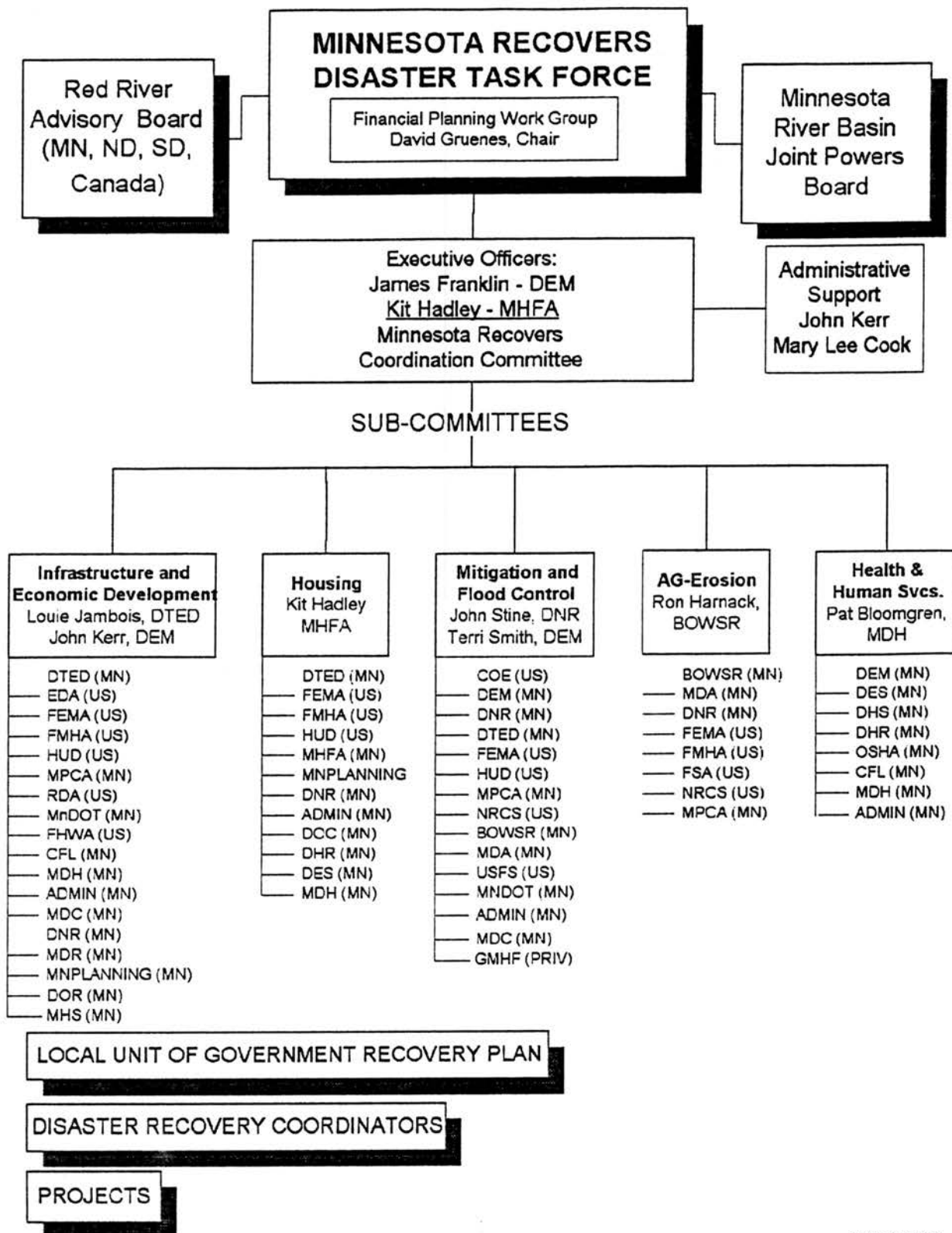
SWCD/WD/WMO	NUMBER OF LANDOWNERS	STATE COST SHARE FUNDS NEEDED	RIM RESERVE FUNDS NEEDED	OTHER	PREVIOUS STATE/ FEDERAL FUNDING	TOTAL FUNDS
BECKER	2	\$4,000	\$0	\$0	YES	\$4,000
BIG STONE	9	\$162,000	\$6,000	\$0	YES	\$168,000
BROWN	2	\$0	\$125,000	\$0		\$125,000
CARLTON	0	\$0	\$0	\$0		\$0
CHIPPEWA	24	\$110,000	\$944,000	\$100,000		\$1,154,000
CLAY	175	\$2,468,000	\$0	\$60,000		\$2,528,000
COTTONWOOD	0	\$0	\$0	\$0		\$0
CROW WING	6	\$30,000	\$0	\$0		\$30,000
JACKSON	0	\$0	\$0	\$0		\$0
KOOCHICHING	0	\$0	\$0	\$0		\$0
LAKE OF THE WOODS	0	\$0	\$0	\$0		\$0
MARINE WD	0	\$0	\$0	\$0		\$0
MARSHALL	5	\$40,000	\$59,000	\$0		\$99,000
N. CANNON RIVER WMO	0	\$0	\$0	\$0		\$0
N. FORK CROW RIVER WD	8	\$378,000	\$0	\$0		\$378,000
OTTER TAIL		\$500,000				\$500,000
PELICAN RIVER WD		\$500,000				\$500,000
RAMSEY-WASH. WD	0	\$0	\$0	\$0		\$0
RED LAKE	25	\$251,000	\$0	\$0	YES	\$251,000
RED LAKE WD		\$0	\$0	\$1,150,000		\$1,150,000
REDWOOD	4		\$298,000	\$0		\$298,000
RENVILLE	6	\$0	\$280,000	\$0		\$280,000
ROCK	0	\$0	\$0	\$0		\$0
SHERBURNE	0	\$0	\$0	\$0		\$0
SWIFT	21	\$5,000	\$787,000	\$0	YES	\$792,000
S. ST. LOUIS	2	\$7,000	\$0	\$0		\$7,000
TWO RIVERS WD	10	\$85,000	\$0	\$0		\$85,000
						(OVER)

