



AUGUST 2009

VOLUME 15 • ISSUE 8

# NEWS & VIEWS

RED RIVER WATERSHED MANAGEMENT BOARD

## ROSS IMPOUNDMENT PROVES ITS WORTH IN FIRST YEAR OF OPERATION

By Dan Money

The Two Rivers Watershed District's Ross No. 7 Impoundment project was utilized almost to its fullest in its first year of operation. This past spring runoff was another historic event, resulting in a Presidential disaster declaration. The project was put to the test, and proved that it's a valuable tool in flood damage reduction.

The project, located near Badger, Minnesota, was able to completely control all of the runoff from an 18 square mile drainage area, eliminating flows from Skunk Creek. The gate was closed on Monday, March 23rd and was opened on Monday, May 4th. The impoundment was filled up to about  $\frac{1}{2}$  foot below the emergency spillway. At that level, the impoundment was storing



approximately 3,200 acre-feet of water (one acre-foot is equal to one acre of water one foot deep). The maximum amount of storage the impoundment can hold is about 3,600 acre feet.

This impoundment provided a significant reduction in flooding that occurs in Roseau County along lateral 1 of State Ditch No.

95. The District feels that a great benefit was achieved by protecting agricultural lands from flooding, and also reducing the damages to public roads, culverts, and other infrastructure.

With the water storage that the impoundment provided this past spring, the District felt that the downstream flooding was greatly reduced in both volume and duration. Once the

downstream flooding subsided, the gate was opened and the impoundment was drained dry. The interior land is currently rented to local farmers for hay land and some cash crops. This provides a win / win situation by providing flood control and at the same time allowing limited use of the land for agriculture.

The District's Board of Managers consists of 2 Managers from Roseau County and 5 Managers from Kittson County with its offices located in Hallock, MN. The District is committed to not only flood control projects, but also water supply and water quality programs. The District implements several monitoring and data collection programs, maintains over 80 miles of legal ditch systems, and is involved in 3 different impoundment projects.



*Robert Wright is presented with an eleven year service award for his devoted service given to the Red River Watershed Management Board by John Finney, President.*

## EDGAR HIRED AS DISTRICT TECHNICIAN

Tom Edgar joined the Two River Watershed team in March, replacing Boyd Johnson as District Technician. Tom is originally from Apple Valley, Minnesota and is a graduate of St. Cloud State University with a B.S. in Geology. Most of his career has been in the aggregate and road construction industries in the St. Cloud area with a brief stop in the oil patch of western North Dakota.

As the District Technician, Tom will be involved with ditch surveying, construction staking and inspection on projects, stream flow monitoring, culvert inventory, permit review, ditch inspection and project investigations.

## RRWMB MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

- At its regularly scheduled August meeting, the RRWMB:*
- *Discussed the Water Quality Project Monitoring effort and directed the Water Quality Committee to work with the International Water Institute (IWI) and the Tri-College University to develop an MOU regarding the transition of the initiative from the RRWMB to the IWI.*
  - *Received a report from Ron Harnack, Project Coordinator.*
  - *Discussed the request from the Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy (MCEA) to submit a joint request to the Northwest Minnesota Foundation for a grant of \$25,000 to be used towards salaries and related expenses for project team participation of the MCEA in the Wild Rice and Two Rivers Watershed Districts that was previously authorized and agreed to withdraw board support regarding the request at this time.*
  - *Received a report from Naomi Erickson, Administrator.*
  - *Discussed land acquisition for the Brandt-Angus Flood Control Project of the Middle Snake Tamarac Rivers Watershed District and requested the District obtain an appraisal.*
  - *Presented Robert Wright an award in recognition of his years of service to the board.*

## WATERSHED DISTRICT DEVELOPMENTS

### ROSEAU RIVER WD

The Roseau River WD reported that Phase I of the Hay Creek/Norland Project (set-back levees) has been awarded to North Pine Aggregate of Forest Lake, MN, and Phase III (connection channel) has been awarded to All Seasons Contracting of Blackduck, MN. The bids came in under the engineer's estimates on both phases by over 30%. The construction is scheduled to begin this fall with work to be completed by October 15, 2009. The District is also advertising for bids for construction of up to six control structures for Phase II (impoundment) of the project yet this fall.

Construction has started on one ring dike in July and is expected to be completed by the end of August. R.J. Zavoral & Sons of East Grand Forks, MN were awarded the contract to complete the ring dike. The District received three applications from landowners for the EQIP ring dike program, however, only one ring dike qualified for funding this year.

### RED LAKE WD

The Red Lake WD reported on the Polk County Ditch No. 53 Improvements and Lateral Petition (RLWD Ditch No. 12) Project. Construction on ~ 8.5 miles of open channel and the installation of various culverts has been severely hindered due to rain and very wet conditions. To date, the project is ~ 85% complete. At their August board meeting, the Board of Managers accepted a request from R.J. Zavoral & Sons for an extension until September 1st.

### BOIS DE SIOUX WD

The Bois de Sioux WD reported that negotiations continue with landowners for the Redpath Project. An appraisal of the property has been prepared and submitted to the sellers for their review and consideration as the District's offer to purchase. The appraised value of the property is \$3,195,000.00. The State of Minnesota has appropriated \$1.75M for land acquisition, with the RRWMB authorizing matching funds for the state appropriation.

## EVENTS COMING UP

The next meeting of the RRWMB will be on Tuesday, September 15, 2009, at 9:30 a.m. at the City Council Chambers, 120 E Bridge Ave, Warren, MN.



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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