

**Citizens Advisory Board (CAB) Meeting Minutes
November 5, 2003
Energy & Environmental Research Center (EERC)**

CAB Members Present:

Leon Dubourt
Lonnie Leake
Willard Loing
Gerry Porath
Dale Stenerson
Don Vellenga
Jack Waters

EERC Participants/Attendees:

Beth Bolles
Barry Botnen
Lynette de Silva
Kim Dickman
Sheila Hanson
Jim Johnson
Mark Kurz
Wes Peck
Xixi Wang

Beth Bolles called the meeting to order and gave an overall update.

Thoughts on the perception/understanding of the waffle concept:

Someone asked how much water would have to be stored to make a difference.

Beth replied that we don't know.

Wes asked about Xixi's previous work on storage requirements.

The CAB members commented on the statement regarding the storage of 1"-2" of water across the watershed.

Gerry Porath commented that people are scared of the numbers. Perception might be 6 to 8:, 1" wouldn't be as scary. Like a cranberry bog; up to 2" to 3" that is moved around.

Dale Stenerson commented on dividing issues between spring and summer floods and land rental/productivity costs. Urban-vs.-rural benefit/cost view points.

George Sinner commented (prior to this meeting) that there should be emphasis on localized

benefits.

The group offered comments on the utilization of large CRP tracks.

- Gerry Porath asked if there are any charts with large CRP?
- Wes commented that they haven't been tracked down just CRP.

Other questions/comments on raised during the meeting are as follows:

- What about large CRP layers? (We will look into this)
- Who's going to carry the stick when we're done? List the actual funding source.
- What about being grandfathered in?
- What is each stage costing?
- Who's going to get the dollars? Owner; maybe not living there. Operator?

Someone commented that there should be something on the website to explain why there are large floods in the area.

Gerry Porath commented that most people don't understand that the river flows north and it's still frozen here. There are not many rivers that flow north.

There is still a major misconception regarding where the Waffle \$\$ came/comes from.

Gerry Porath commented to do a slide show to show where the funding is

Don Vellenga asked about any contact with local/state government.

Beth replied that there was none, but that it was a good idea.

Dale Stenerson commented that the project needs a champion at the state level to promote the project.

Sheila presented the outreach section.

The discussion focused on outreach and marketing ideas. CAB members offered many ideas and thoughts to consider on outreach. Brainstorming by the group generated several possibilities as follows:

Keys are to reach:

- State people
- Youth
- Elevators
- Service organizations (Lions, Kiwanis)

Someone asked what percentage of absentee landlords there is?

Gerry Porath suggested that we should target FFA and other youth groups.

Dale Stenerson agreed with Porath's suggestion. We need to get the new generation involved.

Leon Dubourt suggested looking into teachers groups in various counties. Develop something that the teachers could use.

Willard Loing suggested FFA and 4H groups. He's going to get contact names and numbers.

A suggestion was also made to get George Sinner or Bob Bergland to write an article for the "green section" of the Fargo Forum, also in the GF Herald on support of the Waffle.

Lonnie Leake suggests the Ag Week; the first page is opinions.

Leon Dubourt asked if the state water commission was taking any stand.

Gerry Porath commented that Simplot Soil Builders might have information that would be useful to us.

Mark presented a field trial update.

Dale Stenerson asked about soil conductivity

Lonnie Leake asked what types of soils are relevant.

Don Vellenga asked if Marc has shown his presentation to the watershed boards and environmental groups.

Someone asked if a field trial was going to be done in North Dakota.

Discussions continued on groups for outreach:

- County commissioners
- Quasi-governmental agencies
- Representatives at a state level

Private organizations:

- American Crystal Sugar
- Bean growers get together every winter (North Harvest Bean has an annual meeting in Fargo)
- ND Soybean Growers meet in Fargo
- Potato growers
- ND Grain Dealers (Beth mentioned we have a booth planned at the conference in Fargo)
- Contacting Ag Growers
- Government organizations elect through the counties.
- Wheat and barley growers are more disperse
- Don't forget poultry and livestock

Other suggestions for outreach are as follows:

- Grower presentations should focus on what's in it for them. For example: protein levels might be an area of interest to growers groups.
- Get a liaison with the board before meeting with them. Gain an idea of what their concerns might be ahead of item and address those concerns during the presentation.
- Involve graduate students in presentations.
- Go on talk radio
- What questions do people have about the Waffle? Address the right way and diffuse any hostility.

Don Vellenga commented the change takes time. New concepts take time.

CAB members raised these types of questions that they feel landowners may have:

- How much land would it take in the Basin to handle a '97 type flood?
- What about soil moistures stress on soil?
- What about basin-to-basin or sub-basin-to=sub-basin compensation? (play offensively on this one)
- It's almost like FEMA has to go rural. They should pay for "flood-proofing" instead of flood drainage.
- Missile fields?
- Highway 2 – sampling activity?