

Agenda Item # 12

November 28, 2018

TO: Projects & Planning Committee: Ed Fleharty, Joe Hergott, Everett Kellogg, Marlin Kimle, Chuck Rainforth, Steve Shaw, Gene Thomas, Jesse VonSpreckelsen, Randy Uhrmacher

Subject: Projects and Planning Committee Meeting

Date & Time: Tuesday, December 4, 2018 beginning at 7:00 p.m. at the Little Blue NRD Office.

The Projects and Planning Committee will meet to discuss the following agenda items.

Agenda:

1. Action on Epley Dam Reconstruction Proposal
2. Discussion on Hebron Flood Plain Buy-Out Proposal
3. Discussion of Conservation Easement Proposal
4. Action on Breach Route Studies as Part of Hazard Mitigation Plan
5. Action on Cost-Share Policy Matters
6. Buffer Strip Applications
7. Action to Authorize bids for Oxbow Reconnection Recharge Projects
8. Discussion on Development of Target Range at Bruning Dam
9. Other Business

Attached is the final report of observations and contributing factors on the failure of the Epley Dam. The report indicates that some of the soils used in portions of the structure were dispersive clays. The fact that the reservoir initially filled very quickly before the structure could wet naturally, also was a factor that contributed to the failure. Both factors were no fault of the contractor. The landowner is interested in getting it rebuilt but doesn't believe he should have to pay more to get it done. The NRCS are discussing the project's repair plans with the contractor and we hope to have a plan and cost estimate ready for the Committee meeting.

JEO contacted the NRD a couple weeks ago about a possible flood plain buy-out project in Hebron. Several properties lie within the flood zone and experience repetitive damage from flooding. FEMA does provide funds for relocation of flood-prone properties but a local sponsor is needed to help facilitate the work and pay a local share of the costs. Dylan attended the last Hebron City Council meeting to discuss the matter. We'll give an overview of the program and discuss district involvement.

The Steve Harms Family south of Davenport are interested in placing portions of their farm in a perpetual conservation easement to protect the fragile nature and environmental qualities of the property. They would like the NRD to hold the easement and do the inspections necessary to insure compliance with the easement's provisions. A draft of the easement is attached for your review.

The board approved JEO to update the Hazard Mitigation Plan starting in FY 2020. The last time this was done, we also had them conduct breach route studies for several watershed dams in the district. We still have 20 dams that do not have breach studies and our goal is to eventually get them all completed so we can work with Planning and Zoning Commissions to protect the flow zones below the dams. The cost estimate is \$2,000 for each structure, but FEMA will pick up 75% under our grant, so the district's cost will only be \$500 each. The Lower Big Blue NRD is planning to do at least 40 dams and we would like to do 16 of the larger structures we have to give the district some protection in the future. The contract proposal offered by JEO shows the entire cost of the inundation maps at \$112,000; the Little Blue NRD's commitment would be \$8,000. Now is a good time to get them done.

Dylan has prepared some ideas for revisions to our cost-share policies which are attached. Give some thought to these changes.

Kent indicated that he may have a buffer strip application by next week. We don't have information on that at this time.

The Oxbow Reconnection Recharge Project design plans are 95% completed. We will have the plans available for the committee to review and ask questions about. Dylan is working with the engineers to get the information needed for the land rights. We would like to advertise the projects for spring construction and need to get approval of the plans and authorization to proceed with the bidding.

Several years ago, the NRD considered placing a target range at the Bruning Dam in cooperation with the Game and Parks Commission. They had funds available for that purpose but the funds were diverted to another need at that time. We had a good interest by locals for that kind of activity at the lake and that interest has, if anything, increased with the number of gun enthusiasts in the area. We have plenty of space to put in such an area and it would fit well with the overall purpose for the Bruning Dam area. Staff will be meeting at the site with G & Ps on Tuesday, December 4th and we'll have more information available at the meeting for the committee's discussion.

See you next Tuesday evening.

cc. All Board members