

# *Two Rivers Watershed District NEWS*

## *In Roseau, Kittson, & Marshall Counties*



410 5<sup>th</sup> Street S., Suite 112, Hallock, MN 56728 - Phone (218) 843-3333 - Fax (218) 843-2020 - Email: [daniel.money@mn.nacdn.net](mailto:daniel.money@mn.nacdn.net)

Board of Managers: Roger Anderson, Jim Kukowski, Jon Vold, Darrel Johnson, Paul Olsonawski, Allen Brazier, Daryl Klegstad

Staff: Dan Money-Administrator; Matt Thompson-Technician

November 26, 2013

For Immediate Release

### **Larson Retires From Watershed District Board of Managers**

Long – time Two Rivers Watershed District Manager O’Neil Larson has retired from the Board of Managers. O’Neil began his term on the Board on July 2, 2002 and retired from the Board on October 31, 2013. He represented the south-eastern area of Kittson County, including but not limited to portions of the townships of Arveson, Deerwood, Springbrook, Jupiter, Norway, and Pelan.

During his term on the Board, Larson saw many Watershed District projects constructed. These included the Kennedy #6 project, the Ross #7 Impoundment, the Horseshoe Lake dam modification, numerous ditch maintenance and repair projects, and the Springbrook PL566 Project #10. He was involved in the review and approval of hundreds of permit applications to the District, and served as the Treasurer of the Board for four years.

Many programs were also accomplished under Larson’s watch. These include a flow monitoring program where the District measures how much water is flowing within various waterways. This information is used to predict flood levels each spring. Also helpful in predicting floods is the District’s annual snow survey. In addition, the District has been involved with water quality monitoring for many years. As a member of the Board of Managers, Larson had a hand in shaping and implementing these programs and projects.

The Board of Managers wishes to thank O’Neil for his years of service and his contributions to the accomplishments of the Two Rivers Watershed District!



The Board of Managers Presented O’Neil Larson with a plaque commemorating his service to the District. Pictured left to right are: Vice President Paul Olsonawski, Manager Allen Brazier, President Roger Anderson, O’Neil Larson, and Secretary Jon Vold.

## **Pesky Beavers!**

The Two Rivers Watershed District pays a \$40 bounty on beavers that are taken from legal ditch systems under the jurisdiction of the District. During the course of 2013, the District paid out \$540 on 14 beavers that were turned in. In addition, 15 beaver dams were removed using a backhoe to clean out the obstructions on the ditch systems. If you know of beaver activity on any systems managed by the District, please call the office at 218-843-3333.

### **Springbrook Project #10 Near Completion** ***-Last Project in the Country built under PL566 Program-***

The latest flood control project of the Two Rivers Watershed District is very near completion. The "Springbrook PL566 Project #10" was substantially completed during the summer construction season of 2013. The project is located in sections 23, 24, 28, 29 & 30 of Springbrook Township and sections 25 and 36 of Davis Township, all in Kittson County Minnesota. Project components consist of the construction of over 10 miles of set back dikes, installation of more than 26 side water inlet culverts, numerous diversion ditches, three rock drop structures to control erosion, and over 400 acres of grass buffer strip establishment.



The project was built utilizing the federal PL566 program through the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service. The Two Rivers Watershed District is the local sponsor of the project and will be responsible for the long



term inspection, operation, and maintenance. The PL566 program funded the \$1.3 million project. R.J. Zavoral and Sons Construction was the contractor on the project.

A petition for this project was submitted by local landowners to the TRWD. They identified a flooding problem along an existing coulee, whereby the coulee could not handle high flows of runoff that were entering the channel. This caused water to break out and flow over land, causing erosion, sedimentation, washouts of roads and culverts, and losses to cropland and public infrastructure. To prevent break out flooding, levees were constructed on either side of the stream, and set back away from the stream between 100 feet and 300 feet. This will allow the water to enter the stream, but as floodwaters rise and begin to break out of the channel, they will be contained between the levees, and prevented from flowing overland and washing out infrastructure. The levies are designed to contain water for up to a 10 year flood event. If a larger event occurs, the levees will overtop in designated areas.

