



SAND HILL RIVER
WATERSHED DISTRICT

Landowner Meeting
March 25, 2024

Sand Hill River Watershed District

Project 17

Public Input Meeting on Maintenance



Welcome & Introductions

2



Project 17 History

- MN 103E Public Drainage System
- Improvements to portions Polk County Ditches 6, 119, and 9
- Establishment of a new ditch west of MN Highway 9 from Polk County Ditch 46 to Polk County Ditch 119
- Sand Hill River Watershed District is the system's drainage authority
- Project was established by the SHRWD in 2005
- Construction was completed in 2006
- Construction bond was fully paid in 2016

Project 17 Location

Project 17 Location

Legend:

- Project 17 Alignment
- Polk County Ditches
- Other SHRD Ditches
- DNR Wildlife Management Areas
- FWS Waterfowl Production Areas

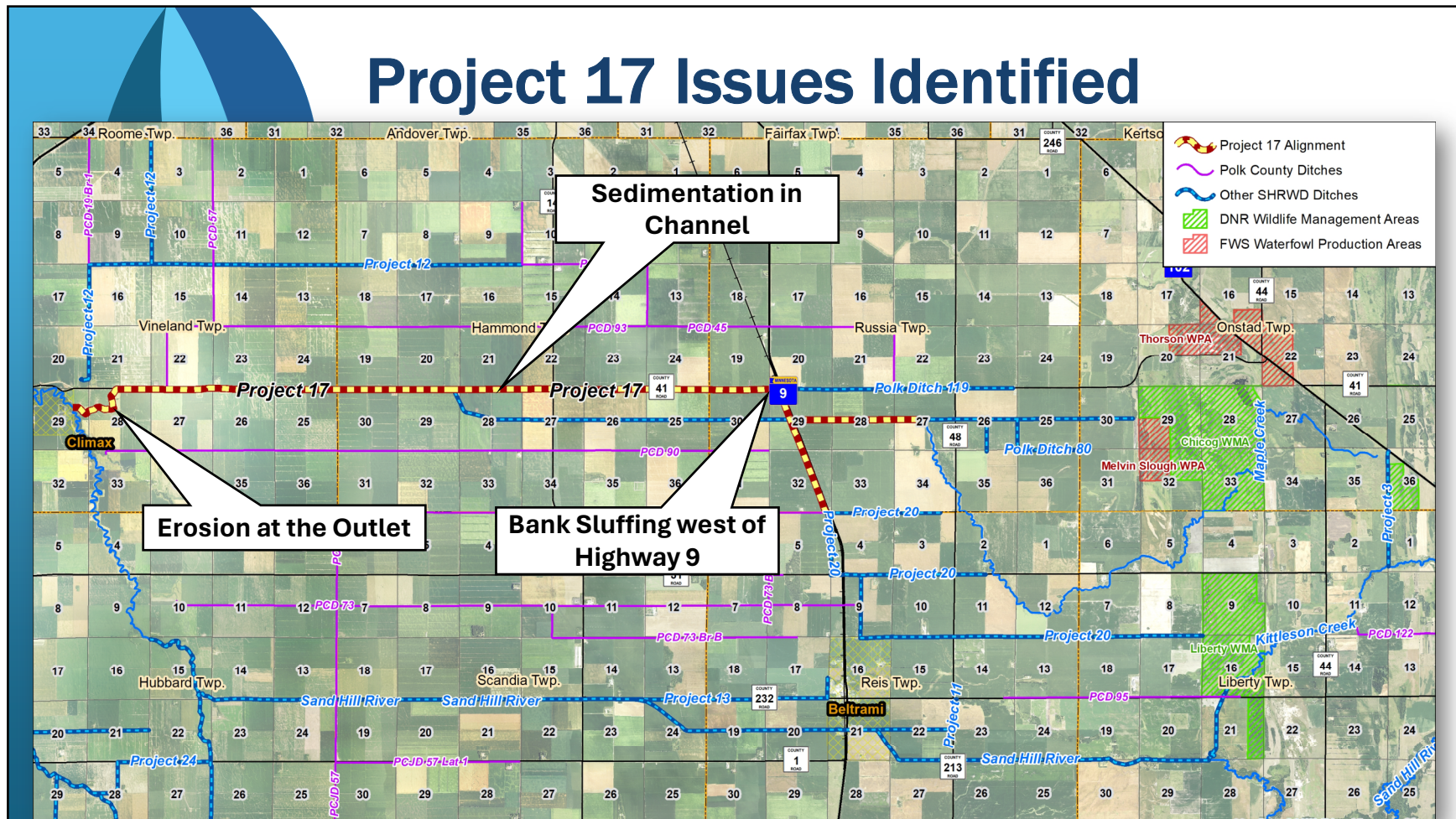
Landowner Input Meeting



Responsibility of the Drainage Authority for Maintenance

MN Statute 103E.701 Subd. 1 Inspection:

After the construction of a drainage system has been completed, the drainage authority shall maintain the drainage system that is located in its jurisdiction, including the permanent strips of perennial vegetation under section 103E.021, and provide the repairs necessary to make the drainage system efficient. The drainage authority shall have the drainage system inspected on a regular basis by an inspection committee of the drainage authority or a drainage inspector appointed by the drainage authority...