AG EROSION FLOOD DAMAGE SURVEY SUMMARY AS OF MAY 19, 1997

BWSR

SWCD/WD/WMO	NUMBER OF LANDOWNERS	STATE COST SHARE FUNDS NEEDED	RIM RESERVE FUNDS NEEDED	OTHER	PREVIOUS STATE/ FEDERAL FUNDING	TOTAL FUNDS
WATONWAN	13	\$0	\$201,000	\$0	YES	\$201,000
WRIGHT	0	\$0	\$0	\$0		\$0
YELLOW MEDICINE	7	\$156,000	\$30,000	\$0		\$186,000
TOTALS	319	\$4,696,000	\$2,730,000	\$1,310,000		\$8,736,000

Old Business #4

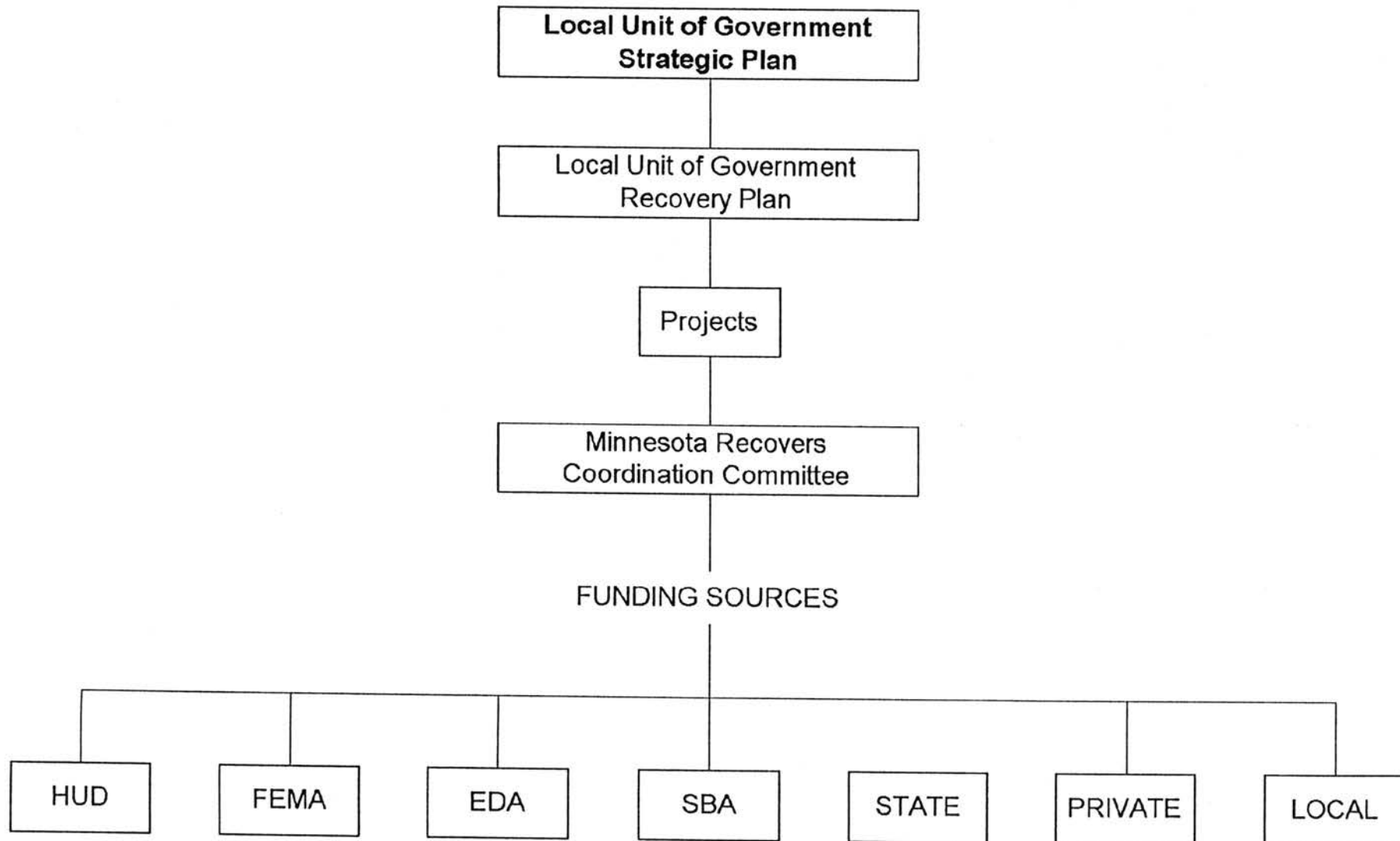


MAY 19, 1997

Project Funding

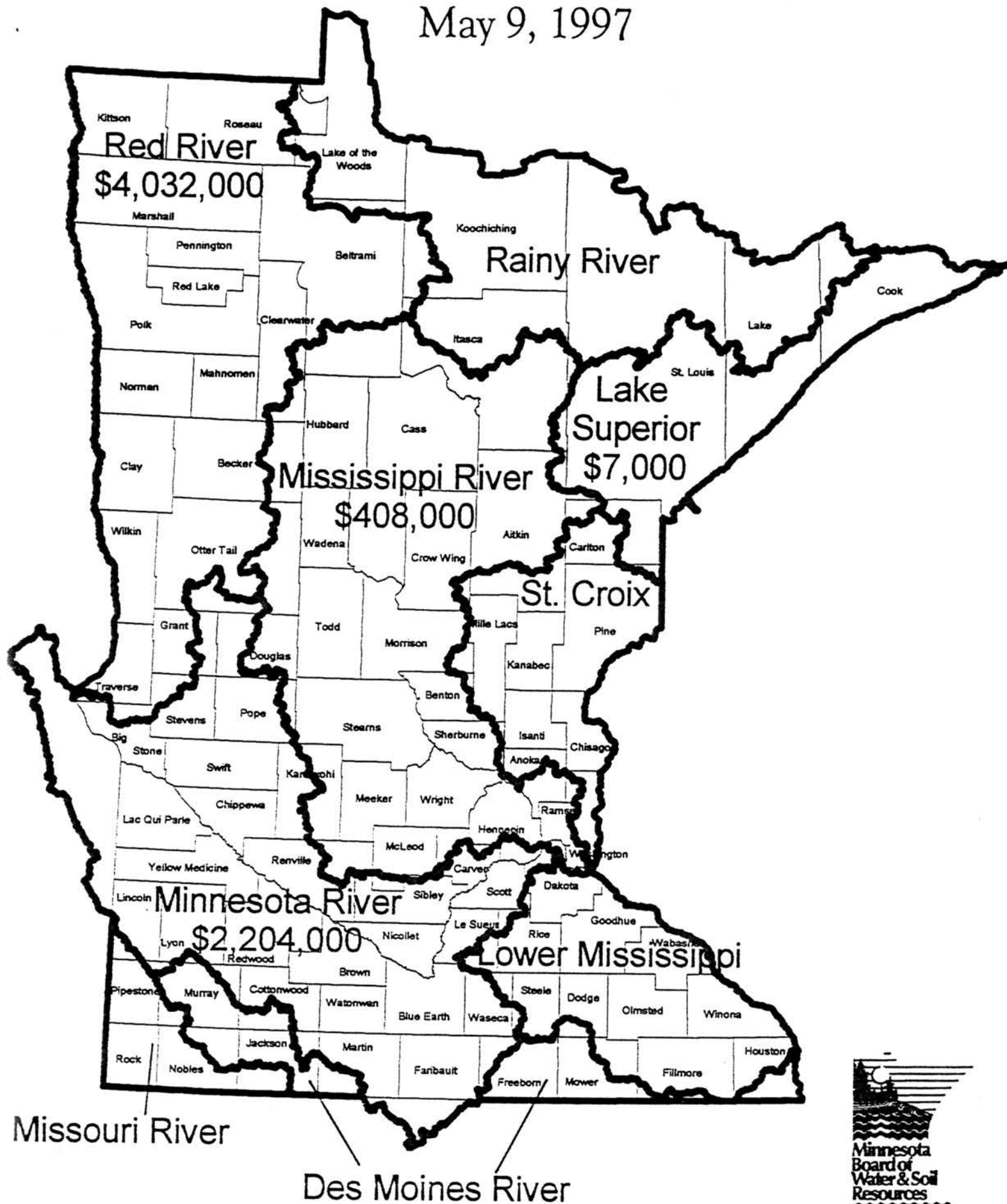
May 19, 1997

DRAFT



Flood Damage Survey Summary

May 9, 1997



FLOOD DAMAGE SURVEY SUMMARY AS OF MAY 9, 1997

BWSR

SWCD/WD/WMO	NUMBER OF LANDOWNERS	STATE COST SHARE FUNDS NEEDED	RIM RESERVE FUNDS NEEDED	OTHER	PREVIOUS STATE/ FEDERAL FUNDING	TOTAL FUNDS
BECKER	2	\$4,000	\$0	\$0	YES	\$4,000
BIG STONE	9	\$162,000	\$6,000	\$0	YES	\$168,000
BROWN	2	\$0	\$125,000	\$0		\$125,000
CARLTON	0	\$0	\$0	\$0		\$0
