

Lake Shamineau Lake Improvement District (LSLID) Lake Shamineau High Water Stakeholder Meeting

May 22, 2018

- Attendees:*
- LID Board: Bob Koll (Chair), Rick Rosar (Vice-Chair), Fred Comb (Treasurer), Cindy Kevern (Secretary), and Don Ogilvie
 - Jeff Langan and Mark Aanenson (Houston Engineering)
 - Mike Wilson, Morrison County Commissioner; Greg Blaine, Morrison County Commissioner; Mike Lemieur, Morrison County Commissioner; Deb Lowe, Morrison County Auditor; Amy Kowalzek, Morrison County Land Services; Deb Gruber, Morrison County Administrator; Barb Becker, Todd County Commissioner; Mark Anderson, DNR; Nancy Uhlenkamp, Todd County; Lewis Noska, Todd County; Tim Stieber, Todd County; Loren Fellbaum, Todd County; Terry Sandstrom, Scandia Valley Township Chair; Jeff Hardy, Scandia Valley Township; Kurt Deter, Rinke Noonan

Welcome/Intro

Chairman Bob Koll called the meeting to order at 1:30 PM.

- I. Bob Koll welcomed the group to the meeting and provided a short history of the high water project. Bob also give an overview of the meeting and purpose including discussion intended for improved understanding of project process and to develop improved confidence/assurance regarding the process used to address the need and solutions. The group introduced themselves.
- II. Jeff Langan provided a short overview of the project to date. Jeff mentioned that this discussion is early in the process and is intended to provide more confidence in the project process. Jeff reviewed the possible alignment and features. Jeff also pointed out that printed maps were available for review of the suggested corridor.

Jeff also noted that the project currently is a concept. For example, the current route avoids Lake Lena but this route may be re-visited as the project progresses. Over the past several months, Houston has been exploring whether there are any red flags that may stop the project. Currently no red flags have been found with the current route and project parameters. In addition, the economics of the project have been reviewed to determine a feasible budget.

Jeff also noted that the operating plan will include items such as water levels, nesting area, etc. which will help to define pumping intervals and times, as well as other operating details.

Once the project is approved by the County, the permitting process will be the next step. They will be strategic about how they go about the next steps to spend as little time (and cost) at each step to determine if there are red flags. This will ensure that as little funds as possible is used in the event that the project is determined that it is not feasible.

III. Jeff opened up the meeting to questions and comments. To begin the conversation, he started by reviewing a few of the questions that had previously been raised at the Technical Evaluation Plan meeting.

- There was discussion about the WRAPS document provided by the MPCA. Jeff commented that the project will be careful to not negatively impact the water quality downstream. It also was not clear that this would be a permitting issue or included in the operating plan. Mark (Houston) also mentioned that this may come up with the Corp of Engineers. There was concern raised about the current status of Fish Trap Creek and the Long Prairie River. The discussion ended with Jeff giving assurance that this project will ensure that there will not be an unreasonable effect and there are checks and balances built into the system.
- There was a question about the amount of volume that will be going to the Long Prairie River. Jeff reported that the feasibility report included estimated volumes but as part of the next steps including permitting, the volumes will be reviewed to ensure no negative downstream impact.
- The effect on flood plain impacts was discussed. Jeff reported that these impacts will be discussed in the operating plan. There was a question about who manages the equipment and the pumping. Jeff reported that examples from other projects include County personnel, local contractors. Watershed staff or even LID personnel.
- There were questions regarding the current status of high water in Fish Trap Creek and the Long Prairie River and could they handle increased capacity. Jeff explained that rivers and streams ebb and flow and there should be times of the year that the water should be able to flow without negative impact.
- There was also a question about the historical natural flow. Bob provided some history of how road projects in the past may have affected the flow. Jeff explained that the route identified in the project may assist with the natural flow.
- There was discussion about County Road Ditch 41 and the impact of our project. Kurt, from Rinke Noonan provided an overview of the process for gaining approval from the Todd County Board for water drainage in Ditch 41. Highlights included:
 - The process is governed by State Statute for drainage code
 - Todd County acts as the drainage authority to ensure that the drainage code is followed.
 - Since there will be drainage from an unassessed area to an assessed area, the project will be required to petition the Todd County Board for an outlet and a joint ditch process
 - A Public Hearing will be required
 - Todd County can set terms and conditions (eg. capacity, operation). Decisions in this process are determined on evidence. The burden of proof is on the petitioner.
 - Todd County has a fiduciary responsibility to the entities that were assessed for the ditch.
 - To determine an outlet fee, viewers will be required
 - There may be a need to have a joint board for a joint ditch process
 - Due to the amount of time this process may take, it is important to begin as early as possible.
 - There was a suggestion to involve the locals that have been assessed and have an interest in the ditch prior to the hearing.
 - Jeff reported that this process and cost was anticipated in the feasibility study.
- Jeff mentioned that a pump with a filter will be required due to the milfoil problem in the lake and prevent an infestation downstream. There was discussion of whether the pump filter will address future infestations and Jeff reported that this will be addressed during the DNR permitting process.
- There was a discussion regarding rainfall and ground water contribution. Jeff reported that rainfall has increased dramatically over the past 8 to 10 years contributing to the increased water levels. Jeff also mentioned that on previous projects, after the initial draw down to the

prescribed level, pumping becomes sporadic depending on need. He also reported that a couple of his other projects have not had to pump for over 5 years now, and due to careful planning, downstream properties are not even aware the drawdown has started.

- There was discussion about the public benefit including roadway impacts. Terry Sandstrom from Scandia Valley Township reported that four roads are currently under water and have problems due to high water. Other impacts include shoreline stabilization, wildlife habitat, homes, and septic systems.
- There was a question about inlets. Jeff mentioned that preventing inflow may help but not fix the problem. Also this may prevent a problem during dry periods when inflow may be needed.
- Tim Stieber from Todd County mentioned that it will be beneficial to the process to demonstrate a benefit to Todd County, such as improved water quality. It will help to provide a Win/Win for both counties.
- There was a question about easements and property rights of downstream property owners. Jeff and Bob reported that several had been talked to and no red flags came up.
- Jeff Hardy, Scandia Valley Township, also mentioned that providing water to the golf course and to agriculture land may be helpful to the project for reducing water out of lake.
- There was a question about funding for the project. The LID Board said that the LID members would be assessed and there is possible grant funding.
- Todd County suggested that attending a planning session with the Todd County Board would be helpful. The LID Board stated that they would follow up.

IV. The meeting was closed with a discussion about project next steps and schedule. The group was also thanked for all their help and attendance at the meeting. Morrison County representatives stayed for further discussion with the LID Board.

V. The meeting ended at 3:30 PM.

Respectively submitted by Cindy Kevern.