

North Fork Crow River Watershed District CD32 Informational Meeting Proposed Minutes November 23rd, 2015

Managers Present: Berndt, Wuertz, Barchenger, Brauchler

Managers Absent: Hanson

Staff Present: Tara Ostendorf,

Others Present: Kurt Deter(Rinke-Noonan), Ken Hess, Roger Walz, Larry Ladwig, Marvin Borgerding, Steve Notch, Arthur Marthaler, Earl & Linda Kasper, Others

Call to Order:

Chairperson Wuertz called the meeting to order at 10:00 am.

Purpose of Meeting

Ostendorf stated the purpose of the meeting was to update the landowners regarding the current status of the project and to take comments and questions.

Project Presentation

Lee Rosen, RESPEC Consulting, gave a presentation on the current status of the project, including permitting, plans and specifications, bid process and next steps. To date, the District has received exemptions from Stearns TEP, ACOE, and a letter of permission from DNR on Phase I. Waiting for DNR Phase II and Stearns County CUP. Rosen presented the bid tabulations and outcomes from the bid opening. The Board rejected the bids due to high costs, and so the process will be modified and the project will be rebid. Rosen gave a summary of the project activities and specifications that were included in the bid package and the steps conducted to provide a clear plan for the project.

Questions / Landowner Input

Main public questions and discussions revolved around alternatives for tile realignment and replacement, question of timeframe limiting local contractors from bidding, buffer establishment and various elements within the specifications. Overall consensus of public present dictated that the bid package needs to be modified to entice local contractors to submit a bid.

The public commented on the possibility of using the current pipe around CR22 instead of replacing that section of pipe to reduce project costs. After discussion, consensus from the public present was that the Board should consider hiring a contractor to dig a test pit adjacent to the ditch and scoping of the tile. Ostendorf estimated that the observation work could cost up to \$2,500. Additional discussion ensued regarding alternative tile alignment options. Additional questions from the public regarding beaver dam and obstruction removal. Ostendorf stated that those issues were originally included in the scope of work, but will likely be handled separately through the District due to high unit costs. Board and public discussed the buffer establishment included in the scope of work. The specification requires the buffer to be reestablished and provide a one year guarantee. Discussion also revolved around processes for closing ditches to reduce sedimentation and avoid buffer legislation.

Board Direction: *Proposed Construction Schedule, Proposed Project Components.*

After considerable discussion, the main changes proposed include breaking the project into smaller sections of work including Tile Replacement, Branch 1 Repair, Branch 2 Repair, and Buffer Seeding and Maintenance. The project may also benefit from an extended schedule for completion to allow contractors to work within their desired time frame. Public would like the Board to obtain quotes for observation pit and scoping of the pipe under CR 22 to determine if it needs to be replaced under the road.

Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn made by Manager **Berndt**, seconded by Manager **Barchenger**. Meeting Adjourned.

John Hanson - Secretary