

SOUTH CREEK VILLAGE DRAINAGE UPDATE

On April 17, 2008 a meeting was held at the South Creek Village Apartment Complex to review investigative and remedial work options for drainage improvements in consideration with wetland and regulatory concerns. Present were Jeff Breckenridge and Matt Mikulecky - US Army Corps of Engineers South Dakota Regulatory Office; Bill Barber - GBA (representing the apartment complex owner/developer); David Johnson - City of Rapid City Public Works Dept./Engineering Services; and Mary Bosworth and Karley Halsted, City of Rapid City Growth Management Dept./Development Services.

The need for the remedial work was reviewed with Mr. Breckenridge; construction of the apartment complex including its access road resulted in the installation of a culvert with an elevation above that of the detention pond outlet. The detention pond outlet was not exposed or accounted for prior to the construction and is thought to be plugged with sediment. Water is ponding in the detention pond to an undetermined depth, thought to be on the order of about 5 feet. Reconstruction of the road and culvert is not feasible as it is an element of the Corps approved wetland mitigation completed to allow the development, removal would involve major reconstruction or regrading throughout the apartment development area.

It is desired to expose the end of the detention pond outlet pipe and to then clean it (with sewer jet equipment) to allow a full evaluation of the actual "as-constructed" elevations of the road culvert, inlet and outlet of the detention pond outlet structure, and the detention pond bottom. This work would be entirely on city owned land; there is a restrictive wetland easement on the drainage/wetland portions of the adjacent apartment complex.

After some discussion, the overall scope of how to proceed with the current investigation/analysis was to use hand tools to excavate to expose the detention pond outlet pipe while simultaneously dewatering the wet area below the detention (where the outlet is located) using a trash pump. (The hand tools would be used to minimize the area of disturbance as well as sediment load in the water to be discharged.) Once the downstream area is sufficiently dewatered and the pipe exposed, the city would jet the exposed outlet pipe to remove debris accumulated therein and allow the pond to drain to the extent possible. In conjunction with this, further pumping of water from the wetland area below the outlet may need to continue to lift the water up to the elevation of the culvert under the access road.

Mr. Breckenridge felt that this work, as described would be a minimal impact on the wetlands and would not require any specific permits or approvals from his office. All work needs to be completed to minimize impact on the wetlands or discharge of sediments. Excavated materials should be placed in upland areas or otherwise contained. He cautioned that permits or approvals may be required from the SD-DENR for the water discharge however. We subsequently contacted John Miller, SD-DENR who informed us that no environmental review would be needed, but recommended we contact Al Spangler of DENR's Office of Water Quality. Mr. Spangler said that the work would require coverage under the state's General Permit for Temporary Discharges, which covers this type of construction dewatering activity.

At this time we are working with Mr. Barber (GBA) to coordinate schedules for proceeding with the work, including finalizing the permit to allow the dewatering discharge, and availability of city equipment/personnel.