



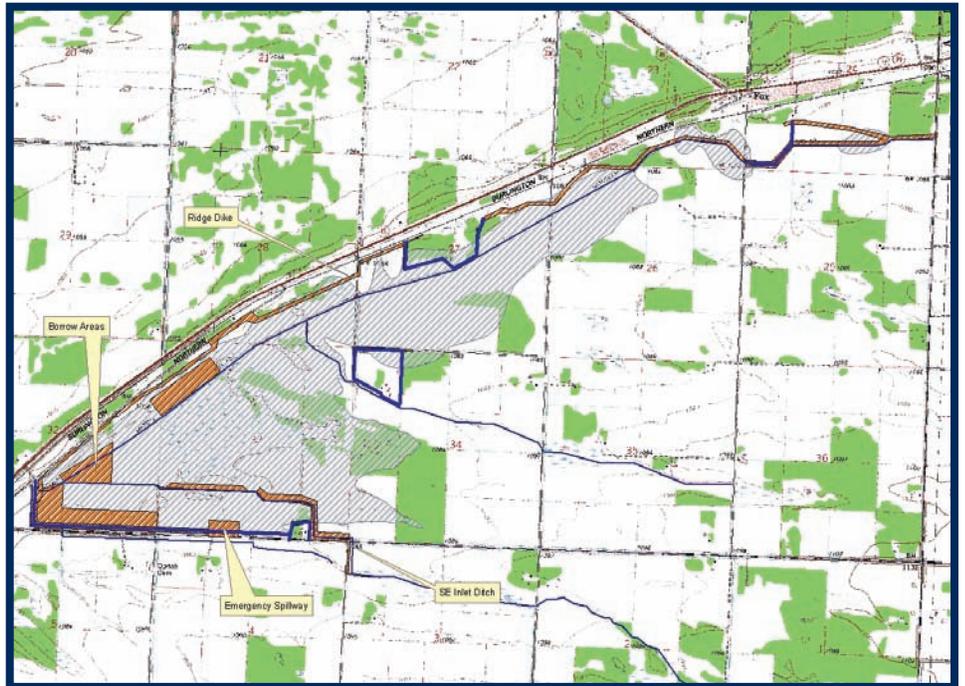
ROSS NO. 7 IMPOUNDMENT NEARING CONSTRUCTION

By Dan Money

The Two Rivers Watershed District's latest flood control project, known as the Ross No. 7 Impoundment, has moved through the planning and design stages, and is currently in the permitting and public comment stage. This project, designed to control the runoff from a drainage area of 18.2 square miles, will be located along and south of Minnesota State Highway No. 11 between the cities of Badger and Roseau, Minnesota in parts of Sections 23, 24, 26, 27, 28, 32, 33, & 34 of Ross Township. It is located along Roseau County Ditch 13 and upstream of Lateral 1, State Ditch No. 95.

By shutting off and storing the runoff that occurs within the 18.2 square miles that are upstream of the project, flooding will be reduced within a large area downstream. The biggest impact will be seen immediately downstream of the project along and south of Lateral 1 of State Ditch No. 95. Overland flooding that presently occurs in Sections 3 - 6 in Skagen Township, 1 - 12 of Barto Township, and 1 - 12 of Polonia Township in Roseau County will be significantly reduced in both amount and duration of flooding. The project will also reduce the impact flooding has on County and Township roads, bridges, and culverts in these Townships. Further downstream, the project will benefit to a lesser degree areas along the South Branch Two River, including Lake Bronson and Hallock. Impacts will also be reduced as far downstream as the Red River, as the release of water from the impoundment will be timed so as not to coincide with any flooding going on at the Red River and in fact get to the Red River after flooding there has peaked.

Components of the project will include a gated outlet structure, a main dike, a ridge dike, raising of a township road, several ring dikes, and construction of an inlet channel. A detailed engineer's report has been filed with the Two Rivers Watershed District, and copies can be obtained by contacting the District office. In general, the project will utilize a natural ridge for the north



Ross No. 7 Impoundment Site Map

side of the impoundment and a dike will be built along the west and south sides. Total project cost is estimated at \$2.1 million.

