

Chippewa River Watershed Project
Committee Meeting Minutes
January 14, 2005
Benson Fire Hall, Benson, MN

Present: Dean Shuck, Kandiyohi Co. Commissioner; Clinton Schuerman, Swift SWCD Supervisor; Jerry Johnson, Douglas Co. Commissioner; Kenneth F. Koenen, Chippewa Co. Commissioner; Larry Kittelson, Pope Co. Commissioner; Doug Anderson, Swift Co. Commissioner; Jean Diggins, Chippewa SWCD; JoAnn Blomme, Chippewa Co. Land & Resource Mgmt; Joe Keller, NRCS-Montevideo; Brad Olson, DNR; Lucas Youngsma, Shakopee Creek Headwaters Project; Skip Wright, DNR Waters-Spicer; Rick Gronseth, Swift SWCD; Ryan Peterson, Kandiyohi SWCD; Curt Vacek, DNR Wildlife-Appleton; Jeanne Olson, Pope Co. Commissioner; Duaine E. Flanders, Innovative Ventures/Greenwood Resources; Steve Nokleby, Chippewa SWCD; Kylene Olson, Paul Wymar, Jennifer Hoffman, Chippewa River Watershed Project.

Introductions:

Kylene called the meeting to order and introductions were made. The sign-up sheet was passed around and a request for updated email addresses was made.

In-Kind Contributions: Kylene reminded all partners of the importance of recording and reporting in-kind contributions. In-kind reporting forms were made available.

The Natural Ditch: Joe Magner, a senior hydrologist with the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency and a PhD candidate at the University of Minnesota was on hand to speak about the “The Natural Ditch.” Magner was a part of a research project that examined channel design in agricultural ditches in SW Minnesota. One of the primary research sites was Judicial Ditch 8 in Swift County. Traditional ditch design calls for a trapezoidal shape with 2:1 side slopes. The research indicates that changing initial design to a 2-stage shape with a floodplain benchmark could have marked environmental and economic benefits. Magner continued his discussion on the basics of stable channel formation on and how this needs to be applied to current drainage systems. A stream system doesn’t just move water; it also needs to manage sediment. The balance must be maintained to have a healthy stream/ditch system and avoid erosion problems. In certain situations in SW Minnesota, altering the ditch design to a two-stage shape would help achieve this balance while still moving water off of the landscape. Magner also spoke of a new assessment tool, MADRAS, which is being developed for counties to use. The Minnesota Agricultural Ditch Reach Assessment for Stability tool would aid ditch authorities in making decisions regarding ditch maintenance and design. An important note, ditching and drainage is a part of our landscape, but there are opportunities to make improvements and reevaluating channel design is an important first step.

Heritage Springs Update: The development proposed for the shores of Games Lake was approved by the Kandiyohi Planning Commission. It will feature 21 lots with 1 outlet slip. The developer included in his plans the dry creek bed restoration, wetland restoration and rain gardens. The SCHP will be staying in contact with the developer as this project moves forward.

Updates: Kandiyohi County is changing their ordinance to lower density in third and fourth tier developments and will be addressing new regulations towards outlots. Kandiyohi County is also preparing to amend their ISTS ordinance to institute point of sale requirements.

Earth Day Celebration: Jennifer is a part of the planning committee that has been meeting for the Saturday, April 23 event to be held at the Prairie Woods Environmental Learning Center. The

theme for the day will be “Watershed Logic-Go with the Flow.” We have a wide variety of speakers, presentations and activities planned. Mark your calendars and bring the whole family.

Make-A-Splash Water Festival: Jennifer is a part of the grant writing/planning team for a proposed water festival to be held in September at the Outdoor Learning Center-Ambush Park in Benson. The Swift SWCD is serving as the project contact. Grant applications are due January 28 and notification will be made by February 14.

CSP Meeting: Per request by CRWP partners, Jennifer has been working on setting up an informational meeting about CSP for watershed partners. This meeting will also serve as a strategy session on how to best prepare local partners and watershed residents for CSP. Keep on the lookout for meeting date and time.

The next meeting will be Friday, February 11, 2005, 10:15 am, Benson Fire Hall, Benson, MN. Please remember to park on the west side of the building.