CHIPPEWA	24	\$110,000	\$944,000	\$100,000		\$1,154,000
CLAY	175	\$2,468,000	\$0	\$60,000		\$2,528,000
COTTONWOOD	0	\$0	\$0	\$0		\$0
CROW WING	6	\$30,000	\$0	\$0		\$30,000
JACKSON	0	\$0	\$0	\$0		\$0
KOOCHICHING	0	\$0	\$0	\$0		\$0
LAKE OF THE WOODS	0	\$0	\$0	\$0		\$0
MARINE WD	0	\$0	\$0	\$0		\$0
MARSHALL	5	\$40,000	\$59,000	\$0		\$99,000
N. CANNON RIVER WMO	0	\$0	\$0	\$0		\$0
N. FORK CROW RIVER WD	8	\$378,000	\$0	\$0		\$378,000
RAMSEY - WASH. WD	0	\$0	\$0	\$0		\$0
RED LAKE	25	\$251,000	\$0	\$0	YES	\$251,000
RED LAKE WD		\$0	\$0	\$1,150,000		\$1,150,000
REDWOOD	4		\$298,000	\$0		\$298,000
RENVILLE	6	\$0	\$280,000	\$0		\$280,000
ROCK	0	\$0	\$0	\$0		\$0
SHERBURNE	0	\$0	\$0	\$0		\$0
SWIFT	21	\$5,000	\$787,000	\$0	YES	\$792,000
S. ST. LOUIS	2	\$7,000	\$0	\$0		\$7,000
TWO RIVERS WD	10	\$85,000	\$0	\$0		\$85,000
WATONWAN	13	\$0	\$201,000	\$0	YES	\$201,000
WRIGHT	0	\$0	\$0	\$0		\$0
YELLOW MEDICINE	7	\$156,000	\$30,000	\$0		\$186,000

