

**MEETING NOTES**  
**NORTH CENTER NORTH LINDSTROM CHANNEL**  
**RESTORATION FEASIBILITY TASK FORCE**  
**Tuesday, July 23rd, 2013**

*The purpose of the task force is to review the feasibility of possible channel design options and make a recommendation to the County Board of Commissioners.*

*The purpose of this meeting is:*

- 1) To review survey and web site.*
- 2) To determine what additional information might be needed in order to make a reasoned public judgment about the project.*

The North Center North Lindstrom Channel Restoration Feasibility Task Force met at 1:30 p.m. Tuesday, July 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2013 in Room 131 of the Chisago County Government Center with the following Task Force Members present: AnnMarie Brink (Lindstrom Parks), Chris DuBose (Chisago Lakes Township), Curt Flug (City of Lindstrom), George McMahon (Chisago County Board of Commissioners), Mike Mergens (Center Lakes Association), Peter J. Grundhoefer (Chisago Lakes Area Chamber of Commerce), Kurt Schneider (Chisago County Environmental Services/Zoning), Gary Schumacher (Chisago Lindstrom Lakes Association), Joe Triplett (Chisago County Highway Department), and Al Wahlgren (Chisago Lakes Lake Improvement District).

Advisors to the Task Force present: Jeff Fertig (Chisago County Wetlands), Kristine Fuge (Chisago County Attorney's Office), and Casey Thiel (Chisago Soil and Water Conservation District). Facilitators present: Greg Graske (Emmons & Olivier Resources), Monica Kinny (Chisago Lakes Lake Improvement District), Jay Michels (Emmons & Olivier Resources), and Jerry Spetzman (Chisago County Water Resources). Denise Martin from the Chisago County Press was also in attendance.

When asked for changes or additions to the May 7<sup>th</sup> Task Force meeting notes, Al Wahlgren made a request to keep Concept Design 2 as a viable option for now.

The North Center North Lindstrom Channel Restoration Survey in draft form was presented to the group; pros and cons were discussed, and corrections made. Kurt Schneider inquired about question #9. The consensus is that this question should have more direct wording. The group decided to remove "Expanded" from question #9, and to take out "Local" due to the fact that tax dollars utilized may not be entirely from local sources. The cost depends heavily on which bridge design is chosen. The group agreed it would be beneficial to narrow it down to 2 options with probable costs and present them to the public as a next step.

The distribution of the survey was discussed. Once the recommended changes are incorporated, the survey will be distributed to each task force member for distribution to their contacts. The Chisago County Press will publish the survey information to encourage public participation. The Code Red system will be used to notify residents in the Chisago Lakes area of the opportunity to participate in the survey. The survey has a mechanism in place to enable only one survey completion per computer IP address to prevent multiple entries from a single site. Schneider noted that the survey may have limited validity depending on number of surveys taken versus the size of the population in the Chisago Lakes area.

Jerry Spetzman noted that the draft survey was handed out initially at the LID and City of Lindstrom booths during Karl Oskar Days. Results were compiled and presented from the 29 respondents

who took the survey. Task Force facilitators are hoping to get several hundred total responses by way of a booth at Ki Chi Saga Days in August, the email from Task Force members, the Press publication, Code Red, and a public meeting to be scheduled in the near future.

Jerry Spetzman presented a memo written by Chisago County Assessor John Keefe on July 17, 2013, stating his personal opinion regarding potential impact to real estate values should the North Center Lake to North Lindstrom Lake channel restoration take place. In his memo, Keefe states, "It's not difficult to deduce that if the channel restoration becomes a reality and that it provides for reliable access to water throughout the Chisago/Lindstrom/Center lakes, the property values throughout the chain should be enhanced."

Gary Schumacher requested clarification on the Minnesota statute regarding riparian landowner rights. It was identified that the statute that discusses the *change of level of public waters* issue is *Minnesota Statute 103G.245 subdivision 10. A Revisor of Statutes, 6115.0221 Specific Standards; Water Level Controls*, discusses the requirements of water level control structures that would need to be met if the weir option was chosen.

Jerry Spetzman introduced the website that has been dedicated for the project: [www.lindstromchannel.com](http://www.lindstromchannel.com). All channel-related materials are available on this website for public viewing. Task force members suggested making the survey link easier to see on the website and including a link to current lake level readings. If possible, it would be beneficial to clearly identify the concept designs that have already been eliminated.

Joe Triplett discussed the County Highway 20 Bridge replacement timeline: Bridge design will begin in 2014, with a contractor in place ideally by February of 2014. Construction is scheduled for 2015. The task force requested determination of costs associated with the projects, particularly with the 10-foot and 20-foot wide weir options. Bridge design costs would not fluctuate much, but bridge construction costs vary widely.

EOR staff was asked about the cost of weir design options. EOR responded that completion of the Feasibility Study for the selected options (including preliminary designs, plans and costs) is needed to determine costs for building a weir. The engineers can obtain a solid number by completing the Feasibility Study, which will include a soil composition survey. They need at least 2-3 months of lead time to complete the process. Following the next meeting, the Task Force indicated that they may ask the LID Board to grant approval for EOR engineers to complete the Feasibility Study. If the LID Board approves, the next step would be to get County Board approval to proceed.

**Next Steps:**

Task Force Meeting, Thursday, August 22, 1:30 – 3:30 p.m.

Task Force Send Out Survey This Week

Survey Results

Discussion on Funding Sources for Bridge and Channel

Task Force recommendation on Feasibility Study

Decide on Next Steps

The Task Force Meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.