



HEIBERG DAM REPAIR SELECTED AS MINNESOTA ASSOCIATION OF WATERSHED DISTRICTS' PROJECT OF THE YEAR IN 2007

The reconstruction of the Heiberg Dam Project on the Wild Rice River was selected as the 2007 Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts (MAWD) Project of the Year at their recent annual conference. The Heiberg Dam repair was selected from nine entries from Minnesota in 2007.

The Wild Rice Watershed District is honored to receive the award, and the Board of Managers agreed that the project was a tribute to what can be accomplished in flood protection, erosion control and natural resource enhancement when agencies and stakeholders work together. "This was a project that was accomplished through a great deal of hard work by everyone interested in doing what was right after a devastating flood event," Chairman Warren Seykora said.

The Heiberg Dam was originally built in approximately 1895 for the purposes of generating power for a flour mill. The original dam was destroyed during a flood event in 1965. In 1977, the dam was restored by Wild Rice Watershed District as a petitioned project. The main purpose of the 1977 dam restoration was to help control problems associated with spring ice break-up and ice movement along the downstream Wild Rice River.

However, the Heiberg



The Wild Rice Watershed District received the Project of the Year Award at the Minnesota Association of Watershed District annual conference in November. Jan Voit, Administrator of the Heron Lake Watershed District, makes the presentation to Wild Rice Chairman Warren Seykora. Also from the Wild Rice Watershed District are managers Diane Ista, Bob Wright, Joe Spaeth, and Administrator Steve Dalen.

Dam blocked fish migration to over 125 miles of pristine river habitat and numerous lakes in the upper watershed. In addition, the drop type low head dam has resulted in substantial erosion to the downstream river bank, a hydraulic safety hazard to local residents and visitors, resulting in virtually no recreational value.

During the devastating and record summer flood of 2002, the north embankment was washed out, cutting off over 1.6 miles of river channel and adjacent riparian habitat and causing severe down cutting in

the upstream channel.

In planning the repair, watershed managers made the decision that there would be no assessment to land owners in the Heiberg Dam Project benefiting area to pay for the repair project. The Board agreed that a funding package had to be developed with outside sources before the repair went to construction.

Funding for the project included a contribution of \$100,000 from the Minnesota DNR, U.S. Fish and Wildlife approved a total of \$110,000 for the repair. The White Earth Tribe also pro-

vided a \$100,000 grant for the repair, provided from U.S. Fish and Wildlife. The Federal Emergency Management Agency funded the balance of the repair costs.

The reconstruction of the dam included the following main components:

- 1) Modification and lowering of the existing dam crest.
- 2) Installation of concrete sloped ice blocks on top of the modified dam.
- 3) Installation of a 220-ft combined concrete retaining wall and earthen levee embankment.
- 4) Removal of the exist-

WATERSHED DISTRICT DEVELOPMENTS

ROSEAU RIVER WD

West Intercept – Closeout of the project is anticipated to occur next summer. The District is awaiting some last minute touch-ups by Gladen to complete the project. A maintenance fund is also in the process of being established.

Hay Creek / Norland – The Board of Managers have received the Preliminary Engineer's Report for the project from HDR Engineering, Inc. After a public hearing in early January, the Board of Managers established the proposed project as required under Chapter 103D. The District is currently in the process of acquiring land along the Hay Creek corridor.

Palmville – The Board of Managers awarded the construction contract to Holte Construction for the Palmville Project. After receiving a WCA permit and verbal approval from the USACE, brushing and clearing has begun in the construction area.

Roseau River Wildlife Management Area – The Board of Managers have scheduled Project Team meetings concerning the project. The

Board of Managers and the MDNR have developed several alternatives for the project, but have been unable to reach an agreement on a selected project outcome. An agreement is needed for the project prior to the grant deadline of June 30, 2009.

MIDDLE-SNAKE-TAMARAC RIVERS WD

The Middle-Snake-Tamarac Rivers WD reported on the Marshall County investigation. The private investigative firm hired by Marshall County has completed their investigation and delivered it to the Marshall County attorney. The investigative firm performed their investigation over a two-month period, conducted over two dozen interviews, and accumulated over 500 documents at a cost in excess of \$10,000. The County Attorney presented the report to the Marshall County Commission at their December 18th board meeting. The attorney reported that there were no actions discovered that constituted malfeasance or nonfeasance and he recommended no further action at this point.

ing old powerhouse and adjacent buildings.

5) Installation of a rock arch rapids below the dam.

6) Installation of two bendway weirs.

7) Reconstruction of the north embankment.

8) Installation of a boat access.

During construction, the District's engineering firm, Houston Engineering of Fargo, used innovative techniques in preparing a water control/diversion plan that would allow extensive construction on the dam while over 900 square miles of runoff was flowing down the river. To complete this enormous task, phasing of the project was required to complete portions of the project during the low winter flows. This required the construction of heated enclosures to preserve concrete pours until adequate curing times were achieved. In addition, a series of diversion structures was required to control flows during the frequent rainfall events.

The repair project was dedicated in June of 2007, which included the ceremonial release of 160 lake sturgeon.

(This article was reprinted courtesy of the Norman County Index.)

EVENTS COMING UP

February 19 -- The RRWMB will hold its next scheduled meeting on Tuesday, February 19, 2008 from 12:30 to 3:30 p.m. in the St. Anthony Room of the Kelly Inn, St. Paul, MN. A legislative briefing has also been scheduled that evening in the St. Anthony Room from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

March 20 -- The 10th Annual Joint Conference of the Red River Watershed Management Board and the Red River Basin Flood Damage Reduction Work Group will be held at the Northland Inn in Crookston, Minnesota on March 20, 2008.

RRWMB MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

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

- *Re-elected the following individuals at the annual organization of the board: John Finney-President, Orville Knott-Vice President, Robert Wright-Secretary, and Daniel Wilkens-Treasurer.*
- *Received a report from Ron Harnack, Project Coordinator.*
- *Discussed the legislative briefing being planned in conjunction with the February RRWMB meeting scheduled for February 19, 2008.*
- *Received a report from Dan Thul, Red River Coordinator.*
- *Received an update on deferred compensation plans from Jake Lauritsen, Lauritsen & Associates.*
- *Received a report from Naomi Erickson, Administrator.*
- *Selected the accounting firm of Brady Martz, Grand Forks, ND to perform auditing services for the board.*
- *Approved a resolution regarding the funding advance for the Redpath Project of the Bois de Sioux WD.*
- *Approved a resolution regarding the funding advance for Project No. 42 of the Wild Rice WD.*

PAID
STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE
Grand Forks, ND
PERMIT NO. 317

NEWS & VIEWS
c/o RRWMB
P.O. Box 763
Detroit Lakes, MN 56502-0763

Your comments and contributions are always welcome. If you are receiving this newsletter and are not currently a member of a governing unit in the Red River Basin, please notify us and provide the name of the appropriate person to be added to our mailing list. News & Views, c/o RRWMB, P.O. Box 763, Detroit Lakes, MN 56502-0763, Phone: (218) 844-6166; Fax: (218) 844-6167.