



## REPORT OUTLINES BENEFITS OF PROPOSED REDPATH FLOOD CONTROL PROJECT

WHEATON, MINN. A preliminary engineer's report profiles the flood control and natural resource enhancement opportunities of the proposed Redpath Project. The proposed \$25 million Redpath Project can be developed in phases with possible sources of funding to include the State of Minnesota's Flood Damage Reduction Program, the Red River Watershed Management Board, and the Bois de Sioux Watershed District along with other sources under investigation.

The engineer's report points out the technical and scientific merit of the project for flood control. JOR Engineering predicts that the project will provide about 16,200 acre-feet of impoundment storage during a 100-year flood event, of which about 13,100 acre-feet will be gate controlled. The local benefits outlined in the report include reduced flows on several legal ditches in Traverse, and Grant counties, and decreased flood flows on

Five Mile Creek, Twelve Mile Creek, the Mustinka River, the Rabbit River, and reduced flood levels on Lake Traverse. Regionally, the project will reduce flood flows on the Bois de Sioux and Red Rivers.

Besides flood control, the Redpath Project includes river, wetland, and prairie restoration, improves fish spawning and migratory bird habitat, and improves water quality.

The report is the result of a year long process of collaboration between JOR, the Bois de Sioux Watershed District, representatives from state and federal water and land agencies, and landowners from the project area. Together, the group discussed the flood control and natural resource priorities for the area, considered several alternatives, and developed the framework components of the Redpath project. "The Redpath project will provide significant flood control," says

Bois de Sioux Watershed District administrator Jon Roeschlien. "By collaborating with landowners, engineers, and others, we are confident that the benefits outlined in the report are accurate," adds Roeschlien.

JOR engineer Charles Anderson recommends that the project move forward with soil and survey investigations, permit reviews, and design work. "We are at the beginning stages, but this project will provide a lot of flood control," says Anderson.

The proposed Redpath Project is consistent with the mission of the Bois de Sioux Watershed District, says district board President Jerome Deal. "Along with the North Ottawa project, the Redpath project further demonstrates our commitment to flood damage reduction," says Deal. "Our work continues to benefit all people in our district as well as communities downstream."

### RRWMB MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

*At its regularly scheduled November meeting, the RRWMB:*

- Received a report from Naomi Erickson, Administrator.
- Authorized forwarding a letter drafted by Ron Harnack and Naomi Erickson to the Board of Water & Soil Resources (BWSR) regarding the Performance Review and Assistance Program (PRAP) report developed for the Middle Snake Tamarac Rivers Watershed District.
- Received a report from Ron Harnack, Project Coordinator.
- Discussed the Agricultural Tile Drainage Study previously funded by the board conducted by the University of Minnesota under the supervision of Dr. Gary Sands.
- Authorized sponsoring the Agricultural Water Enhancement Program (AWEP) proposal of the Red River Basin Commission (RRBC).
- Received a report from Mark Meister, Public Information Officer.
- Authorized the Step I submittal of the Redpath Project of the Bois de Sioux WD.

## WATERSHED DISTRICT DEVELOPMENTS

### RED LAKE WD

The Red Lake WD provided an update regarding the water levels in impoundments. Due to recent rainfalls, the water levels remain high throughout the District. Most impoundments are above the optimum winter levels. The District is continuing to release water from the impoundments in an effort to reach the winter levels within the next couple of weeks.

On October 23, 2008, a preliminary hearing was held for the establishment of a lateral to Pennington County Ditch No. 75. The Board of Managers found the project feasible, appointed three viewers and directed the engineer to prepare a detailed study and final report. A final hearing for the project is planned for March or April of 2009.

### BOIS DE SIOUX WD

The Bois de Sioux WD reported on the North Ottawa Impoundment Project. Work has been progressing slowly due to weather related delays.

Phase IV construction began this fall and has been a struggle, with regular precipitation and shorter drying days hampering progress. Currently the drainage area deliv-

ering water to the impoundment is 19 square miles. The dike elevations are adequate to control the runoff from this drainage area. As the dikes near their completed elevation, more of the drainage area is "connected" to the impoundment. The plans of substantially completing this phase by November 1, 2008 were not realized due to the late season rains. The construction sites will be stabilized for winter and work will resume in the spring of 2009.

This coming winter, the District will work with the local resource managers to develop the plans for completing Phase V, which includes installing the natural resource enhancement components of the project. A plan for completion as well as a funding strategy with the State of Minnesota will be developed. The completion date of this phase is dependent on the receipt of state funding.



*North Ottawa Impoundment looking north (10/20/2008).*

NEWS & VIEWS  
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*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.*

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