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Glyndon East Tributary Hearing Minutes

Monday May 23, 2022

Managers Present: Catherine Affield; John Hanson; Gerald Van Amburg; Mark Hanson.

Managers Absent: Peter Fjestad; Paul Krabbenhoft; Troy Larson.

Staff Present: Kristine Altrichter, Administrator; Lee Olson, Watershed Specialist; Matthew Schlauderaff, Watershed Specialist.

Consultants Present: Bennett Uhler, Engineer, Houston Engineering, Inc. (HEI).

Others Attending: Wendy Affield, City of Glyndon; Sally Tanner; Archie Tanner; Tory Jacobson; LeRoy Babolian; Duane Hanson; Wade Savageau; Matt Dooley (remote); Kathy Stradley (remote).

C. Affield called meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Meeting held to discuss Glyndon East Tributary Restoration Project, a 9 mile channel restoration in Sections 7, 16, 17, 18 Riverton Township, Sections 1, 2, 12 Glyndon Township, and Section 35 Moland Township, Clay County. Project extends from Highway 9 (Hwy 9) in Section 17, Riverton Township to Buffalo River in Section 35 Moland Township.

Drainage area for project is 9.5 square miles and a stream length of 9.2 miles. Majority of stream is designated as DNR Public Water.

Project initiated by City of Glyndon's concerns regarding drainage. City of Glyndon releases water from lagoons and water does not flow to river. BRRWD held three informational meetings with landowners. 2018 landowner meeting yielded determination that there was a need for survey from City of Glyndon lagoons to Buffalo River. 2019 landowner meeting yielded determination that there was need for additional survey between Glyndon lagoons and Hwy 9. 2021 landowner meeting provided landowners update on proposed project features.

Survey included collecting data on profile of channel every 100 ft, cross section of channel every 500 ft, sediment test pits every 500 ft, in-stream crossings and top of road overflows, and beaver dams. Data show on average there is 3 ft of sediment in channel. Current road crossings provide protection for 50-year flood event, however, field crossings are undersized and provide protection for 2 to 5-year flood event.

Upstream of Buffalo River to BNSF Railroad proposed to have localized channel cleanout. BRRWD will work with contractor to identify areas with sediment accumulation. Upstream of BNSF Railroad to east side of Section 18, Riverton Township proposing two-stage channel. This includes a low-flow channel sized to handle 2-year event and a wide floodplain. Upstream of Section 18 to Hwy 9 proposing ditch repair. This section of project is not part of DNR public water. In addition, project will include relocating flow of water adjacent to 12th Ave S, installing side inlet pipes, replacing undersized culverts, and removing beaver dams.

Duane Hanson asked if any work was proposed in Section 16, Riverton Township. D. Hanson stated there is a blocked culvert through 145th St. S. Uhler noted that Section 16 was within project watershed but outside of project footprint. Uhler also noted, it was a Township culvert and recommended contacting Township.

120 ft wide corridor from Buffalo River to east side of Section 18, Riverton Township will be acquired for permanent easement to satisfy MN Buffer Law requirements. 90 ft corridor through Section 17 Riverton Township will be acquired for

permanent easements to satisfy MN Buffer Law Requirements. Rates for land acquisition will be \$5,000 per acre for cropland and \$100 per acre for non-cropland.

Temporary construction easements will also be acquired. Width of easements vary by location based on amount of sediment proposed to be removed from channel, areas of cropland versus non-cropland, and project need. Rates for land acquisition will be \$250 per acre for cropland and \$100 per acre for non-cropland.

Project benefits include improved drainage and conveyance through system, 20 sediment best management practices (BMPs) with installation of side inlet pipes, over 9 miles of improved channel, and approximately 130 acres of restored habitat.

Project estimated to cost \$1, 150,000.00. Approximately \$700,000 expected to be funded through Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWR) Watershed Based Implementation Funds (WBIF), \$220,000 funded through water management district (wmd) with an annual contribution of \$40,000, and \$230,000 funded through BRRWD district wide funding.

