

CD47, JC6 & City of New Richland Community Meeting | Notes

Date: 02/16/2016 | **Time:** 6:30-8:30 p.m. | **Where:** New Richland City Hall

Time	Topic
6:30-6:45	Welcome & Introduction <i>Jessie Shaffer, Waseca County SWCD Supervisor & Le Sueur River Watershed Network Steering Committee member</i> <i>Mark Bosacker, Le Sueur River Watershed Network Steering Committee members</i>
6:45-7:00	History of the New Richland Area <i>Jim Peterson, Waseca County Commissioner</i> <i>Kelly Hunt, Waseca County Water Resource Specialist</i>
7:00-7:30	Identify Local Concerns (Small Group Discussion)
7:30-8:00	Determine Next Steps (Large Group Discussion)
8:00-8:30	Get to know local staff

Meeting Objectives

- Learn about flooding history and impact on the City of New Richland
- Network with New Richland residents, local staff (SWCD, County, NRCS, FSA, MnDNR, etc.), and concerned citizens
- Determine if locals want to move forward with evaluating options for reducing flood impact to city infrastructure and residents
- Get to know New Richland residents and their priorities in the area

Meeting Synopsis

Over 55 people from the New Richland area met at the New Richland City Hall on February 16th to begin the conversation with watershed neighbors about how to mitigate flood impacts to local residents. The meeting started with an introduction to Waseca County staff member Kelly Hunt and Commissioner Jim Peterson, along with the Le Sueur River Watershed Network Steering Committee members. Speakers described how they got involved with working in the area to develop effective, citizen-led solutions for cleaning the water and improving stream stability. Following introductions, meeting participants broke into small group discussions to share what they see are the issues, potential solutions and deliberate on next steps. Each group reported back on what they learned in their small groups and the floor was opened for a larger discussion on key concerns. There was agreement that there are several questions that need to be answered before making any decisions as a group. Next steps will include exploration into the history and current condition of the drainage system, learn from other comparable watersheds, and ensure key stakeholders are present in the conversation. As options to mitigate flooding are explored, watershed neighbors will develop a shared vision for reducing adverse impacts to local residents.

Introduction

Le Sueur River Watershed Network

- Citizen Advisory Committee developed 7 Recommendations that were ratified by the larger Network
 - We are not an agency, citizen-led; we act as a link for communities to agencies
 - Ratified our mission statement in June 2014 at CD57 meeting
 - Steering Committee members are a diverse group (Jessie Shaffer and Mark Bosacker introduced the Network)
- Le Sueur River Watershed Network activities are motivated by our concern for a maintaining productive lands and guided by their 7 Recommendations for cleaner water and river health
 - Heavy flow is destabilizing our watershed
 - Water quality and quantity are things we need to consider
- We want to hear from the local community on the matter and to see what ideas they have; find solutions won't happen overnight but we need to get the ball rolling
- Local businesses and community members have been adversely impacts: Local Care Center, Sportsmen Club, homes, trailer park, Morgan's Meat Market

Waseca County

- Jim Peterson is this district's representative and several folks are very concerned about the flooding
- Kelly Hunt is Water Resource Specialist in Waseca County and does AIS work, water planning
- Brief background on drainage area
 - CD6 ~ 3,700 acres
 - JC47 ~ 333 acres (comes from behind school and backs out at Morgan's
 - June 2015 and September 2010 flooding especially troublesome
 - 1979 – ditch in town was made bigger and was originally a creek
 - 1950's – there was a lot of flooding
 - Present – More streets, houses and water running to the ditches; less water infiltration
 - County dredge in Spring, yet hasn't been cleaned through town
- The whole system needs to be changed to meet present and future drainage needs of the area
 - We are going to need petitions on CD to get work done
 - Want to work with the community to prevent future flooding and hear their solutions
 - There are grants out there to assist (estimate ~\$1,000 per culvert)
 - Reservoir

Small Group Discussions

1. **What are your concerns about water quality and quantify flowing through the community of New Richland and contributing drainage systems (CD47 and JC6)?**
2. **What questions do you want answered moving forward as we share and discuss our ideas on opportunities to address these concerns in the future?**

3. **What do you think should be the next steps? What role do you want to play?**
4. **Are there community members not represented here tonight? How should we reach out to them? Would you be willing to invite them to future meetings?**

Concerns

- A. Existing bridges and culverts
 - 7 Bridges within less than a mile
 - May be acting as bottlenecks
 - Out of date and need to be inspected/repared
 - They could help with flow
 - 1977 was the last time they were inspected
 - B. Increasing frequency of flooding
 - Flooding is worse in the last 5 years and concern about future
 - 11" inch rain in last 5 years
 - more frequent, high intensity rain events
 - Concern about the feasibility to create a drainage system that could even handle this
 - C. How the area is currently being drained
 - Grade of drainage system
 - Water is getting here faster and large drainage area
 - There is a lot of velocity and water draining through New Richland
 - 6ft fall to Boot Creek and then to Le Sueur
 - Water overtops the roads, especially 13
 - Stability of drainage system (erosion)
 - D. Water quality of water being backed up and going downstream
 - Sewage dumping down river; bad water quality?
 - E. Current engineering firm inspecting and maintaining drainage area needs to be re-evaluated
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Questions