FLOOD DAMAGE SURVEY SUMMARY AS OF MAY 9, 1997

BWSR

SWCD/WD/WMO	NUMBER OF LANDOWNERS	STATE COST SHARE FUNDS NEEDED	RIM RESERVE FUNDS NEEDED	OTHER	PREVIOUS STATE/ FEDERAL FUNDING	TOTAL FUNDS
TOTALS	319	\$3,696,000	\$2,730,000	\$1,310,000		\$7,736,000

From: "Ronald Harnack" <Ronald.Harnack@bwsr.state.mn.us>
 Organization: MN Board of Water & Soil Resources
 To: Everyone at BWSR,
 Central Office,
 Field Office,
 MAWD ,
 mn.swcd@mn.nrcs.usda.gov
 Date sent: Fri, 16 May 1997 14:47:50 +0600 CST
 Subject: LEGISLATIVE UPDATE
 Send reply to: ronald.harnack@bwsr.state.mn.us
 Priority: normal

THE END'S IN SIGHT:

BUDGET: The conference committee completed thier work at midnite last nite. Although we didn't get everything that we requested, the numbers are good.

ACTIVITY	FY98	FY99	BASE or ONE TIME
Info Mgmt	\$150	\$150	Base
Water Res Ed Specialists	\$100	\$200	Base
General Services	\$228	\$455	Base
Nonpnt Engrg	\$ 90	\$ 90	Base
Chis/Wash JD 1	\$200		
Faribault SWCD	\$150		
Mn River JPB	\$475		
SE Mn Water JPB	\$ 27	\$27	Base

That's the extent of the funding. Nothing for LAKESHED or LARS & nothing for URBAN RESOURCES.

The BWSR Board subcommittee will be meeting to discuss and develop a recommenddation to the Board on the allocation of the grants to SWCD's. MASWCD will be involved in the discussion.

The Water and Soil Resource Education specialists will be targeted to the metro and southern region of BWSR first and to other areas based on availability of \$'s and match opportunities. We may be able to leverage these \$'s in cooperation with the Met Council, Mn River JPB, the Red River Water Mgmt Board and others.

The info mgmt will allow us to upgrade hardware in the central and regional offices and to upgrade staffing capacity for information and data management in the regional offices to support field staff and increase assistance to local governments.

OTHER FUNDING

1: Red River Basin Board: \$200,000 for grant to the Board will be administered through MPCA.

2: ISTS: *\$86,000 for LGUs to ISTS* \$344,000 for grants through the NRBG to assist lgu's in the development of ISTS program. Coordination with MPCA.

3: Red River Mediation: \$100,000 for mediation of Red River Impoundment issues. Administered through DNR.

4: The Brown's Creek Watershed Mgmt Alternatives was funded for \$250,000. All the other LCMR projects that BWSR was involved in did not change.

POLICY LEGISLATION:

1: Watershed district authority to levy and bond for SRF loan \$'s is in the tax bill.

2: Increased administrative levy authority for the few watershed districts asking is also in the tax bill.

3: SWCD 6 to 4 year terms was adopted unanimously by the house and the senate this week and is awaiting Gov's signature. Current 6 year terms are not impacted by the change.

4: VOTING by AGENCIES: Has been signed by the Gov and will be effective on August 1.

5: Gift and Donations: Has been signed by the Gov and will be

effective August 1.

6: District elections for Ramsey and Washington county SWCD's was approved.

Certainly some of the appropriations #'s should not be considered final until the Gov signs the bill. In the past the veto has not always spared BWSR. I am not aware of anything that is at risk, however one never knows until the ink is dry.

I want to thank BWSR staff for thier diligent responce to legislative inquiries and the support of swcds, wds and county staff in getting these responcees done. Several legislators told me they appreciated our collective help. Also a special thanks to Doug, Jim and Greg for helping cover legislative meetings and hearings and to Ray for the support from MAWD; to Sally for the support from MASWCD and to Dave for the support from AMC.

I would encourage each of you to drop a note to your legislator for thier help and to the members of the conference committee for thier efforts and support for the funding that benefitted your unit of government and landowners.

PS: There is likely to be a special session to address the flood needs. This could occur as early as mid July. Therefore PLEASE take the time to get your survey information into Wayne Z as soon as you can. Also be sure that you are connected with the FEMA efforts that are going on in your area so that you get your damages and mitigation opportunities in the hopper. THANKS.

21.39 SOIL RESOURCES 15,741,000 15,186,000

21.40 \$5,353,000 the first year and

21.41 \$5,353,000 the second year are for

21.42 natural resources block grants to local

21.43 governments. Of this amount, \$50,000

21.44 in each year is for a grant to the

21.45 North Shore Management Board and

21.46 \$35,000 in each year is for a grant to

21.47 the St. Louis River Board. If the

21.48 appropriation in either year is

21.49 insufficient, the appropriation for the

21.50 other year is available for it.

21.51 The board shall reduce the amount of

21.52 the natural resource block grant to a

21.53 county by an amount equal to any

21.54 reduction in the county's general

21.55 services allocation to a soil and water

21.56 conservation district from the county's

21.57 1996 allocation.

21.58 Grants must be matched with a

21.59 combination of local cash or in-kind

21.60 contributions. The base grant portion

21.61 related to water planning must be

21.62 matched by an amount that would be

22.1 raised by a levy under Minnesota

22.2 Statutes, section 103B.3369.

22.3 \$2,282,000 the first year and

22.4 \$2,509,000 the second year are for

22.5 grants to soil and water conservation

22.6 districts for general purposes and for

22.7 implementation of the RIM conservation

22.8 reserve program. Upon approval of the

22.9 board, expenditures may be made from

22.10 these appropriations for supplies and

22.11 services benefiting soil and water

22.12 conservation districts.