The City of Glyndon will contribute 19 percent of annual wmd assessment and agricultural land will contribute 81 percent. Agricultural and conservation land will be assessed between \$0 and \$7.00 per acre, residential land will be assessed at \$4.00 per acre, and commercial land will be assessed between \$10.00 and \$16.48 per acre. Funds from wmd will be used for construction and long-term maintenance of project. Once construction is complete, BRRWD Board of Managers will determine if assessment is needed annually at their budget hearing.

Wade Savageau asked if work is proposed to be completed east of Hwy 9. Uhler noted that no work is proposed in this area. Savageau noted concern that proposed project is a short-term fix for drainage problems. Savageau thought project is too expensive and City of Glyndon should pay a larger portion because project started with their need to improve conveyance of water discharging from lagoons. Uhler noted that BRRWD has completed multiple projects using similar design techniques that have been successful based on landowner feedback. Uhler stated that the sediment within the channel has reduced the capacity of the channel. He added that BRRWD Board of Managers focus on projects that landowners want completed on the landscape. Glyndon East Tributary Restoration was expanded following feedback from landowners.

D. Hanson asked if project could be extended to include cleaning ditch to culvert in Section 16 through 145th St. S. Uhler noted that this is a Township Road and advised D. Hanson to work with Township.

Matt Dooley noted that landowners downstream of BNSF Railroad had not brought up concerns about project. Dooley asked if completing that component of project would be sufficient. Uhler noted that upstream landowners requested project be extended to Hwy 9. Archie Tanner noted that he thought the project should be completed.

Savageau noted that the water table is high in this area.

Tory Jacobson asked what channel would look like near his property downstream of BNSF Railroad. Uhler noted that channel would be 10.5 feet wide. Jacobson asked where spoil from cleanout would be placed. Uhler noted that project is limited by wetlands, and BRRWD would work with landowners along channel. Jacobson asked about size of easement on his land. Uhler noted that permanent easement areas were determined based on MN Buffer Law.

D. Hanson requested project be tabled until landowner concerns were addressed to landowner satisfaction. Uhler noted that BRRWD held three informational meetings in last four years to receive feedback from landowners. Uhler noted that past feedback had been in support of project. Van Amburg noted that BRRWD is proposing project to solve problems that have been brought to their attention by landowners.

Uhler explained that BRRWD would make Order and then landowners have 30 days to appeal decision. Once 30-day appeal period passes, project would be bid with construction beginning in Fall 2022 or Spring 2023.

D. Hanson noted that system has bottlenecks throughout. He thought some bottlenecks should remain in place to hold some water in the system. Uhler noted that project could not have negative impacts downstream.

Van Amburg noted that feedback at Hearing would help inform project moving forward.

Wendy Affield asked if BRRWD would manage beaver dams before project started. Uhler noted that there is no funding mechanism for project area, so beavers would not be managed until construction. Following construction, BRRWD will rely on landowners to notify them if beavers are becoming a nuisance. Funds from wmd will be used to manage beavers.

Jacobson asked where construction would start. Uhler noted that contractor would determine where they would like to start but anticipates that contractor would likely start at downstream end.

W. Affield asked who would be assessed for \$230,000 BRRWD district wide fund. Altrichter noted that all residents within the District would be assessed.

Savageau noted that City of Glyndon should contribute to more cost than rural residents due to inputs into the system from lagoons. Uhler noted that costs were reviewed and based on inputs the City of Glyndon contributing to 19 percent of assessment was most fair. W. Affield noted that the State regulates when water can be released from lagoons and that it is required to be tested. W. Affield also noted that water is only released from the lagoons a few times per year. Uhler added that the City of Glyndon has a right to discharge water from lagoons.

C. Affield adjourned meeting at 8:14 PM.

/s/ John Hanson
John Hanson
Secretary