The project will also help to prevent excessive sediment from entering the watercourse and contributing to degradation of water quality. As a part of the project the areas between the dikes will be enrolled into the State of Minnesota's "Reinvest in Minnesota" program. This area will be seeded to grass and will not be farmed in the future. Areas that currently erode and wash out will be stabilized and set aside to help create a grass buffer strip.

Sadly, the federal program that funded this project has been eliminated by congress, and this project will be the very last one built using the PL566 program in the entire United States. There have been three other projects constructed under this program in Kittson County (Two within the Two Rivers and one within the Joe River – all built in the 1960's), and one in Marshall County, most recently the flood diversion and upstream impoundment project that protects the City of Warren from flooding. In addition, many projects were built just west of the Red River in North Dakota, and were utilized during the extreme summer flooding of 2013 in that area.

The finishing touches are currently being completed on the Springbrook Project #10, and the Two Rivers Watershed District expects that it will be fully functional and ready to be tested during any flood events that may come our way in 2014 and the future.

## **TRWD Receives Grant Funding to Cost Share on 'Drainage Water Management' for Tile Systems**

The Two Rivers Watershed District has received grant funding from the MN Board of Water & Soil Resources for something called Drainage Water Management (DWM). Landowners who are considering installing tile drainage tile may want to consider managing the water that comes out of the systems to help make water available to crops to maximize production. This can be accomplished by installing water gates within the tile system to manage how much water is available to the crop and when.

Subsurface tile drainage is a water management practice increasingly utilized in agricultural fields in Minnesota to improve field access for planting and harvesting and to increase crop productivity. At the field scale, tile drainage typically reduces surface runoff by increasing subsurface runoff, and increases total annual runoff volume by reducing water availability for evaporation, primarily during the spring and fall when crops are not growing. Conventional tile drainage can increase the loss of soluble crop nutrients from fields, such as nitrate nitrogen and soluble phosphorus, as well as increase the transport of herbicides, pesticides and pathogens. Increased runoff volume can in turn increase downstream flooding and sediment transport.

The grant program will fund several existing NRCS practices, as follows:  
Targeted DWM grant program funds will be used for cost share and incentives as follows:

- CAP 130 and CAP 104 Plans: Cost share will not exceed \$2,000 per plan, or 75% of the total eligible cost, whichever is less.
- Pumping Systems that meet CP587 Standards: Cost share will not exceed \$2,000, or 75% of the total eligible cost, whichever is less, includes design and installation.
- Other Water Management Structures (stop log structures, in-line water gates) that meet CP587 Standards: Cost share will not



exceed 75% of the total cost, includes design and installation.

- Sub-surface Drains (alternative tile inlets) that meet CP606 Standards: Cost-share will not exceed 75% of the total cost, includes design and installation.
- Denitrifying Bioreactors that meet CP747 Standards: Cost-share will not exceed 75% of the total cost, includes design and installation. *NOTE: Must be designed by a professional engineer to qualify for cost-share.*
- Drainage Water Management Operations CP554: Incentive payments will not exceed \$7.58 per acre per year, for no more than three years, on a maximum of 300 acres per contract.
- Nutrient Management CP590: Incentive payments will not exceed \$5.44 per acre per year (without manure) and \$10.78 per acre per year (with manure), for no more than three years, on a maximum of 300 acres per contract. *NOTE: Only fields with controlled subsurface drainage structure(s) and/or denitrifying bioreactors and/or where existing open tile inlets are replaced are eligible. Participants must also have an approved CAP 104 plan to be eligible for this incentive.*

If you are interested in this cost share grant program funding and are considering the installation of a tile drainage system, please contact the Two Rivers Watershed District office for more information or to apply for funding. We can be reached at 218-843-3333 and our office is located in the Kittson County Courthouse in Hallock, MN.