

Meeting Summary

To: *All Meeting Participants*

From: *Ronald B. Bray, P.E.
Project Manager, WSB*

Date: *May 29, 2002*

Re: *Meeting Minutes
CSAH 50 Project Management Team Meeting
Cass County, Minnesota
Wednesday, May 1, 2002, 2:30 PM
WSB Project No. 1326-01*

An agenda package was passed around to all persons in attendance.

I. Introductions

The following project management team members were in attendance at the meeting:

David Enblom	Cass County Engineer
Jonathon Large	Cass County Assistant Engineer
James Tande	US Forest Service
Terry Curtis	Anderson Bros. Construction Company
Robert L. Crom	Ten Mile Lake Assoc. Delegate
John Alden	Ten Mile Lake Assoc., Water Resources
Kirk English	Mn/DNR Waters
Ed Mergens	Portage Lake Assoc.
Ron Bray	WSB & Assocs.
Becky Hauschild	WSB & Assocs.

The following public persons were in attendance:

Bob Nelson
Ellie Nelson
Jerry Mills
Gail Becher

The following project management team members were not in attendance:

Kelvin Howieson	Mn/DOT State Aid
Jim Dowson	Cass County Commissioner
John Sumption	Cass County Environmental Services
Dan Steward	Board of Water and Soil Resources
Harris Hostager	Portage Lake Assoc.
John Freetley	Chippewa Nat'l Forest
Steve Frick	Forest Service Cass Lake
Mitch Bouchonville	Forest Service Walker
Michele Hanson	United States Army Corps of Engineers
Rob Naplin	Mn/DNR Wildlife
Harlan Fierstine	Mn/DNR Fisheries
Vicki Converse	Resident
Tom Somrak	US Forest Service
Don Willis	Ten Mile Lake Association President

II. Public Comments

A. General

- David Enblom received a letter from Loydee Stonebrink. She would like to see the construction of a bridge pursued with Alternative 3.
 - Ron Bray explained that he did not know of any outside funding sources to construct a bridge on the alignment of Alternative 3;
 - David Enblom noted that there is not only the initial cost of construction, but maintenance; and although major maintenance is not usually required until a 50-year time period, it is usually expensive maintenance;
 - Kirk English noted that it would be virtually impossible to construct a roadway on the alignment of Alternative 3, unless it was a bridge;
 - The PMT discussed the possibility of a bridge and agrees that the bridge is not a feasible option, due to lack of funding sources.
 - Alternative 3 will be carried through the environmental documents to document its impacts.
- It was noted that Mr. George Young had heard a rumor that there was a new alignment alternative cutting through the gravel pit area.
 - This has not been discussed by County or WSB staff.

III. Alternative Alignments

A. Developed Area

- Ron Bray summarized the proposed alternatives:
 - Alternative 1: Maintain the existing alignment
 - Preferred by the Mn/DNR;
 - Opposed by the residents.
 - Alternative 2: New alignment between power pole line and garages
 - Compromise between Alternatives 1 and 2.
 - Alternative 3:
 - Preferred by the residents;
 - Opposed by the Mn/DNR.

1. Matrix (Social & Environmental Concerns): Alternative 2

- Social Concerns: Existing Roadway Status
 - Ed Mergens noted that three property owners had contacted him and told him that if the existing road is left in place, then the project should be forgotten.
 - WSB will refine the alignment of Alternative 2 based on the mapping received. Three access scenarios will be illustrated:
 1. Access to each parcel with the existing road left in place;
 2. Access to each parcel without the existing road;
 3. Access to each parcel with pieces of the existing road left in place;
- Jerry Mills questioned how the determination would be made whether the existing road remains or is removed?
 - David Enblom explained that access is the county's number one priority.
 - Once the access alternatives are drawn, a neighborhood meeting will be scheduled.
 - If a consensus cannot be reached by the property owners, the Cass County Board has the ultimate approval, based on recommendation of the county engineer.
- Environmental Concerns: Fill in DNR Protected Water

2. Bridge Design/Cost at Wetland

- A revised construction estimate was prepared by WSB and was included as part of the agenda package;
- The estimate includes:
 - Alternative 3 as a bridge with piers in the wetland at an estimated cost of \$5.5 million;
 - Alternative 3 as a bridge without piers in the wetland at an estimated cost of \$21.3 million; and
 - Alternative 2 as a bridge with piers in the wetland at an estimated cost of \$3.6 million.

- It was discussed as a group that the bridge does not appear to be a feasible alternative, based on benefit versus cost and lack of funding sources.
- The alternative will be carried through the environmental process to document its impacts.

3. Soil-Wetland Soundings

- Soils data will be collected to refine roadway cost estimates.

4. Mn/DNR Review Status

- Kirk English noted that he had reviewed the proposed Alternative 2 alignment within the DNR office and they had concluded that it would be a feasible alternative
 - Kirk did note that the request would still need to go through the permitting process. WSB will provide a layout to the Soil and Water Conservation District and Rob Naplin, Mn/DNR Wildlife.
 - Kirk also noted that the impacts would need to be mitigated, including the pockets that would be left separated by the road.
 - The Mn/DNR prefers on-site mitigation. Kirk will check to see if their office has any projects currently underway or proposed in the area.

B. CSAH 50 at TH 371

- The Forest Service is still working through their environmental process for the realignment of Woodtick Trail at TH 371;
- Cass County is not proposing to submit a separate Environmental Assessment for the realignment of CSAH 50 at TH 371, the realignment has been modified to illustrate a Potential Future Alignment.

C. CSAH 50 at CSAH 71

- This will be discussed at the next meeting.

IV. Environmental Issues

A. Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EAW)

B. Cultural Resources Investigation

- The Leech Lake Heritage Society has completed a Phase I study. These findings were submitted to the State Historic Preservation Office for their review and conclusion. One option: –No Finding, study ends; second option – Phase II study recommended to determine eligibility for listing on the National Register.
- Archaeological Survey:
 - Three potential prehistoric sites have been identified:
 - CSAH 50 near CSAH 71;
 - CSAH 50 near TH 371; and
 - The third site, east of the gravel pit, was deemed not eligible for listing on the National Register.
- Architectural Survey:
 - A potential historic district was located on the north side of Ten Mile Lake, along the existing CSAH 50 corridor.
 - Twenty properties have been inventoried and a Phase II evaluation has been recommended.
 - It was explained that the owners of the cabins can still do whatever they wish with their cabins as far as construction, etc.; however, a public agency cannot - Unless the city or other governing agency enacts a protection act, usually accompanied by a lump sum payment, then you have to maintain the structure and its historically significant features.

V. Public Involvement

A. Neighborhood Update

- A neighborhood meeting will be held with those property owners in the proposed new alignment area this summer.
- An additional meeting will be scheduled to meet with those property owners westerly of the proposed new alignment. It has not yet been determined if this will be a separate meeting or if the public meeting will suffice.

B. Public Meeting

- It is anticipated that a public meeting will be held this summer.

VI. Hydraulic Design Committee

- The Ten Mile Lake Association received a grant check today. John Alden will keep WSB apprised of the work and any findings.

VII. Other

VIII. Next Meeting

The next meeting for **CSAH 50** was SCHEDULED for *Wednesday, June 19, 2002, at 2:30 P.M.*

NOTE: The above constitutes WSB's understanding of the items discussed at this meeting. If there are any questions, comments or changes, please notify me immediately at (763) 541-4800 or (888)-541-4800.

c: Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe
Morgan Dawley, WSB & Associates, Inc.
Jeff Stewart, WSB & Associates, Inc.