

June 14, 2016

ND Legislative Management –Water Topics Overview Committee

Mr. Chairman and Members;

Thank you for the opportunity to speak today.

Imagine if everything your family had worked for over the last 134 years was flooded for the last 7 years. No access or income, destruction in every direction and no one seems to care or even remember that it is still going on. You cannot begin to imagine the heartbreak and how our lives have changed because of it.

2015 was the first year since 2010 that my husband was able to plant a crop on some of the land we operate. But first, the cat tails had to be mowed and burned, the debris and dead trees picked up and the cattail roots worked up. This is time consuming and expensive, but must be done in order to have a chance at a crop. Don't forget, we missed out on the best crop quality, yield and price over the last few years, so that lost opportunity, of probably our lifetime, adds insult to injury, not to mention the lost tax revenue to the State. As daunting and overwhelming as the clean-up is, it will be done acre by acre because we know what this land can produce as the soils are some of the best in the state.

I oppose the purchase of the land with federal or state funds and believe the state should also be opposed. The 100,000 acres that are flooded are a resource in the heart of North Dakota that helped build this state and its economy and the land can be productive and contributing again. The tangle of federal regulations has been one of the main reasons more isn't done to provide relief to those of us actually harmed by this flood. So rather than allow more federal regulation and control, the state should instead defend the private property rights of its citizens and do everything possible to support our efforts to bring this land back into full production.

The following are two ways the State can help:

As we are able to reclaim more land, roads will need to be repaired to get machinery in and out and the crops to market in order for commerce to resume and taxes begin flowing back to the various levels of government. Again, I do not want federal funding and interference and request the state provide funding to the flooded townships so they can determine the best way to repair their roads.

It is so frustrating with our short pumping season to have the pumps broke down and shut down when they should be running. Maybe the pumps in the West End Outlet need to be replaced.

Attached are photos of cleanup and the Chain Lake Cemetery before the flood and in 2015. The first photo is not dirty windows, but is a cat tail fuzz blizzard. Luckily, the fuzz did not catch on fire and burn up the tractor, but it was a constant concern.

Thank you for your time today..

Karen Hausmann

6008 Hwy 281

Churchs Ferry ND 58325

701-466-2015

Cat tail Fuzz Blizzard Fall 2015



Dead Tree Clean Up Fall 2015