22.13 ~~\$2,120,000~~ the first year and

22.14 \$2,120,000 the second year are for

22.15 grants to soil and water conservation

22.16 districts for cost-sharing contracts

22.17 for erosion control and water quality

22.18 management. This appropriation is

22.19 available until expended. If the

22.20 appropriation in either year is

22.21 insufficient, the appropriation in the

22.22 other year is available for it.

22.23 \$189,000 the first year and \$189,000

22.24 the second year are for grants to

22.25 watershed districts and other local

22.26 units of government in the southern

22.27 Minnesota river basin study area 2 for
22.28 floodplain management. If the
22.29 appropriation in either year is
22.30 insufficient, the appropriation in the
22.31 other year is available for it.

22.32 \$200,000 the first year is for a grant
22.33 to Chisago and Washington counties for
22.34 the abandonment of joint ditch No. 1.

22.35 \$475,000 is for completion of water
22.36 quality improvement projects with the
22.37 12 major watersheds of the Minnesota
22.38 river basin, to be available until June
22.39 30, 1999. The water quality
22.40 improvement projects must utilize
22.41 practices that are proven effective,
22.42 must have landowner support, and must
22.43 be prioritized by the Minnesota river
22.44 basin joint powers board and the board
22.45 of water and soil resources. The board
22.46 shall use this appropriation only for
22.47 those projects where the local
22.48 landowners and counties provide 50
22.49 percent of project costs in cash.

22.50 \$150,000 the first year is for a grant
22.51 to the Faribault county soil and water
22.52 conservation district for the
22.53 quad-lakes restoration project in
22.54 Faribault and Blue Earth counties.

22.55 \$100,000 the first year and \$200,000
22.56 the second year are for a community
22.57 assistance program to provide watershed
22.58 education and communication assistance
22.59 to local governments in the
22.60 metropolitan area and in southern
22.61 Minnesota.

22.62 Any unencumbered balance in the board's
22.63 program of grants does not cancel at
23.1 the end of the first year and is
23.2 available for the second year for the
23.3 same grant program.

23.4 \$27,000 the first year and \$27,000 the
23.5 second year are for a grant to the
23.6 southeast Minnesota water resources
23.7 board for administrative costs. This
23.8 appropriation is available only to the
23.9 extent it is matched by \$1 of nonstate
23.10 money for each \$1 of state money.

23.11 \$90,000 the first year and \$90,000 the
23.12 second year are for grants to soil and
23.13 water conservation districts to cover

- 23.14 the costs of contracting for technical
- 23.15 staff to implement activities under the
- 23.16 state revolving fund.



1997 Envirothon Wrap-Up

Who won the State Envirothon?

Willow River High School from Pine County (Area III) took first place with a score of 65. Second place went to Lincoln High School (Thief River Falls) with a score of 57, and third went to Rushford-Peterson (Southeastern Minnesota) with a score of 56.

Who participated?

We had 1,200 students involved in the Area competitions, from approximately 62 SWCDs. Although this is still an increase from last year, flooding did force a number of schools to cancel.

Area I:	67 teams
Area II:	37 teams
Area III:	33 teams
Area IV:	28 teams
Area V:	26 teams
Area VI:	18 teams
Area VII:	19 teams

The top teams from each area (24 teams total) participated in the State Envirothon.

Where was it?

At Tamarac National Wildlife Refuge near Detroit Lakes. They have a beautiful park and the staff provided a great deal of support and assistance.

Who organized it?

A state planning committee consisting of SWCD staff from around the state and a BWSR representative. Special appreciation goes to Becker SWCD, the home county of Tamarac, for their extra effort and work.

Who helped?

MANY PEOPLE!! Special thanks to DNR, PCA, MES, Tamarac Wildlife Refuge and NRCS for providing presenters! Also deserving a special thanks are the Area SWCD Employees' Associations, the SWCD Area Envirothon Coordinators, and the countless SWCD employees who helped. Tamarac National Wildlife Refuge did a great job, as did many BWSR staff people.

Who sponsored it?

This year's state Envirothon was sponsored by the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR), state SWCDs and the SWCD employees' association, the Minnesota Forestry Association, the Auxiliary of the Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts, VFW Post 1676, Elks Lodge #2261, Eagles Auxiliary #2342, the Detroit Lakes Rotary Breakfast Club, the Detroit Lakes Noon Kiwanis, and the Detroit Lakes Chamber Agribusiness Committee. Local envirothons were sponsored by local SWCDs, organizations and businesses.

What about the National Envirothon?

The team is planning on attending the National Envirothon in Johnstown, PA, in August. Thanks to our fabulous sponsors (listed above), we already have the money to send them!!

More info?

Call Susan Tsakakis, BWSR, at 612/297-1893.



Board Member Update

May 1997

Our mission:

to manage water
and soil resources
and to help all
citizens be
stewards of our
irreplaceable
natural
resources.

Northern Region/ April

Board Conservationist (BC) Dan Steward recently traveled to Grand Rapids with Wetland Specialist Dan Eklund (two Dans are better than one) to look at a proposed banking site with the SWCD. Banking sites are few and far between in Itasca County and other like counties. The fact that the landowner is anxious to enroll the site makes it even a better prospect. This meeting was held to be sure that the locals and the state staff were all up to speed on the technical review of the project before it went into the bank. This will be an important banking site because good wetland banks are hard to come by in the forested north, and this will provide us with a template for future banking sights that may be developed. Dan Steward continues his personal crusade to save the white pine in Minnesota. Dan points out that an excellent opportunity exists for SWCDs to work with the DNR to use the white pine issues and funds to develop ties to small acreage landowners and sell more trees.

