



WATERSHED DISTRICT PROJECTS FOLLOW STRICT MEDIATION PROCESS

PROCESS GUIDED BY LEGAL, TECHNICAL, AND SCIENTIFIC PRINCIPLES

The partnership between the Middle Snake Tamarac Rivers Watershed District (MSTRWD) and the Red River Watershed Management Board (RRWMB) contributes significant flood damage reduction benefits to all citizens living in the MSTRWD and the Red River valley of Minnesota.

Water retention projects and impoundments, like those completed and under construction in the MSTRWD, must conform to a strict mediation process that involves collaboration between community members and several federal, state, and local technical and scientific advisors. The mediation process is grounded on the basic legal principles of justice and fairness. Projects conforming to these statutes must also provide significant flood damage reduction and natural resource enhancement.

The water policy decisions by the MSTRWD and RRWMB must follow the mission of the mediation agreement that says:

To reach consensus agreements on long-term solutions for reducing flood damage and for protection and enhancement of natural resources. Such agreements should balance important economic, environmental, and social considerations. Such agreements must provide for fair and effective procedures to resolve future conflicts

related to flood damage reduction.

The MSTRWD is completing land acquisition on their 4th water retention project in the last ten years. This land acquisition and all previous acquisitions have conformed to the rigorous legal, technical, and scientific principles mandated by the mediation process. Any legal, scientific, and/or technical problem that surfaces during the mediation is not eligible for state funding.

The following MSTRWD projects have, or are in the process, of receiving funding because the staff and managers of the MSTRWD

and the RRWMB have strictly followed the mediation process.

The **Brandt/Angus Coulee** flood control project located in northwest Polk County between Crookston and Warren, Minnesota is a multi-purpose off-channel flood control project which combines flood control and environmental enhancement features. The project occupies approximately 1.5 sections of land (960 acres) and is expected to hold 3,800 acre-feet of storage.

Previous water retention sites constructed by the District in the last ten years are; **Angus Oslo**

No. 4 (6,430 acre-feet of storage) located approximately 3 miles northeast of the Brandt/Angus Project in Polk County, **PL 566 Snake River Flood Control Project** in Marshall County, which includes an Off-Channel Storage Site (6,800 acre-feet of storage) approximately 8 miles northeast of Warren and accompanying river diversion channel (Richard P. Nelson Floodway) around the City of Warren, and the recently completed **Agassiz Valley Water Resource Management Project** (4 sections of land and 2,560 acres with 6,800 acre-feet of storage) located 5 miles southeast of Warren.

WATERSHED STARTS FOURTH IMPOUNDMENT

At its February 1st board meeting, the Middle Snake Tamarac Rivers Watershed District approved the purchase of additional lands for another flood control project. This will be the fourth impoundment project the District has constructed in the last ten years. The project, **Brand/Angus Coulee** flood control project will be located in northwest Polk County between Crookston and Warren, Minnesota. Brandt/

Angus will be a multi-purpose off channel flood control project which combines flood control and environmental enhancement features. The project occupies approximately 1.5 sections of land (960 acres) and is expected to hold 3,800 acre-feet of storage.

The Middle Snake Tamarac Rivers Watershed District in cooperation with the Red River Water Management Board (RRWMB) and the State of Minnesota has taken an aggressive stance in the battle to

reduce flooding in the District, constructing three other major flood control projects in the last ten years. They include; **Angus Oslo No. 4** (6,400 acre-feet of storage) located approximately 3 miles northeast of the Brandt/Angus Project in Polk County, **PL 566 Snake River Flood Control Project** in Marshall County, which includes an Off-Channel Storage Site (6,800 acre-feet of storage) approximately

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RRWMB MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

At its regularly scheduled February meeting, the RRWMB:

- Received a report from Dan Thul, Red River Coordinator.
- Received a report from Jerome Deal, Chair of the Finance Committee.
- Received a report from Naomi Erickson, Administrator.
- Authorized forwarding a letter to the Cass County Joint Water Resource District in response to a letter received from their organization relative to discussions of the establishment of a federal authority in the Red River basin.
- Received a report from Ron Harnack, Project Coordinator.
- Approved the Step III submittal of the Hay Creek/Norland Project of the Roseau River WD.

