



## AUTHORITIES BREAK GROUND ON FLOOD CONTROL PROJECT

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WARREN, Minn. — Authorities broke ground on a \$10.5 million rural flood control project.

The Agassiz Valley Water Resource Management project is designed to hold water back from the Snake River during times of flooding. The project will occupy about four sections of land (about 2,600 acres) in Marshall and Polk counties. It extends to McCrea and Comstock townships in Marshall County and Brislet and Helgeland townships in Polk County, draining about 32 square miles.

It will store about 10,670 acre feet of water, equal to 6.4 inches of runoff, which will be released into the Snake and eventually the Red River, at a rate of about 2 cubic feet per second from June 1 through Aug. 31 each year.

Phase one of the project will be to build about five miles of embankment, to form an off-channel flood



Photo courtesy of the Warren Sheaf

control impoundment. That first phase is scheduled to take about two years. But Zavoral & Sons, an East Grand Forks contractor, is looking at completion within the year, according to Nick Drees, administrator of the Middle Snake Tamarac Rivers Watershed District.

Phase two will involve construction of inlets and a bypass channel.

Phase three will include about 1,700 acres of native prairie grass restoration.

“That’s part of the reason

we’re so excited about the project — the prairie grass restoration,” Drees said.

Part of the prairie restoration project remains under the Conservation Reserve Program and will be restored after CRP contracts end.

The state of Minnesota is providing 75 percent of the funding. The Red River Watershed Management Board is contributing 16.67 percent, while the MSTRWD is paying 8.33 percent.

The project initially was proposed in 1997 to address a recurring flooding problem caused by excess surface water.

The MSTRWD has experienced significant and damaging flooding during 12 years, from 1974 to 2006, some years multiple times because of spring snowmelt and summer rain.

After the Flood of 1997, as officials in the city of Warren were planning for future flood protection, others in the cities of

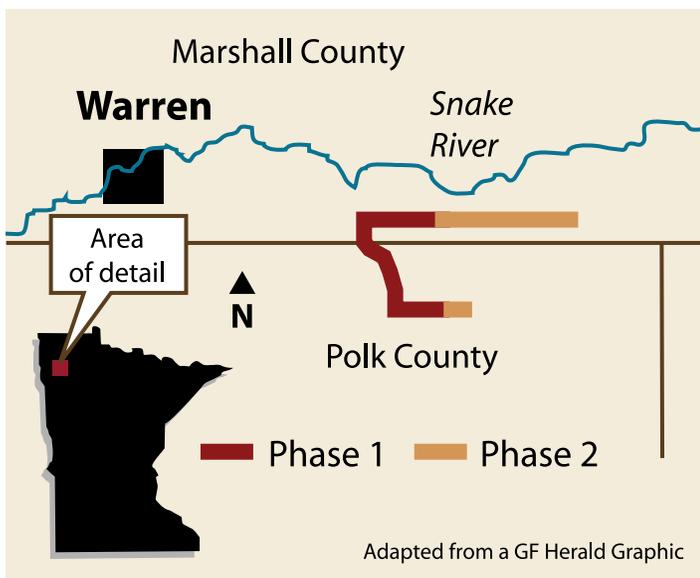
Alvarado, Oslo and several townships started talking of the need for a water-holding area to provide protection for people living west of Warren.

By 1999, the project was defined and the site established.

Some neighbors sued. Those landowners included the Northwest Minnesota Foundation and the Agassiz Audubon Society. Several legal battles have followed, and some litigation is pending. But the project has been allowed to proceed.

“It’s been a long haul,” Doug Sorenson, MSTRWD board chairman said at the groundbreaking.” The process has been lengthy. The process has been bumpy. What is important is the fact that we are here today to break ground on a project that will help reduce flooding in the Red River Basin.”

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Adapted from a GF Herald Graphic

## MIDDLE-SNAKE-TAMARAC RIVERS WD

### Agassiz Valley Water Resource Management Project

- The District has accepted the bid of Zavoral Construction of East Grand Forks, Minnesota for the construction of Phase #1 (Embankment) for a cost of \$3,806,623.78. The engineer's estimate was for \$4,574,500.

Construction is expected to start the week of June 23, 2008.

**Brandt/Angus Coulee Project** - HDR engineering will be taking soil borings this month and the Project Team meetings continue.

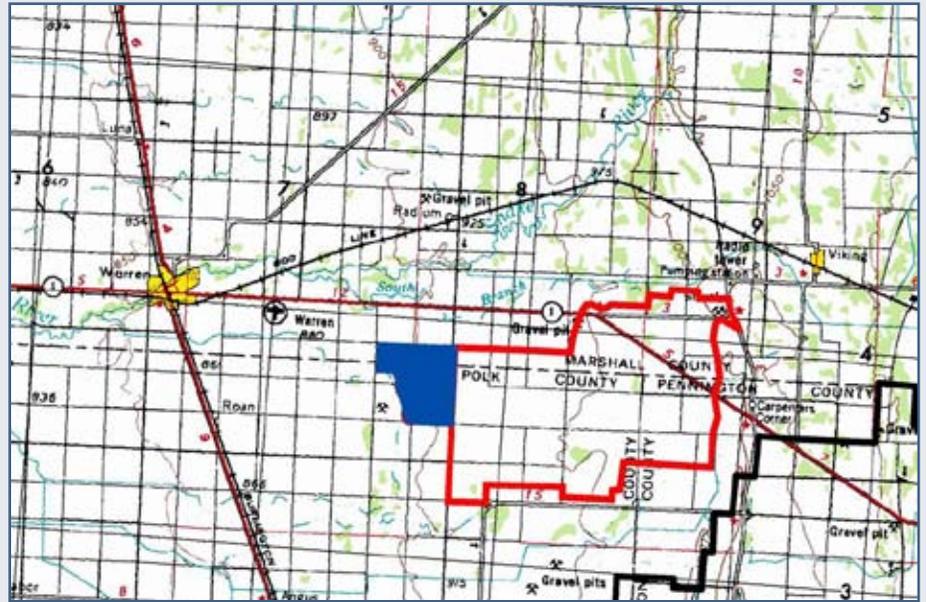
**Ring Dikes** - Seeding has been completed on two additional ring dikes this past month. Construction is expected to start on another ring dike this week and engineering plans are being developed for an additional dike

to be bid next month.

**PL 566** - Phase IV (Mitigation) plans on the Snake River have been drawn up with bid lettings in July for Part #1 (Rock Riffle Structure) and

Wetmor Project (Wetland Enhancement Project).

This is the final phase of construction on the Snake River Flood Control Project.



## RRWMB MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

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

- Received a report from Mark Meister, Public Information Officer.
- Executed the funding agreement for the Agassiz Valley Water Resource Management Project of the Middle Snake Tamarac Rivers WD.
- Received a report from Naomi Erickson, Administrator.
- Established a committee consisting of Dan Wilkens, Orville Knott and Mark Meister to discuss the needs of the employees associated with the Water Quality Project Monitoring initiative.
- Received a report from Ron Harnack, Project Coordinator.
- Toured the Redpath Project of the Bois de Sioux WD.

## EVENTS COMING UP

The next scheduled meeting of the RRWMB will be on Tuesday, July 15, 2008, at the Governors' Inn and Conference Center, Casselton, ND with the Red River Joint Water Resource Board. In conjunction with the meeting, a block of rooms have been reserved. Please call 1-888-847-4524 for reservations.

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