

Draft Minutes of the Stearns County Wetland Rules Committee

The May 23, 2017 meeting of the Stearns County Wetland Rules Committee was held in Room 313 (Environmental Services, Third Floor) of the Stearns County Administration Center, 705 Courthouse Square, St. Cloud, MN beginning at 1:00 p.m.

Members Present: Greg Berg, Soil and Water Conservation District
Jodi Teich (Alternate for Chuck Weiman), Stearns County Highway Department
Susan McGuire, Environmental Services

Members Absent: Chuck Weiman, Stearns County Highway Department
Commissioner Steve Notch (Non-voting member)

Others Present: Laurie Lokken, Environmental Services

Chairperson Berg called the meeting to order at 1:03 p.m.

- 1. Brandon Bohks, Bolton & Menk as agent for John Hotek, Jennie-O Turkey Store Inc. has submitted an application for sequencing flexibility and a wetland replacement plan to purchase 0.64 acres of Type 2 (Fresh (wet) Meadow wetland credit from Philip Miller's Wetland Bank account # 1094 to replace for 0.32 acres of Type 2/3 wetland impact. The US Corps of Engineers has determined that the impacted wetland (W-4) is an isolated wetland. The proposed impact is for a proposed new Jennie-O Turkey Store processing plant in Melrose. The proposed processing plant will be located adjacent to the existing Jennie-O Live Haul facility. The existing Live Haul facility covers approximately 8 acres. The proposed new processing plant and Live Haul facility will have approximately 35 acres of area.**

Hormel Foods is the parent company of Jennie-O Turkey Store. Glenn Leitch is the President of Jennie-O Turkey Store. John Hotek, Jennie-O Turkey Store, Inc., is the designated contact person for this application.

This project is located at 1129 or 1159 Main Street East, Melrose, MN 56352 in the SE4 Section 35, T126N, R33W, City of Melrose and Melrose Township, Stearns County. PID # 66.36478.0000, 66.36478.0510.0000 and 66.36478.0515. The site is located between County Road 65 (Main Street East) and the Sauk River. (W-001164)

Chairperson Berg introduced the application.

Susan McGuire stated that the applicants had applied for sequencing flexibility stating that the wetland was degraded as it is mostly reed canary and invasive species. It has been farmed pretty consistently with plantings four out of five of the normal precipitation years. TEP approved the sequencing flexibility application. TEP voted to recommend approval of the wetland replacement plan application with conditions. According to the application

and the plans, they would be directly impacting only a part of the wetland. They said that because of the stormwater containment, they would be robbing the watershed of that wetland so they have offered to replace the entire wetland.

Chairperson Berg stated that Best Management Practices was a valid condition and he asked if there is a drainage plan. Ms. McGuire responded that their plan is to drain to the ponds for pretreatment and then go into the wetlands after that.

Chairperson Berg asked if there are periodic checks on the project, especially on the temporary BMPs. Ms. McGuire replied that SRWD staff has been checking and added that SRWD's requirements for erosion and sediment control and stormwater are stricter than State requirements.

Motion was made by Jodi Teich, seconded by Susan McGuire, to approve the application for sequencing flexibility and the Wetland Replacement Plan as submitted with the conditions that: 1) Best Management Practices for erosion and sediment control are used before, during and after construction; 2) hydrology is maintained to all adjacent wetlands; 3) all necessary permits are received and permit conditions are followed; and 4) make sure watershed areas feeding wetlands are not dramatically reduced or increased. Motion carried unanimously.

2. Approve the Minutes from the April 25, 2017 Wetland Rules Committee Meeting.

Motion was made by Susan McGuire, seconded by Jodi Teich, to approve the minutes from the April 25, 2017 meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

3. Set Field Trip/Meeting Dates. The WRC meets at the Stearns County Highway Department Building in Waite Park at 9:00 a.m. the Monday prior to the fourth Tuesday of the month. Meeting dates and times are adjusted as needed.

The June field trip is set for Monday, June 26, 2017 at 9:00 a.m. at the Highway Department Building.

The June meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 27, 2017 at 1:00 p.m. in Room 313 (Environmental Services, Third Floor) of the Stearns County Administration Center.

Motion was made by Jodi Teich, seconded by Susan McGuire, to adjourn the meeting at 1:12 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.