8 miles northeast of Warren and accompanying river diversion channel (Richard P. Nelson Floodway) around the City of Warren, and the just completed **Agassiz Valley Wa-**

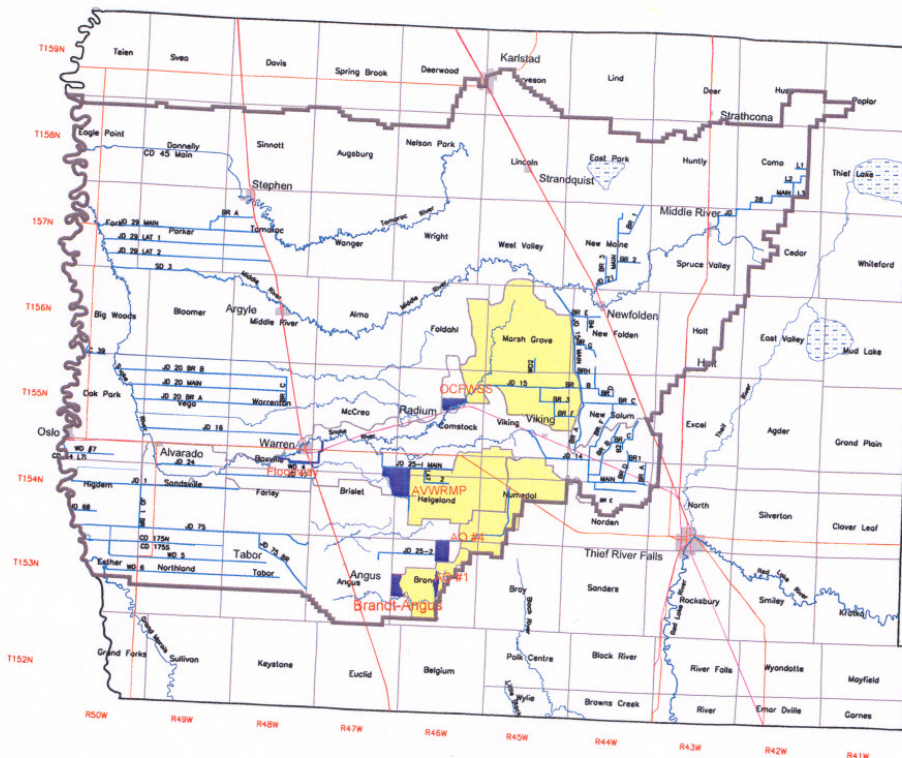
ter Resource Management Project (4 sections of land and (2,560 acres) with 10,700 acre-feet of storage) located 5 miles southeast of Warren.

These projects have already pro-

PROPOSED BRANDT-ANGUS IMPOUNDMENT & EXISTING IMPOUNDMENTS (2010)

Pool Areas & Drainage Areas

Middle-Snake-Tamarac Rivers Watershed District



vided substantial benefits to north-west Minnesota. The PL 566 Snake River Flood Control Project, although only completed in 2006, has prevented the City of Warren from flooding twice. The Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) estimated that in 2006 alone \$8.7M in flood damages were prevented in Warren. The annual benefits to the Warren community are \$1.26M, which include soil erosion, water conservation, road and bridge damage reduction, wildlife habitat creation and personal property protection. With the construction of the Richard P. Floodway, the City has been removed from the 500 year flood plain, thus relieving the need for costly flood insurance.

“Flooding takes a devastating economic and emotional toll on the residents of the Watershed District. To serve the public in a timely manner, the District has moved quickly to access public funds for the construction of these ambitious flood control projects. The District has received the support and appreciation of the vast majority of citizens affected by flooding. Unfortunately, a handful of people have consistently opposed the work of the District. The resulting publicity may raise questions among our constituents. Be assured our goal is to continue to work diligently for the public good and implement projects that will accomplish that goal,” said Doug Sorenson, MSTRWD President.

This summer, with the final construction phase of the Agassiz Valley Water Resource Management Project and the completion of the PL 566 Snake River Flood Control Project, the District is planning an open house and dedication ceremony.

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