



CAPITAL INVESTMENT COMMITTEE VISITS NORTH OTTAWA

On Tuesday, September 25th, the Capital Investment Committee departed the State Capitol to view bonding requests for projects in Northwestern Minnesota and returned to St. Paul on Friday, September 28th. The committee, chaired by Senator Keith Langseth DFL, District 09, is comprised of 26 members and has jurisdiction over all bills appropriating money for the acquisition and betterment of public lands and buildings and other public improvements of a capital nature, whether from the proceeds of state general obligation bonds or from the general fund or another operating fund.

The North Ottawa Impoundment Project of the Bois de Sioux Watershed District, one of the several projects seeking bonding in the upcoming legislative session, was a scheduled site on the tour.

The project is located in North Ottawa Township in Grant County, approximately 25 miles southeast of Breckenridge, Minnesota. When completed, the project will provide 16,160 acre-feet of gate controlled floodwater storage and 2,150 acre-feet of ungated storage for spring runoff and summer rainfall events, with the stored water managed to provide a variety of environmental benefits.

Construction began in September 2004 and involves constructing dikes around the perimeter of the impoundment area and building a collection system to divert the water into the impoundment. The external dikes create a three square-mile impoundment

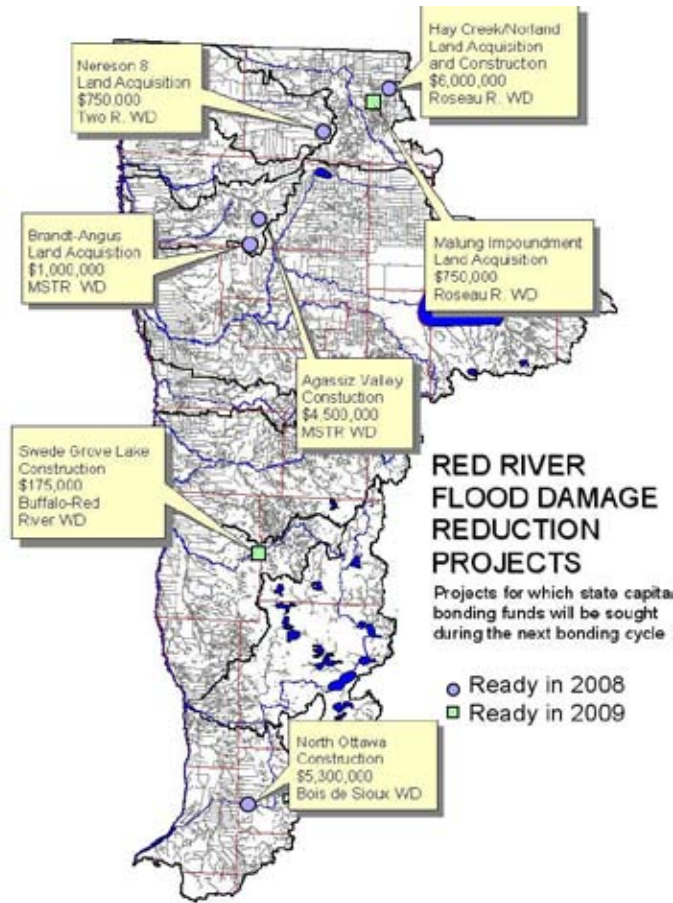
area. Collection channels collect runoff from a contributing area of 71 square miles within the Rabbit River watershed. The Rabbit River

is a tributary of the Bois de Sioux River, which drains to the Red River.

Along with the flood control benefits, the project

will provide wildlife habitat and recreational opportunities, control sediment and improve water quality. The greatest environmental benefits involve the creation of feeding and resting areas for migrating shorebirds and waterfowl. The pools will be managed to continually provide newly exposed mud flats and shallow flooded areas in which shorebirds feed. Waterfowl should be attracted to the newly flooded shallow areas to rest and feed on annual plants.

The estimated cost of the project is \$18.9 million, with 75% (\$14.2M) funding provided by the State, and 25% (\$4.7M) non-state or local. The Red River Watershed Management Board has committed \$3.375 million of the local share, which includes funding for both flood damage reduction and natural resource enhancement benefits. The state bonding funds sought in the next bonding cycle for the project are \$5.3 million.



WATERSHED DISTRICT DEVELOPMENTS

ROSEAU RIVER WD

The Roseau River WD reported on the Hay Creek / Norland Project. The Board of Managers are awaiting the review of abstracts by the board's attorney. It is anticipated that following the October board meeting, land acquisition will begin for the project.

RED LAKE WD

The Red Lake WD reported that the District has retained HDR Engineering, Inc. to develop a Preliminary Engineer's Report for the improvement and lateral to Polk County Ditch No. 53. A preliminary hearing for the project is planned for sometime in November.

WILD RICE WD

The Wild Rice WD reported on the discussion of the establishment of a Watershed Management Dis-

trict (WMD). The WMD would be a funding mechanism spread across the entire watershed district. The purpose would be to develop a way for the watershed district to raise funds to implement new projects and maintain current infrastructure in the District that supports flood protection, water quality, and natural resource goals.

The Board recently reviewed a proposed ordinance creating a WMD at their second meeting in August. The proposed ordinance suggests a fee system where property owners outside municipalities would be charged a fee based on the market value of their property. A meeting has been scheduled for Wednesday, September 26, 2007, with the county commissioners to address the proposed WMD.

PROJECT UPDATE

ROSS No. 7

Gladden Construction is progressing with the construction of the main dike. Within the next week, this section should be complete. Next, the contractor will move on to the construction of the southeast inlet ditch and then proceed with ring dikes and the raising of a portion of a township road, the ridge dike, and other project components. Swingen Construction has completed the first cement pour on the outlet structure, and will be doing the next pour the week of September 24. The District anticipates the project will be substantially completed this construction season.



The next scheduled meeting of the RRWMB will be held at the Bois de Sioux WD, 704 South Highway 75, Wheaton, MN, on October 16th, starting at 9:30 a.m. A tour of the Eldorado No. 7 Impoundment Project will be conducted following the board meeting.

RRWMB MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

At its regularly scheduled September meeting, the RRWMB:

- Received a Water Quality Project Monitoring report from Wayne Goeken, Monitoring Coordinator.
- Authorized a resolution for the North Ottawa Impoundment Project for an additional funding commitment, not to exceed \$550,000, to cover the 25% local obligation.
- Received a report from Ron Harnack, Project Coordinator.
- Authorized \$10,000 for the International Water Institute's Watershed Education program.
- Received a report from Naomi Erickson, Administrator.
- Authorized an independent contractor's agreement with Minnesota Waters for a Citizen Monitoring Data Assessment Coordination - Clean Water Legacy Program.

NEWS & VIEWS
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