

PROJECT TEAM MEETING MINUTES
March 13, 2007

1. **ATTENDANCE:** Maynard Pick – Congressional, Les Peterson – US Fish and Wildlife, Bryan Paradis – LID, Adam Woltjer – East Polk NRCS, Erik Jones – Houston Engineering, Mike Vavricka – MPCA, Dan Thul – DNR Waters, Tom Groshens – DNR Fisheries, Keith Mykleseth – TNC, Jason Eckstein – TNC, Wes Drake – NRCS, **Greg Bengtson – NRCS**, April Swenby – SHRWD Administrative Assistant, and Daniel Wilkens – SHRWD Administrator.
2. **AGENDA REVIEW:** No new items were added to the agenda.
3. **UNION LAKE EROSION CONTROL:** Wilkens met with the landowner, Mark Krebsbach. Krebsbach is willing to participate in this project and will be glad to discuss alternatives. Krebsbach has purchased this land for investment purposes and is willing to sell the 10 acres that is in CRP. Dwight is reviewing regulations to ensure that the grant may be used for the purchase of the land if necessary.

Ownership for this project is still in question. The Sand Hill River Watershed District board would prefer the LID obtain ownership and the LID would prefer the Sand Hill River Watershed District obtain ownership. The LID is planning to meeting with the Sand Hill River Watershed District board on April 3 to discuss the ownership issue.

4. **Overall Plan Update:** Modeling may be ready for the next project team meeting. CAC and TAC letters of interest have been mailed to the proposed committee members asking them if they would be willing to serve on those committees.
5. **NRCS Ditch Abandonment:** Keith Mykleseth of the Nature Conservancy along with Greg Bengtson & Wes Drake of the NRCS proposed a wetland restoration project on ditch # 65. Their project would assist with flood control on Ditch # 65. They can provide final numbers on elevations as they pursue the design process. The group is asking for the District's support in pursuing the final project. They plan to apply for a permit from the district in March. Although the County is in charge of the ditch, the watershed board is responsible for managing the water in the district. The board would prefer to work together with the Nature Conservancy to accomplish the same task, rather than creating an abandonment in all of section 10 and the south ¼ mile of section 3 in Godfrey Township as in their presentation. This abandonment is in the middle of ditch # 65.

The project team explored the possibility of moving the township road and incorporating it with the dike on the state land thereby taking advantage of the entire original basin. The NRCS disagreed, arguing that the landowner, Broden, would not have access to his land if the road were moved. The DNR would need to be asked their opinion on whether more would be gained than lost if the road is rerouted across the meadow. Jones asked if the two acres in question, (Broden) could be swapped for other land or if the property could be purchased. The project team suggested endorsing two different projects, rather than using WRP exclusively as proposed. Additional discussion was held on the purpose of the abandonment, bounce, trust and team work.

Good discussion was held and it was determined that the alternatives discussed were unfeasible. Wilkens will converse with Kurt Deter regarding the pros and cons of the ditch abandonment issue. Wilkens advised the project team that the board would prefer to work together with the Nature Conservancy to accomplish the same task, rather than creating an abandonment in all of section 10 and the south ¼ mile of section 3 in Godfrey Township as in their presentation.

- 6. ADJOURN:** Meeting was adjourned 1:30 PM. The next meeting will be held at the call of the chair at the Sand Hill River Watershed District office in Fertile, MN.

Minutes respectfully submitted:

April Swenby – Administrative Assistant