

Projects and Planning Committee Meeting

December 4, 2018

Directors Present: Ed Fleharty, Everett Kellogg, Marlin Kimle and Steve Shaw.

Staff Present: Donnie Engelhardt, Dylan Long, Mike Onnen, Kent Thompson

Epley Dam

The final report of observations and contributing factors on the failure of the Epley Dam had been circulated earlier. 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. Jake Robison, the design engineer with NRCS, was present and reported on the revised plans necessary for repairs of the dam. The main change was the inclusion of a chimney drain to address the dispersive clays issue. Colby Moellenberndt, the contractor was also present and expressed his desire to repair the dam for the Epleys. The NRCS's estimated cost for repair of the dam was \$29,961. Moellenberndt said he would do the work for \$28,846, which he said was about half of what it normally would cost for that kind of repair.

A motion was made by Fleharty, seconded by Shaw, to approve the bid of Moellenberndt Construction and pay for the repair of the Epley Dam in the amount of \$28,846.

Hebron Flood Buy-Out Proposal

Tim Pickering from the Hebron City Council presented a proposal being considered in the City to buy-out several properties that lie in the Little Blue River floodplain. The main property included a home which experiences repetitive flood damage and FEMA is interested in seeing if the community would purchase the property for demolition. FEMA would pay between 80% and 90% of the project, but a local sponsor would be required to pick up the balance. Pickering said they had received an estimate of the project costs, which included about \$50,000 for removal of asbestos from the home. The total estimated cost was \$167,025. The committee discussed the pros and cons of the proposal, but felt that it would be hard to justify the local expenditure and it would establish a precedent that may cause future challenges. The committee took no action.

Harms Family Conservation Easement

The Steve Harms Family south of Davenport is 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. Onnen reviewed the purposes of the easement and its specific provisions. He indicated that this was an information matter that may have to be address after his departure from the NRD but he wanted the opportunity to share the plans with the committee. Action will be delayed until the landowners attorney can review and edit the agreement as needed.

Breach Route Studies

The board approved JEO to update the Hazard Mitigation Plan starting in FY 2020. The NRD still has 20 dams that do not have breach studies and our goal is to eventually get all completed so we can work with Planning and Zoning Commissions to protect the flow zones below the dams. The

cost estimate from JEO 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. Another engineering firm had quoted \$5,000 per dam to do the studies independently. The Lower Big Blue NRD is planning to do at least 40 dams and Little Blue staff 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 which would have to be budgeted in either 2020 or 2021.

A motion was made by Fleharty, seconded by Shaw, to approve the Amendment # 1 to JEO Agreement for the addition of the breach mapping for up to 16 dams as part of the Hazard Mitigation Planning Process.

Cost-Share Policies

Dylan Long prepared a list of suggested revisions to our cost-share policies for the Committee's consideration. The practices that were offered with changes included: cost-share on sod-busted lands, allowing tenants to sign for cost-share on projects, dollar limitations, buried pipeline contracts, cover crops and brush management. The committee discussed each and offered suggestions. Long will draft new wording for the committee's final approval at a later date.

Buffer Strip Applications

Kent Thompson presented one buffer strip application for C & M Imler Cattle L.L.C. in Clay County. This is a new 5-year contract for 3.2 acres with an annual payment of \$720.

A motion was made by Fleharty, seconded by Shaw, to approve the buffer strip application of C & M Imler Cattle L.L.C. for 3.2 acres of land in part of the NW ¼ & SW ¼ of Section 26-6-8, Clay County with 5 year term and an annual payment of \$720.

Long presented the final drawings of the Oxbow Reconnection Recharge Project sites and described the structures, designs, monitoring well and easement requirements. The estimated costs of the projects are \$468,780 and the monitoring wells are \$48,000. The Water Sustainability Fund will pick up 60% of the costs. The plans are complete and ready for advertisement for bids for spring construction.

A motion was made by Fleharty, seconded by Kellogg, to authorize advertisement of the Oxbow Reconnection Recharge projects and associated monitoring wells as presented, and begin the negotiations process with landowners for necessary easements.

Target Range at Bruning Dam

Several years ago, the NRD considered placing a target range at the Bruning Dam in cooperation with the Game and Parks Commission. G & Ps had funds available for that purpose, but the funds were diverted to other needs at that time. The locals still have a lot of interest in the target range and G & Ps now says they have funds available to pursue the target range.

A motion was made by Fleharty, seconded by Shaw, to pursue the possibilities of developing the target range at the Bruning Dam.

With no other business, the meeting was adjourned.