



**Board of Managers**

Bill Brekke, Jr.-Nielsville Stuart Christian-Erskine Roger Hanson-Beltrami Gordon Sonsteli-Winger Harold Vig-Fosston Daniel Wilkens-Administrator April Swenby-Administrative Assistant

**PROJECT TEAM MEETING MINUTES**

May 8, 2001

**ATTENDANCE:** Maynard Pick, Brian Dwight, Les Peterson, Dan Wilkens, Penny Doty, Roger Hanson, Rolland Gagner, Mike Bruggeman, Gordon Sonsteli, Bev Sande, John C. Stimpert, Wayne Solheim, Jack Bailey, Joyce Ceiluck Jody Horntvedt.

**AGENDA REVIEW:** Jody Horntvedt asked to be included and Rob Goral has a video of Maple Creek to show.

**UNION LAKE SARAH:** The Lake Improvement District, (LID) turned the pump on May 1, 2001 at 3:00 PM. The gage at Climax malfunctioned. The United States Geological Survey, (USGS) repaired the gage after they were notified. Goral reestablished the gage on Union Lake. Union Lake was 2.5 feet above Ordinary High Water Mark, (OHW). Sarah was 19.8 inches above Union. The flow through the interconnect seemed to be obstructed. The hearing on the right of way permit from United States Fish and Wildlife Service, (USFWS) was held on May 4, 2001 with 3 options discussed. Peterson reported that the discussion was not controversial. Once the Environmental Assessment Worksheet, (EAW) is completed there will be a 30-day review period. USFWS will give a decision after comments are reviewed. Horntvedt suggested that the Union Lake Sarah discussion should be held prior to the meeting of the Project Team, (PT) with a report given to the PT. Goral stated that the PT designed the operating plan for the project and that there are still issues up in the air and since there is potential that the Sand Hill River Watershed District, (SHRWD) will be taking over the project the current operational success is critical. Horntvedt said that part of her job is to read body language which leads her to believe that the group needs time to work together and that this process could be done more efficiently if a subgroup met, had a discussion, and then bring highlights and key points to the group. This project should be winding down soon so it would not save much time to implement a sub group at this time but we will keep this idea in mind for other projects that come along.

**GARDEN SLOUGH:** Wilkens gave Jon Schneider a tour of the Garden Slough area so he has a better understanding of the area during discussions.

**OGAARD IMPOUNDMENT:** Wilkens also gave Schneider a tour of the Ogaard Impoundment. This is a 40-acre site with the potential to restore 12 acres of wetlands with little bounce. The project could have excellent Natural Resource Enhancement, (NRE) benefits. Ogaard wants to sell the land, which has brought the project forward at this time. The project was proposed during the Winger Dam time frame as a mitigation site. USFWS was a partner in the beginning. Hanson stated that locally 9 out of 10 landowners would be opposed to the project because they feel that there is plenty of wildlife in the area.



**PROJECT TEAM GUIDELINES:** Horntvedt said she usually puts the agenda together right after a meeting. At the last meeting we talked about PT membership and discussed who and what categories or groups of people need to be represented. Horntvedt shared forms and letters she developed to get nominations of persons to be involved on the PT. She also discussed the statement of commitment and the value of having everyone sign on. Roger Hanson asked about the United States Army Corps of Engineers, (USACOE) member. Doty asked if there is an alternate for Shelly Hanson. Goral mentioned that everyone has a full plate and every item needs to be prioritized. It is obvious that participation in the PT is vital. Horntvedt stated it goes back to the need to be official and people need to make a commitment up front. The board needs to work on a needs statement and set goals for the PT. The board also needs to work on the membership.

**MAPLE CREEK:** Goral played the video of the Maple Creek area. An excellent discussion occurred following the video.

It was decided that we would not meet again until we had engineering information to proceed. We will try to have the fisheries issue information developed for the next meeting.

**ADJOURN: Meeting was adjourned at 3:00 PM.**

Goral went through the notes immediately following the meeting and did the following synopsis:

Need to identify the engineering studies that need to be done for fish passage.

Storage capacity needs that need to be identified.

Reviewed mini tour and gave everyone a visual idea of area to be inundated in potential Maple Creek holding area.

Goral – next steps – Engineering report on Fish Passage. Engineering studies, based on what height of dike, how far back this would take us, what storage would we be getting east of Highway nine, how much storage in each NRE areas. When we develop this information we can approach people in the area for their support.

**Minutes respectfully submitted:**

**Daniel Wilkens, Administrator**