SWCDs may even be able to recoup some administration dollars in the process.

Pete Waller, Brainerd BC, attended a couple SWCD board meetings in March--Douglas, Pope, and Stevens. Pete gave them a short BWSR update and did some good old-fashioned schmoozing on their turf. Pete points out that it is important for us to find time to meet with our clientele, one on one, in their home court. Pete did some inter-agency coordination in March as well. He met with Tim James and Bruce Paahk of the MPCA Detroit Lakes office. They discussed the many program opportunities that exist in BWSR to tie into Clean Water Partnership Implementation projects. The Grove Lake CWP project was the focus of the discussion. Pete, Tim, and Bruce all agreed that there is much more they can be doing between agencies to complement land and water treatment implementation activities.

BC Brian Dwight worked hard putting the finishing touches on the "Boot Camp for Conservation Boards" held April 7 and 8 in Brainerd. This session complements

In a month of firsts, Mark also spent time working with Jim Haertl and Tim Fredbo to process the first compensation claim under the Wetland Conservation Act.

the Orientation I session held earlier and is designed to give board members some specific skill building training in the areas of local government law, personnel management, liability, and conducting effective meetings. About eighty people registered for the session, and early reviews show that it was a great success. We received many requests to repeat various topics at the association conventions this winter.

Dan Eklund and Brian assisted Gary Lane and Delton Schultz (Pennington SWCD and Hwy. Engineer) in running a proposed wetland project through the Minnesota Rapid Assessment Methodology (MNRAM) process for wetlands. This project is being opposed by a local landowner and could end up in court. We will be working with the locals to ensure that T's are crossed and I's are dotted throughout the process.

Mark Nelson (Duluth BC) is proud to report the first official technical evaluation panel (TEP) was held in Koochiching County via conference call. They are looking at a Boise Cascade project. Nothing final to report yet. In a month of firsts, Mark also spent time working with Jim Haertl and Tim Fredbo to process the first compensation claim under the Wetland Conservation Act. The wetland is located on Grindstone Lake in Pine County and is valuable habitat for songbirds, etc. The claim resulted in an easement for a little over two acres.

Jim Lemmerman (Duluth forester) reports that SWCDs are very active

in pursuing Forest Stewardship contracts this year. There are thirteen SWCDs involved this go-around. Of special note, the Lake Superior Association of SWCDs submitted a proposal to do forestry work in the Lake Superior watershed.

Ron Shelito, northern supervisor, seems to be involved more and more on a daily basis in putting out brush fires and responding to legislative requests. Some of the more recognizable names Ron's been dealing with include Ralph Drum, Wetland Conservation Act (WCA) violation; Joe Peters, Big Fish Lake; Rick Packer, WCA appeal City of Big Lake; Robert Erickson, Senator Dallas Sams inquiry; Daryl Stenberg, Rep. Eileen Tompkins inquiry; G. David Lauer, U.S. Senator Rod Grams inquiry; Dalen Coulee, Wild Rice River Watershed District project; and many more. We'll try to keep a lid on all of these and resolve as best as we can at the field level.

Northern Region/ May

It's been a great spring so far in the north region; floods, grass fires, and wetland violations. With the coming of spring, so comes increased project work, and that means BCs, engineers, and foresters all start moving out into the country to work with clientele more.

It's no secret that the flood of 97 has taken center stage of late. BCs Brian Dwight, Bill Best, Pete Waller, and Dale Krystosek have all had some involvement in flood-

related activities. So far this has been limited to working with LGUs to get some damage assessments. This has been hampered to some degree by the fact that much of the damage was hidden by flood water until just recently. Dale reports that his site visits have shown that damage is quite extensive. Dale gives an example of a streambank erosion site that had been staked last fall for repair this spring. Upon inspection this spring the entire site was gone because the river had eroded another 100 feet into the bank. These types of scenarios we expect to be replayed throughout the Red River Valley as a result of the floods.

Brainerd BC Keith Grow reports that EPA is assuming jurisdiction of the Willard Rehbein WCA violation case in Mille Lacs County. The EPA is moving forward with developing a restoration plan. Keith and Mille Lacs County will be commenting on the EPA's restoration plan for Mr. Rehbein.

Dan Eklund, Wetland Specialist, completed his round of participation at the BWSR-sponsored training sessions on the state drainage law. Dan gave presentations at Brainerd, Detroit Lakes, and Thief River Falls. Dan has been assisting BCs with various TEP duties, including a very controversial site in Wright County involving a cease and desist order for fill on the Lang property. The Dispute Resolution Committee (DRC) will likely see this project in the near future. Dan also spent two days with Mark Nelson and company getting himself acquainted with the WCA issues in NE Minnesota.

Training is taking more notice these days as BWSR's new training coordinator, Joe Wiltsey, gets geared up. Joe has been busy working on an automated event calender that SWCDs, counties, watersheds, BWSR and others can use to track and schedule the multitude of training opportunities that exist. Joe has also been fine-tuning a revised Conservation Training Database that will gather and inventory local government unit (LGU) training requests and maintain a historical record of training completed. This will be useful to LGU employees and their supervisors that plan to take advantage of the various training opportunities that exist. Both the calender and training data base are items that have been identified as needed by both clientele and BWSR for many years.

