

Barnes County Water Resource District
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01/1/2008
Minutes
Special meeting
Section 25 Ashtabula Twp. Outlet

Present: Jeff McMillan, Pat Hurley, Don Johnson

Also Present: Tim Hass, William Hass, Richard Hass, Casey Burchill, Lynn Holcomb, Lloyd Koch, Palmer Paulson, Mike Schewer, Ron Dittmer, Jim Lindseth, US Fish & Wildlife Service and Brent Gustufson.

Meeting called to order by Chairman Jeff McMillan.

William, Richard, and Tim Hass requested a possible outlet for a large slough that is located on their property. They suggested a south end outlet. Currently the Hydric line is 1 ½ to 2 feet. As of today the Hydric line and road are at the same level. This is because the road has settled. The Hass's question where the water is coming from in the first place and that maybe some illegal or extra drainage is causing a problem.

Brent Gustufson, NRCS, Reported that a Biologist and an Hydrologist actually set the Hydric line lower than what it currently set at. If an appeal is made it could quite possibly be set lower. The appeal request would need to be in writing from the landowner. In this situation Lynn Holcomb would need to submit the request. Brent said that there are 3 options for a solution in regards to the NRCS. 1) Mitigation of acres 2) lowering of Hydric line 3) wetlands status

Concerns were raised about the cost of an outlet project and who would be fiscally responsible. It was also noted that this outlet may only pass on the problem and that this area is simply experiencing abnormal moisture because of its elevation.

Jim Lindseth from the State Water Commission noted that in regards to artificial drainage he felt that there are only 3 questionable "straight lines" or man made ditches. All other drainage in the area is natural waterways that have simply been maintained. The District would need to consider hiring a consultant to establish a watershed for an assessment district if an outlet is constructed. The SWC will assist with a 30% cost share.

It was the consensus of the group to allow Mr. Holcomb to make a decision in regards to requesting an appeal before proceeding.