

MINUTES OF THE FLOOD FOCUS MEETING OF FEB. 25, 2010

Present: Gene Lightner, Mike Shellman, Patty Fisel, Joy Lecount, John Richardson, Dave Abbott, Dave Wick.

The meeting began 7:00 P.M. and concluded 8:20 P.M.

The meeting opened with a discussion of Mike Shellman's "Guiding Principles" for the committee.

1. We will not move a flood problem. A solution is not viable if it relieves one property owner in the watershed by flooding another somewhere else.
2. Solutions will be measurable. This allows enhancement of what is working and analysis/correction of what is not.
3. Solutions will be revenue neutral to local taxpayers.

The basic purpose of the committee is "to solve flooding issues on West Lakes".

A discussion followed which covered information about the watershed, speculation about the upcoming Silver Jacket report, questions about the river workings and issues, who else needs to be included and contacted.

Dave Abbott has the engineering studies on the Sylvan Lake dam which include discharge rates based on stage height.

In the discussion about sources of money for projects, the group concluded that finding the correct agency and grants depended upon the type projects needed. There was money put into the state budget in the Spring of '09 but it's current status is not known and it was not earmarked.

Ideas of who the committee needs to contact and keep in the loop: The fives lakes assoc., affected land owners, local Farm Bureau and agriculture people, legislators.

The following are some of the thoughts ideas and questions related to water issues:

Water levels come up quickly but go down more slowly than in the past.

What can be done to reduce the sediment load entering the lakes?

What do we need to do to reestablish upstream wetlands?

What is the impact of Goshen Dam, Benton Dam, the railroad trestle, etc. on upstream flooding of West Lakes. Is there a cut off point in the river where an object no longer impacts upstream flooding? How can we measure the impact to determine significance?

Recent years seem to have high water in the Spring and then in the Summer there is barely enough water in the river to irrigate. Is this simply rainfall related or is something else happening?

In the 1980's there was a move to develop a water retention area behind the foundry in Kville.

Meeting adjourned 8:20.

Next meeting will be after the report is issued.

Submitted by Gene Lightner