Clientele contacts have been up lately. BC Pete Waller spent a day with Doug Thomas and the Sauk River Watershed District to discuss its overall plan and strategies for implementation. Pete also made office visits to Pope, Grant, Traverse, and Stearns SWCDs to review special project applications. Keith orchestrated a New Supervisor Orientation session in Brainerd that 31 supervisors attended from Areas 2, 3, and 4. Representatives from NRCS, the Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts (MASWCD), the Minnesota Association of Conservation District Employees (MACDE), Resource Conservation and Development Districts, and BWSR briefed the group regarding their roles as new supervisors.

Keith recently met with the group from the Nonpoint Engineering Assistance Program joint powers

Dan Eklund, Wetland Specialist, completed his round of participation at the BWSR-sponsored training sessions on the state drainage law.

The Wetlands Reserve Program/Reinvest in Minnesota (WRP/RIM) partnership initiative is getting close to implementing projects!

area 6. The big issue there seems to be the problems they are having lining up a primary lender. Technically the joint powers board is ready to go but the idea of one lender located in St. Cloud is causing a road block in getting \$550,000 in SRF funds spent.

Dale has been working with Becker, Clay, and Otter Tail counties getting their water plans ready for review and approval in June. Mark Nelson presented to Lake County on behalf of the Lake SWCD and the Lake Superior Association of SWCDs. The purpose of Mark's presentation was to develop support for a watershed based SRF loan proposal from northshore landowners. Jim Lemmerman met with Mower and Jackson SWCDs and an out-of-state landowner to develop windbreaks on three farms he has in Minnesota. The landowner had tentatively agreed to a Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) Reserve wetland restoration on approximately 50 acres on one farm. Jim also spent a day in Wilmar setting up the windbreak training that will be held this summer for NRCS and SWCD staff.

Engineering and Technical Services

Conservation Easements

Negotiations with the USDA continue for the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program. A number of BWSR staff, including Tim Fredbo, easement program manager, are involved with this uniquely Minnesota idea that is a

challenge to coordinate.

The Wetlands Reserve Program/Reinvest in Minnesota (WRP/RIM) partnership initiative is getting close to implementing projects! Tim and Steve Miller, sr. realty specialist, have been involved in working out the specifics with the NRCS to partner 30 year WRP easements with RIM perpetual wetland restoration easements. The funding arrangement will be 75 percent WRP and 25 percent RIM. We are seeking a \$1 million funding commitment from the NRCS for the coming year. Together with the NRCS, we have identified six restoration projects to date that will be implemented under this partnering agreement.

Many agreement packages for easement applications accepted during the 1996 RIM Reserve sign-up came in during the past month. It looks to be a pretty typical wave of processing workload after a sign-up. For various reasons, many SWCDs typically don't get agreement packages to the BWSR for a number of months after applications are selected and funded. This works out pretty well in that it spreads the processing workload out during the year and allows program staff to more easily process easements on a first come-first served basis.

Tom Wenzel, design engineer, Jeff Hedtke, wetland restoration technician, and Jim Leniewski, engineering technician, have started providing assistance for the 1997 wetland restoration construction season. SWCDs have many projects scheduled for construction this year, including many for which Tom, Jim and Jeff helped prepare plans and specifications over the winter.

To date, 10 landowners have utilized the BWSR policy adopted in February to allow early release of 1986 ten year easements when the easement lands have been out of production for 10 cropping seasons. A total of 260 acres is involved in these 10 limited duration easements.

Staff continue to work on the unfinished sections of the program handbook as priorities permit. Drafts have been developed for the following sections: Easement Alterations, Conservation Plan Amendments, Site Inspections and Flowage Easements

Lakeshore Engineering

We recently received word from the Great Lakes Commission that two of our three grant requests for this year will be funded. The grants to be funded are for low cost shoreline erosion control demonstration projects and demonstration projects using vegetation for bluff and shoreline stabilization. The GLC has been giving priority to grant requests under \$15,000. These two grants are for \$13,500 and \$14,700, respectively.

Gene Clark, lakeshore engineer, and Brad Matlack, lakeshore engineering technician, assisted Cook, Lake and South St. Louis SWCDs with a number of special project applications during April. They also assisted with six new site investigations recently, and helped Aitkin County extension staff install temporary wave break structures on Big Sandy Lake for the aquatic vegetation demonstration project.

Several bids were received by landowners for the Sucker Bay Phase II project, which involves top-of-bluff surface water and groundwater control. The bids were higher than we had hoped (estimated), but the three landowners involved have selected a contractor and Gene has been working with them to trim some costs without compromising the design. Contractors often have specific concerns or misunderstandings that raise their bids, which can sometimes be reduced if the designer and contractor work together to modify construction techniques and/or designs. Some of that has been occurring for this project, which should get underway soon.

Gene and Brad have also recently completed plans, specifications and bidding documents for several other shoreline stabilization projects that should be built this summer.

Technical Coordination, Consultation and Training

The Non-Point Engineering Assistance Program (NPEA) joint powers area staff have been receiving and setting up new larger computers and operating systems for computer-aided design. This equipment will substantially improve the speed and capability of their design software. They (and we) had found the original computers that all of us were using to be minimally powerful enough for the design software that the BWSR, SWCD, NPEA and NRCS engineering staff all started using several years ago. Some glitches have been encountered during installation of the new operating systems (Windows NT), but Bryan Alpaugh, information tech-

To date, 10 landowners have utilized the BWSR policy adopted in February to allow early release of 1986 ten year easements when the easement lands have been out of production for 10 cropping seasons.

Al Kean, chief engineer, continues to help facilitate discussions between PCA, NRCS, SWCD and BWSR staff regarding a number of feedlot program guidelines and policies that the PCA is working on.

nology specialist, has been helping to resolve the problems. Funding for the new computers and operating systems was provided to the joint powers boards via the challenge grants that went out this past winter. Computer-aided design is a very important tool for the NPEA staff to provide efficient assistance to SWCDs.

