



KLOBUCHAR TOURS WARREN'S FLOOD CONTROL SYSTEM

Anticipating the need to build more water retention projects in northwestern Minnesota because of the inevitable downstream impacts from the Fargo-Moorhead diversion, U.S. Sen. Amy Klobuchar came here to look at one of the success stories in flood control.

BY RYAN BAKKEN,
GRAND FORKS HERALD

WARREN, Minn. — Anticipating the need to build more water retention projects in northwestern Minnesota because of the inevitable downstream impacts from the Fargo-Moorhead diversion, U.S. Sen. Amy Klobuchar came here to look at one of the success stories in flood control.

After Warren was flooded for the third time in two years in 1997, a combination impoundment and diversion has kept the Marshall County seat dry ever since.

"In its five years, it has prevented Warren from being flooded at least two more times for sure and possibly a third time," said Nick Drees, administrator of the Middle Snake Tamarac Rivers Watershed District.

The \$18 million impoundment-diversion was built in unprecedented



Amy Klobuchar represents Minnesota in the U.S. Senate.

speed, Drees said, because of the influence of former Mayor Richard Nelson, whose name is on the project. It was functioning in 2005, taking less than half the normal time required.

"We're concerned there will be more problems with the North Dakota diversion," Klobuchar said about Army Corps of Engineers' estimates of river rises downstream from Fargo-Moorhead.

"It's very possible what we have here will be one

of the solutions. It may not be the exact solution because we need to look at the options community by community."

Democratic Rep. Collin Peterson, who represents northwestern Minnesota's Seventh District in the U.S. House, has announced that he will be pushing in Congress for a series of projects that will restrain or delay runoff from reaching the Red River. The projects will be run through the Department of Agriculture, just as Warren's was.

Peterson has used Warren's project, plus several other impoundments within 10 miles of Warren, as an example of what is

needed.

Warren is now out of the flood plain, meaning residents don't need to buy flood insurance. The security of the flood control also has meant more housing and business starts in the town of 1,600, said Cam Fanfulik, executive director of the Northwest Regional Development Commission.

"It works," Drees said. "But we're going to need to do a lot of big impoundments to offset what will happen with the diversion. It will have to be huge."

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EVENTS COMING UP

The next meeting of the RRWMB will be on Tuesday, October 19, 2010 at 9:30 a.m. at the Sand Hill River Watershed District, 219 North Mill Street, Fertile, MN.

ROSEAU RIVER WD

The Roseau River WD reported on the Hay Creek/Norland Project. The Spruce Valley Corporation continues work on the impoundment and inlet structures. The weather was cooperative in August and so far in September with the outlet structures nearing completion. As the rains have been holding back somewhat, work continues with significant progress.

The District is working on two new ring dikes through EQIP and the rural ring dike programs with construction to occur yet this fall. The bid openings for both ring dikes were on August 31st. The low bidders were Lavalla construction of Baudette and Olson Construction of Thief River Falls. A completion date of November 15th is anticipated for both dikes.

RED LAKE WD

The Red Lake WD reported on the Euclid East Impoundment. Two public hearings were held at the request of the landowners adjacent to the inlet structure of the impoundment. The first hearing was conducted on July 8, 2010 and the second hearing was conducted on August 12, 2010 at the District office. The hearings were intended to hear testimony from the public to discuss the option of increasing the capacity of the inlet channel and culverts of the impoundment. After considerable testimony from the Board and public, it was determined that the inlet culvert of the impoundment along with the culvert directly upstream of the inlet could be increased from its design capacity. Due to the timeline of the culvert inventory and the need of the field entrance located at the inlet for harvest, it was determined that the District would install the new culverts after the 2011 spring runoff.

The District also reported on the Red Lake River Bank Stabilization Project. The final hearing was held on September 9, 2010 with Wright Construction Co. awarded the bid of \$34,419.50. The project calls for compaction of 2,000 cubic yards of clay material along with placing 700 cubic yards of riprap which is used to protect the compacted clay material, rock riprap streambarbs, rock anchor boulders along with

planting 1,000 live stakes. The project will be funded by the Pennington County SWCD, City of Thief River Falls and the Red Lake Watershed District. Total construction cost of the project is \$73,250 which includes in-kind services provided by the City of Thief River Falls.

RRWMB MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

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

- *Received a report from Mark Meister, Public Information Officer.*
- *Received a report from Ron Harnack, Project Coordinator.*
- *Designated Greg Holmvik and Orville Knott as alternates to the Red River Retention Authority (RRRA).*
- *Reviewed the response prepared by N. Erickson and M. Meister regarding the letters of opposition received by the board regarding the proposed Fargo-Moorhead Red River Diversion project.*
- *Received a report from Naomi Erickson, Administrator.*
- *Authorized a funding request received from the International Water Institute (IWI) regarding the Red River 2009 Flood Extent Mapping initiative.*
- *Received a report from Dan Thul, Red River Coordinator.*
- *Received an update from Julie Goehring, South Basin Manager/Communications Coordinator, Red River Basin Commission (RRBC).*
- *Authorized a funding request of \$2,500 for the Roseau River International Watershed submitted by the Roseau River WD.*

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