



FLOOD CONTROL PROJECT UNDERWAY

CONSTRUCTION BEGINS ON TWO RIVERS
WATERSHED DISTRICT'S ROSS NO. 7 IMPOUNDMENT

By Dan Money

The Two Rivers Watershed District has started construction on a flood control project located 3 miles northeast of the City of Badger, MN. The project, known as the Ross No. 7 Impoundment, will completely control the runoff from Skunk Creek, which is an area 18.2 miles in size. The impoundment is designed to control all of the flow produced from a rainfall event that generates up to 4" of runoff. Gladen Construction from Laporte, MN has been hired to do the work. The project will have downstream benefits mainly in Barto and Polonia Townships in Roseau County along lateral 1 of State Ditch No. 95. These benefits include reduction of overland flooding of cropland, reduced damages of roads, culverts, bridges and other infrastructure, and reduced erosion.

The project will have a total of 3,611 acre-feet of storage built into it (one acre-foot is equivalent to water that is one foot deep and covers 1 acre of land, or about 326 gallons). A gated outlet will allow the Two Rivers Watershed District to shut off the outflows when flood conditions are occurring or are about to occur at downstream locations. This will prevent any water from the upstream 18.2 square miles of Skunk Creek from contributing to flooding downstream on lateral 1 of State Ditch No.



Gladen Construction works on the ridge dike at the Ross #7 Impoundment

95. Some benefits will also be realized in other downstream areas such as Lake Bronson, Hallock, and the Red River of the North.

If favorable construction conditions prevail, it is expected the project can be substantially completed in 2007. Funding for the project is being provided 50% by the Minnesota Legislature, 32.5% by the Red River Watershed Management Board, and 17.5% by the Two Rivers Watershed District. The project is the

culmination of about 9 years of problem identification, project planning and design, public input, obtaining permits, and other facets of project coordination and development.

For more information on this project or any other projects or programs of the Two Rivers Watershed District, please call the office at (218) 843-3333, email Daniel.money@mn.nacdn.net, or stop by the office located in the Kittson County Courthouse in Hallock, MN.

CULVERT INVENTORY PROGRESSES

By Dan Money

The Two Rivers Watershed District once again contracted with the Minnesota Conservation Corps to assist with performing culvert inventories within the District this past spring. This ongoing process started in 1998 and is conducted during the months of May and early June of each year, before vegetation is too high and culverts are easier to identify.

The inventory consists of two person crews driving every road, trail, driveway, and byway imaginable and visually searching for any culvert that may be

present. Once the culverts are found, a global positioning system is used to locate the coordinates of the culvert. The culvert "vital signs" are then measured and recorded. Information collected includes the culvert's diameter, length, type (corrugated metal pipe, reinforced concrete, etc.), direction of flow, upstream drainage area, relative elevations with regard to natural ground and top of the road, whether it has an apron, and any problems associated with the pipe (such as erosion, scour holes, etc.).

The information collected by this inventory process is very valuable to the

Two Rivers Watershed District when considering projects and doing water management activities. The information can be entered into computer models that will help to predict the speed and frequency that water moves through the system of field ditches, road ditches, legal ditches, coulees, rivers, and other water courses that are present on the landscape. This in turn helps to determine what size culverts should be installed in the future when a road authority or individual is doing a project.

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The information also helps to determine drainage areas on the subwatershed level. The inventory also helps when analyzing existing drainage, flood control, and water quality problems and looking for solutions to those problems.

All of the information collected by this inventory is entered into a geographic information mapping and database system (GIS). This GIS is a computer based program that allows easy access to the information and easy mapping of the existing culverts. This allows District staff to analyze the existing landscape conditions and make recommendations regarding improved drainage, flood control, and water quality.

Individuals that are interested in this information can visit the District office to get a map of the area and information on the existing culverts. To date, most areas of the District have been inventoried, but it is estimated that all areas will be completed within the next one to two years.

NEW MANAGER APPOINTED: VOLD TO FILL CRAIGMILE'S POSITION

Jon Vold of rural Hallock, Minnesota has been appointed by the Kittson County Commission to fill the vacant seat on the Board of Managers of the Two Rivers Watershed District, which was left when Don Craigmile retired. Vold currently operates a farming operation located in Clow Township of Kittson County. He and his wife Linda live along the North Branch of the Two Rivers 5 miles north of Hallock. The Board of Managers of the Two Rivers Watershed District welcomes Jon and looks forward to working with him.

WATERSHED DISTRICT DEVELOPMENTS

RED LAKE WD

The Red Lake WD reported that the District has received two petitions for the improvement and construction of a lateral to Polk County Ditch No. 53. This ditch system is located in Tynsid and Bygland Townships of Polk County, approximately 13 miles west of Crookston, MN.

WILD RICE WD

The Wild Rice WD reported on the Water Resource and Development Act (WRDA) Bill. The bill includes \$82 million in funds for the State of Minnesota and is awaiting President Bush's signature. Verbiage is included in the bill that would re-evaluate the Twin Valley Dam and other possible alternative projects that would reduce flooding on the main stem of the Wild Rice River. The \$20 million price tag that accompanies the verbiage would boost the District's flood damage reduction goals tremendously if appropriated.

BOIS DE SIOUX WD

The Bois de Sioux WD reported that the North Ottawa Impoundment project has progressed to Phase III. A contract was awarded to Riley Brothers Construction of Morris, MN with a bid of \$1,656,319.30 for Phase III (a). Funding is available from the State of Minnesota to bid Phase III (b). The Phase III (b) contract was awarded to Barry Construction of Fergus Falls, MN with a bid of \$1,396,184.30. Both bids were under the Engineer's estimate by ~\$300,000.00.

Work has begun on both contracts as of August 6, 2007. Between both contractors there are 15 scrapers, 4-5 off-road haul trucks, 4 belly-dump semi-trucks, 1 side dump semi-truck, backhoes, dozers, motor patrols, packers, and numerous other pieces of equipment.

RRWMB MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

At it's regularly scheduled August meeting, the RRWMB:

- Received a Water Quality Project Monitoring report from Wayne Goeken - Monitoring Coordinator and authorized him to forward a grant application to LCCMR regarding the expansion of the River Watch program.
- Discussed the progress of the board's public information initiative and reviewed the information provided by CR*CS.
- Rescheduled the September board meeting to coincide with the House of Representatives' Capital Investment Committee Fall Tour. The board meeting will be conducted Wednesday, September 19, 2007 at the Red Lake Watershed District, 1000 Pennington Ave. S., Thief River Falls, MN, starting at 2:00 p.m.
- Approved the Step I submittal for the Brandt-Angus Flood Control Project for the Middle-Snake-Tamarac Rivers WD.
- Approved the Step III submittal for the Ross No. 7 Impoundment Project for the Two Rivers WD.
- Attended the dedication ceremony for Project No. 60 - Grand Marais, Euclid East and Brandt Impoundments.

NEWS & VIEWS
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