

7/21/2009

Bostic Zippel Public Input Meeting Comments Summary

The audience was asked: “By a show of hands, who agrees there is a sediment problem?”

Half of the people in the room raised their hands.

Then the audience was asked: “By a show of hands, who agrees that there is a not a sediment problem?”

No one raised their hands.

Questions and comments from the entire group:

- “Vegetation slows water down and increases the amount of sediment deposition. Not so much sedimentation at this point, the damage has been done. Shallowness and weeds are slowing water, and then the sediment drops out more.”
- “Can the channel clean itself out to level equilibrium to where it will get deeper again?”
- “Lake levels rise and there is slower movement.”
- “The county road 8 bridge is 1/3 the size of the previous bridge and it has cause problems with the channel and the bay. (see ACOE file numbers #77-487-02 and #77-487-25)”
- “Will some solutions like draining wetlands with draitile along unstable slopes be an option with other agencies like the ACOE and DNR?”
- “There will have to be cooperation from all parties involved to make this project a successful one. There is a need for good information in helping agencies make important decisions.” - NRCS Staff
- “Lake level rose over 90 years ago.”
- “The SCS Ditch Project of 1965 changed the bays to what it is today.”
- “Bostic Ditch Project is more recent in the last 5 to 10 years.”
- “Are you going to look at the past or just current changes in sedimentation?”
- “This assessment of these watersheds will look at the whole picture.” - NRCS Staff
- “Put presentations and meeting report on website.”

Zippel Workgroup Session

The following question was asked of the audience:

What Percentage of the Erosion and Sedimentation comes from: ditches, cropland, and other?

Responses were as follows:

	Ditches %	Cropland %	Other %
	40	55	5
	70	25	5
	60	30	10
	50	50	0
	50	25	25
	60	25	10
	60	30	10
	50	40	25 (rains)
	50	25	20 (wind)
	50	30	30
	30	40	25
	40	40	20
	50	30	20
	50	30	20
Range	30-70%	25-55%	5-30%
Average	50%	35%	15%

Group discussion followed addressing:

- **Other Sediment Sources**
- **Costs Associated with Erosion and Sedimentation**
- **Other Natural Resource Concerns Besides Sediment**
- **Potential Solutions**
- **Other Comments and Questions**

Other Sediment Sources

- WMA peat lands
- Wetlands behind ditch spoil banks -(original ditch design released waters from behind the spoil with culverts. Some of the new designs use drain tile to decrease bank failures)

- New tiling projects: make constant water run through ditches and creeks that would go dry in the summer. Now stays full of water. Tiling maybe a good thing for the watershed or maybe it is detrimental. Don't know.
- Bridge and culvert size and placement.

Costs Associated with Erosion and Sedimentation

- Ditch clean outs
- Ditch maintenance
- Dredging
- Reduced land value
- Reduced recreational days
- Loss of northern pike, walleye, perch and other fish spawning habitat
- Vegetation removal

Other Natural Resource Concerns Besides Sediment

- Too much aquatic vegetation (substantial increase)
- Fish spawning grounds
- Change from fish spawning habitat to duck and geese habitat
- Increase in nutrients in surface water from nitrogen flushing off agriculture fields from rain events.

Potential Solutions

- Settling Ponds
- Change in farming practices from row crops to grass seed and no-till and less erosive crop rotations
- Ditch bank stabilization and grades
- Vegetative control – use of weed harvesters. Damage is done with sediment in the bay.
- Lake Level Adjustments
- Tiling along ditches to control peat source material from entering the ditches
- Vegetate areas up stream of bays to filter out sediment
- Significant dredging to restore the bays back to its previous depths
- The county implement a cost share program similar to the one they have for ditch maintenance

Other Comments and Questions

- Zippel Bay Resort Owner said, “There is a good percentage of peat in my dredged material. The geologist could get a sample from my last March dredge pile.”
- “Check to see if there is a Federal classification of a navigable channel and what that means – also review the ACOE/Warroad Dredging Project and how that project got completed.”
- “Why does the county have ditch maintenance funds but not funds to dredge the bays?”

Bostic Workgroup Session

The following question was asked of the audience:

What Percentage of the Erosion and Sedimentation comes from: ditches, cropland, and other?

