

Meeting Notes

Project: Mud River Restoration Project Team

Subject: Second Meeting

Date: December 17, 2021

Location:

Attendees: Myron Jesme, Corey Hanson, LeRoy Ose, Nate Dalager, Jake Huwe, James Graham, Brent Klamar, Gary Kiesow, Loren Lusignan, Lyle Nelson, Jim Sparby, Online – Andrew Graham, Denise Oakes, Matt Fischer, Stephanie Klamm, Jason Vinje, Josh Johnston, Other SWCD person, others?

- Agassiz Water Management Tutorial (inflows/outflows) – USFWS
- Agassiz Sediment History (past/present/future) – USFWS

James Graham provided an overview of Agassiz water management and sediment accumulation histories. Clarification was provided on the difference between organic and inorganic sediments, with the inorganic mineral soils generally defined as erosion settling out from the contributing watershed, while organic sediments are generated from decaying plant material within Agassiz as well as throughout the contributing watershed.

- Purpose and Need Development – All/PT

Purpose and need draft was discussed at length by those in attendance at the meeting, with comments provided and suggestions made for a second draft.

- 2022 Flow and Sediment Monitoring – USFWS/RLWD/PCA
- Water Quality Reporting – RLWD

Corey Hanson provided an overview of the monitoring data and long-term trends. Summary was that water quality and watershed erosion and sediment concerns seem to be improving.

- Engineering H&H and % Flow Splits (present/proposed) - HDR
- Alternatives
 - Channel Restoration – HDR
 - Diversion/Structures – HDR
 - Enhance Existing Ditches – HDR

Nate Dalager presented conceptual alternatives to potentially change the current ~50-50 flow split that occurs at the JD 11 Main and JD 11 Branch 8 split. Diversion and

channel capacity concepts were presented, as well as downstream channel creation and restoration options. Further discussion was held regarding how alternatives discussion was somewhat early in the process, as the Project purpose was still under development. “How to address sediment” was suggested as a possible beginning point for a problem statement. As well as discussion on USFWS clarification of goals, such as “just passing water through” and what that means. James Graham said ideally, JD 11 water would flow through Agassiz, and the Agassiz pools would then be operated as required to pull water off for either flood damage reduction or wildlife and habitat management. Alternatives will be the subject of future discussions once purpose and need has consensus support from the Project team.

- Next Steps

A subcommittee consisting of RLWD, DNR, MDH, PCA, USFWS, and landowners will be scheduled in January, presumably to discuss a refined purpose and need statement, alternatives and future water quality (flow and sediment) monitoring efforts near the JD 11-Branch 8 split.

Attachments:

Mud River History 12-17-21.pdf

Mud River Water Quality 3.pdf

Mud River H&H Alternatives Analysis.pdf

Mud River Restoration Project_Update.pdf

Mud River PN_jfg_PT_edited.pdf