- A. Culverts/Bridges
 - What are culverts?
 - Which areas have electrical?
 - 1 has electrical: End of Main St electrical for street light (Birch & Division + 1st Street South)
 - What are the costs of replacing the bridges?*
 - Is it possible to put overflow culverts on any of the bridges? (at top of culvert only used at high flow events and would be a whole lot cheaper)
 - Have the culverts been cleaned out?
 - What is the current culvert capacity through the City?
- B. Costs
 - Has anybody looked into costs yet?
 - What are the costs associated with reducing flow?
 - What is the feasibility of doing work to reduce flooding? (Economics?)
- C. Water Storage Options

- Can you dam and stop reservoir system?
 - What are the storage possibilities?
 - What are practices that can be done? Wetlands?
 - How much needs to be stored?
 - What is the rain event to plan for? Scale?
 - What would be multipurpose practices/projects that would help the community? Any examples in this area?
- D. Existing Conditions of Drainage System
- There is more water now every time it rains; how do we know it is working?
 - How much volume is coming through the system?
 - Does existing ditch need to be maintained?
 - Who has been maintaining culverts and ditches?
 - What is the timeline for maintenance of ditch; cleaning out 10-12 years? (Jim – 8-10 year cycle; cleaning out this year/summer; culvert size change; petition to landowners through request)
 - What are the sewer issues?
 - Where does ditch drain to? Ditch W of town?
 - Who owns the ditch west of town?
- E. Existing Mitigation Efforts
- Does the City need to have an emergency plan with sandbags on hand?
 - Are there flood reduction programs available?
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Ideas

- A. Storage options
- Ballfields & Sportsmen Club**
 - Leave them as it is (used to ice skate);
 - Could change concessions stand; Relocate ball fields and businesses near ball fields to higher ground; could be used for water storage if relocated; berms, buyout land, ball field
 - Build a reservoir outside of the City
 - NE and Ncentral areas for storage
 - Get more input and evaluate options for more storage
- B. Enhance ditches capacity to move water faster
- Big enough ditch to carry the water
 - Changing box culverts
 - Clean out
 - Make it bigger
- C. Short-term mitigation efforts
- Sandbags and dikes on hand
 - Clean ditch and culverts immediately**
- D. Keep meeting, talking and evaluating options to create a plan
- More educational meetings to explain steps along the way**
 - Gather ideas to evaluate options then get engineering costs for them

- Meet, talk and find solutions together
 - Use Mankato as flooding model; build berms around the Care Center
- Create a 10 year plan to start chipping away at the problem; this is going to take time
 timeline for ditch maintenance should be set (8-10 years? – Jim)
- Look at targeting and implementation of storage and diversion costs
- Buy out places that are flooding (Thompsons)
- E. Install a bypass system
 - Overflow system at the top
 - Put a bypass on ditch
 - Look at costs to divert water
- F. Reroute water
 - Relieve pressure to the system and divert to the S**
 - divert JC6 south of town
 - North of town -> downstream partners

Stories

- Can't get rid of existing reservoirs
- Evaluate the culverts
 - Currently culverts are creating some storage because they get smaller in downstream areas
 - Get the water through town
- We need cooperation between City, ditch system and County**
 - County vs. City; County needs to step up
 - Would like to hear stories at LS other parts of the watershed
 - Calendar of events and stick to plan; need to have goals in sight
 - Railroad authority is someone that needs to be talked with
- Evaluation of benefits and costs needs to be done
 - Ditch has not been redetermined
 - \$10,000 bond certain % of landowners on ditch 26%; reassess; survey takes 2 years
 - Goes with re-evaluate 20% paid to landowners
 - Engineering costs are high
- Septic/sewer stable during events
 - Sanitary/sewer and tile separation form the system
 - Tried to smoke sewers to ID -> no from sump pump (30th & Aspen)
 - A lot of money was spent in separating sanitary and storm systems
- 2007 work was done to Highway 30
 - Block 13 – would come over 3-4 ft
 - One spot may have field tile off of 13th & Aspen; City is working on it
 - Tile on E side of highway; 3 tile lines newer; didn't use to run
- Hear more stories and get more input to identify the main problems**
 - Research the history of the system and problems
 - Homeowners were told they were less of a priority <than what?>

- Bowling Alley had water for 4 days in 2010
 - Connie Johnson -> comes backing up sewer; storm sewer overtakes sewer system via intrusion
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Next Steps

- Educational meetings**
 - Need to understand the system
 - Learn about some engineering options (combine local knowledge + technical expertise)
 - What are the bigger issues
 - Look at other models with comparable drainage areas (e.g., CD57)
 - Describe Le Sueur River Watershed Network 7 Recommendations and examples
 - Look into what it takes to petition for ditches (takes ~2 years)
 - Ask local leaders to step forward who are representative of the community
 - Consistent communication
 - Set goals to hold everyone accountable
 - Contact key stakeholders
 - Folks are willing to knock on neighbors doors to get them at the table
 - Another meeting late March, early April
 - Identify options for water storage
 - Evaluate best sites to slow flow
 - Talk to railroad authority, MnDOT, etc.
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