Operation of the gate will be the responsibility of the Two Rivers Watershed District. All of the land that will be needed for the project will be acquired either through purchase or flood storage easement by the District. A detailed operating plan will be written, which will explain when the gate will be closed, when it can be opened, and what types of environmental events will trigger manipulation of the gate. Generally, the gate will be closed as long as there is downstream flooding occurring, and will be opened as soon water has receded enough in the downstream ditch to allow the release of water from the impoundment. The impoundment will be operated as a dry impoundment, meaning that it will be drained dry as soon as possible after a flood event and no permanent pool will be maintained.

The project is designed to have both flood control and natural resources benefits. As a part of the permitting process, the District is required to restore several

wetland basins that have been drained by farming practices. Buffer areas will then be seeded to native grasses around these wetland basins to create a wetland and upland complex suitable for birds, mammals, amphibians, and other aquatic organisms.

A public hearing was held on the project on February 7, 2006 to hear any comments for or against the project. In addition, several permits are pending from Ross Township, Roseau County, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA), and wetland regulatory agencies including the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Roseau Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD), and the Minnesota Board of Water & Soil Resources (BWSR). Bid letting is anticipated to be held later this year, and construction will hopefully begin this fall. Any questions, comments, or other information regarding the project can be obtained by telephoning the District office at (218) 843-3333 or stopping by the Kittson County Courthouse in Hallock, Minnesota.

WATERSHED DISTRICT DEVELOPMENTS

MIDDLE-SNAKE-TAMARAC RIVERS WD

The Middle-Snake-Tamarac Rivers WD reported on the Public Law 566 (Snake River Watershed) project. The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) estimated that without the structures on the Snake River in place this spring an additional 3' of water would have flowed through

the city of Warren which would have compared to the 1997 flood. It is estimated that the project prevented \$8.7 million in economic damage to the surrounding area. The backfilling of the Diversion Structure is underway with completion expected this summer.



Off Channel Impoundment (Comstock Twp)



Backside of the Diversion Structure



Upstream Side of the Diversion Structure

RED LAKE WD

The Red Lake WD reported on Red Lake WD Ditch No. 11, Project No. 166. The final hearing for the petition to improve 6 ¼ miles of Polk County Ditch No. 40 will be conducted at 10:00 a.m. on July 20, 2006 at the Northland Community College in East Grand Forks, MN. The Property Owner Reports have been mailed and the Final Engineer's Report has been

filed. Depending upon the outcome of the hearing and whether or not the board elects to proceed, the District plans to begin construction in mid August.

SAND HILL RIVER WD

The Sand Hill River WD reported that plans have been completed for the Union Lake Flood Control and Erosion project. The District is working with the Lake Improvement District and the landowners to establish easements and ownership of the site.

RRWMB MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

At its regularly scheduled July meeting, the RRWMB:

- Discussed the FY 2007 RRWMB tax levy rate and approved maintaining the levy at 100%.*
- Received an update on activities of the Red River Basin Commission from Julie Goehring-Communications Coordinator.*
- Authorized a funding request from the Roseau River WD to cost share the local portion along with the local watershed district for a grant to be submitted to the State of Minnesota for the Roseau River International Watershed.*
- Received a report from Dan Thul, Red River Coordinator, regarding the Technical Advisory Committee.*
- Approved the draft revisions to the Personnel Manual.*
- Received a report on the State of the Red River of the North from Wayne Goeken, Monitoring Coordinator.*

The next scheduled meeting of the RRWMB will be held at the City Council Chambers, Warren, MN on August 15th, starting at 9:30 a.m. A tour of the Public Law 566 project will be conducted following the board meeting.

PERMITS NO. 317
Grand Forks, ND
PAID
U.S. POSTAGE
STANDARD
PRESORTED

NEWS & VIEWS
c/o RRWMB
P.O. Box 763
Detroit Lakes, MN 56502-0763

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.