Justin Jeffery, training and design engineer, conducted several more quality assurance reviews (spot checks) recently of projects for which technical assistance was provided by NPEA staff. Not surprisingly, the predominant type of projects that Justin has reviewed have been feedlots. He reports that the NPEA staff have been doing a good job of providing sound technical assistance to the SWCDs and landowners they serve. The NPEA staff appear to be conscientious and capable. These quality assurance reviews have created opportunity for Justin to provide some design enhancement recommendations for future projects, based on his experience and onsite reviews with NPEA and other SWCD staff involved.

Al Kean, chief engineer, continues to help facilitate discussions between PCA, NRCS, SWCD and BWSR staff regarding a number of feedlot program guidelines and policies that the PCA is working on. One such effort is a policy forum regarding manure storage in the karst region of Minnesota, which will be held at Whitewater State Park on May 29. SWCD and NRCS field staff, private consultants and others have been invited.

Justin has been working on a

number of efforts to acquire and provide standard drawings, construction notes and specifications for manure storage facilities to the NPEA staff. Some of this information is for structures that are on NRCS's preapproved plan list.

Al and Howard Moechnig, conservation planner, recently attended a meeting of the NRCS Field Office Technical Guide (FOTG) Subcommittee, which hadn't met for a couple of years. It was a good start to revive this committee and elevate the priority of maintaining and enhancing the FOTG, which is a critical design reference for much of the conservation work implemented by or through SWCDs, the NRCS and BWSR. We will try to keep the momentum going in this regard.

A late breaking report from Joe Wiltsey, training coordinator, indicates that the technical training initiative is also gaining momentum after what seemed to be a lull in the implementation efforts. Joe attended a recent NRCS area conservationist meeting, where the priority for implementing this partnership initiative seemed to be building. Howard, Joe, Justin and Al are also involved in helping start efforts to develop course descriptions and training for ecological science practices.

The Redwood River subwatershed pilot project to look at wetland restoration, road retention and agricultural practices for flood control has encountered another obstacle, which is the transfer of Pete Cooper, NRCS hydrologist, from Minnesota to Oregon. Al is coordinating with the NRCS and

other project members to plan for how to fill the hydrologic modeling role, which is key for the project. Darrell Apelgrain, water resources engineer, has also been involved in this pilot project. Darrell had been on sick leave since early February and is currently back to work part-time.

Southern Region

This past month BC David Sill attended the "kick off" meeting of the Greater Yellow Medicine River Clean Water Partnership Project. Significant opportunities exist with this project and their recently approved overall watershed plan to move the watershed district into new and expanded areas of resource management and protection.

David also recently participated in a meeting on drainage issues in the Lac qui Parle watershed sponsored by American Rivers. David spoke about the need for comprehensive measures when addressing drainage and flooding issues, identifying several available program opportunities for land users. Gyles Randall, U of Minnesota soil scientist, and Mike Nienaber from NRCS also participated.

Marshall BC Tabor Hoek reports attending and presenting information at a drainage contractors' workshop sponsored by the Soil and Water Technology Program at Minnesota West Canby Campus. Approximately 150 owners and operators of tiling equipment attended a one-day workshop on drainage system issues ranging from proper design, cost-benefit, environmental impacts to wetland regulations. It's phenomenal how much drainage has taken place

during the past five wet years on agricultural land. Most large farmers have purchased their own drainage equipment as contractors are hard to find during the construction season. It's hard to quantify the impacts of the millions of feet of tile that is being installed in each county annually. People are beginning to understand the downstream impacts of their actions. Most landowners find themselves on the receiving end of excess water at some point in time; very few live at the ultimate top.

The State Cost-Share Program provides an opportunity for SWCDs to submit applications for Special Projects and Special Minnesota River Basin grants. BC Tom Fischer visited with each of his SWCDs that submitted applications to view the project site and discuss the application. In addition, BC Fischer is heading up a small BWSR committee that will review the Minnesota River Basin applications and make its funding recommendation to the BWSR board. Funds available for the Minnesota River are \$580,000. To fully fund the applications submitted would require more than \$1.4 million.

With spring slowly approaching, Wetland Conservation Act (WCA) activities are increasing in Tom's work area. Activities in April included office review of banking and replacement plans, field investigation, and committee meetings. Each LGU is becoming more confident in its administration of WCA as it gains more and more experience. And each LGU is looking forward to receiving the long-awaited updated WCA Manual.

Chris Hughes attended "Boot Camp for Conservation" at Cragun's on

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Minnesota was commended a number of times throughout the conference, both specifically for the banking program and for the regulatory/wetlands protection program (i.e., WCA) in general.

April 7 and 8. Excellent presenters provided information on board effectiveness; watershed, SWCD, and joint powers law; data privacy; and fair labor standards. Robyn Sykes of the Minnesota County Insurance Trust and Johnnie Miller of the Meadowbrook Insurance Group provided insight on risk management when dealing with employment issues and public officials' liability.

Wetlands

Wetland Specialist Barbara Ohman attended the Wetlands Month Conference, May 7-9, in Alexandria, Virginia, and made a presentation on Minnesota's wetland banking program. Minnesota was commended a number of times throughout the conference, both specifically for the banking program and for the regulatory/wetlands protection program (i.e., WCA) in general. Keynote speaker Delmar Blasco, Secretary General of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, Ramsar Bureau, Gland, Switzerland, even approached Barbara after the presentation to commend the state, since the locals are involved in the protection efforts, and to ask a few questions. One attendee commented on how interesting it was to see the lengths to which Minnesota is going with wetlands protection at the state level, since most states aren't/won't.