Responses were as follows:

	Ditches %	Cropland %	Other %
	75	15	10
	80	5	5
	50	30	20
	49	2	49 (stream bank)
Range	49-75%	2-30%	5-49%
Average	64%	13%	21%

Group discussion followed addressing:

- **Other Sediment Sources**
- **Costs Associated with Erosion and Sedimentation**
- **Other Natural Resource Concerns Besides Sediment**
- **Potential Solutions**
- **Other Comments and Questions**

Other Sediment Sources

- Rain fall differs dramatically if you are north of highway 11 verses south of highway 11.
- In the 1970's, two bridges were eliminated on county road 4.
- What are the impacts of tiling of agricultural field having on the watershed? Is there going to be extra water added to the system?
- Decaying Vegetation: how much sediment does that cause?
- The county road 8 bridge narrowed the channel and changed channel and sedimentation patterns of the bay.

Costs Associated with Erosion and Sedimentation

- Dredging for resorts.
- Hauling the dredged spoil to a suitable site for disposal.
- Resort Business suffers from customers going to stay somewhere else, because channel is not deep enough for boats.
- Loss of pasture and crop land from flooding on actual Bostic Creek.
- Flooding for landowner (especially in 2002).
- Resorts have had to keep their boats at the river.

- Vegetation removal.
- Loss of recreation. Use to have water skiing, wet bikes, and swimming right off docks, 10 – 15 years ago.
- Loss of property values.

Other Natural Resource Concerns Besides Sediment

- Phosphorus levels in the water. What are the sources? Agricultural sources and ortho-phosphorous in the sediments.
- Loss of spawning habitat for northerns, walleyes, crappies, perch, and bullheads in Bostic Bay. Less than 20% of northerns in judicial ditch 28 as compared with the 1970's.
- Too much aquatic vegetation now present with the shallower depth in the bay (cattails have infiltrated much of the bay, and wild rice has been growing in parts of the bay for 2 years).

Potential Solutions

- Put in settling ponds along the County Road 4 ditch to trap the sediment.
- Dredge the Bay to previous depth.
- Changes in farming practices from row crops to grass seed production. Also no-till is improving soil losses.
- Create meandering ditches to slow water down and create stability.
- Utilize the bog as a filter by channeling water through bog to stage the release of water.
- Rock checks have been added to the county road 4 ditch.

Comments and Questions

- “Erosion occurs as water flows north in the county road 4 ditch. This same section of ditch was cleaned in 2003.”
- “Across from Tobin’s property (southwest of the county road 8 bridge) there were no cattails in 1997. Now it is solid cattails in 2009.”
- “By Ken Mar Kee Resort there was an island with water flowing on both sides, but now the south side of the island is filled in.”
- “Check the Federal Navigation Channel status on Bostic Bay.”
- “Ditch maintenance projects. There was a 2 mile stretch of ditch on Main St. S of Williams that was cleaned out last year. It flowed 1-2 feet deep through July 4th.”

Note Card and Telephone Call Comments

- “There should be a bay cost sharing fund like the ditch maintenance fund.”
- “Why is there a fund for ditch cleaning and maintenance, but not one for cleaning the sediment from the ditches in the bay?”
- “Early 1960’s: Dredging done on ditch (by S curve #8). The bay started to fill in after this.”
- “CORP of Engineers Dredging”
- “40 years ago: 80% ditch erosion”
- “We have too much water volume for the channel width and bank height.”
- “The Bostic Creek was never meant to have the type of flooding. It was only possible 5-6 mile watershed.”
- “County Highway Department has done soil sampling with drill veg. and analysis done by B.D. was done in about 2000 prior to large ditch repair resloping projects.”
- “How can we control vegetation in Zippel Bay without causing harm to water? On private Property?”
- “Combination of things.
 - Roads improved and fill ditches
 - Clean ditches-more sediment in bay”
- “20-35 Over more than 1 year.”
- “The problem with Bostic Bay is that there is not enough boat traffic. If a big wheel swung through the channel twice a day it would solve all the problems. Also, in 1996, the channel was dredged north of CSAH 8. Launches don’t follow the curves of the natural bay and that is why there are less meanders in the bay.”
- “Wild rice is a problem in the bays.”