6



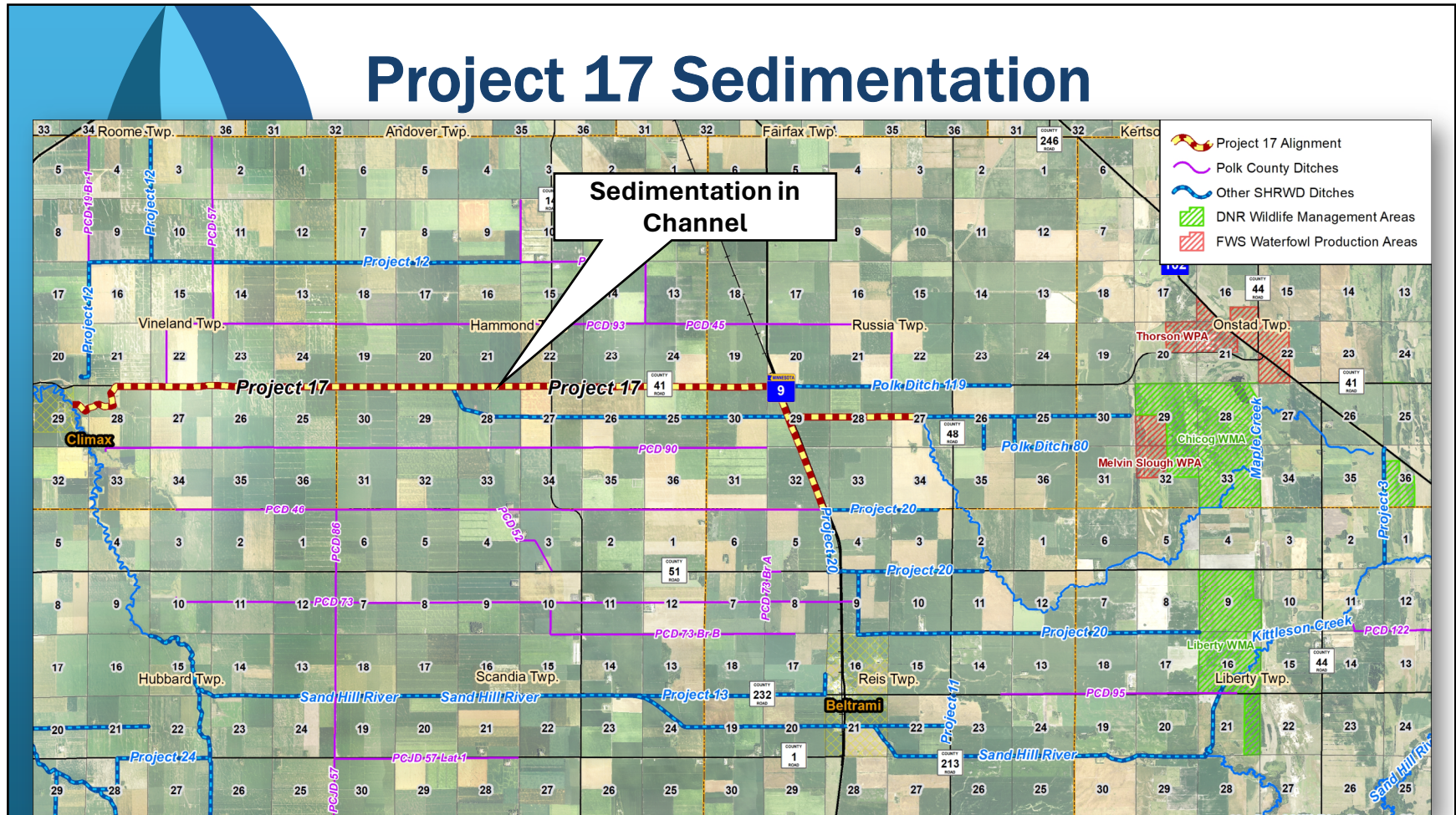
Project 17 Solutions Moving Forward

EROSION AT OUTLET

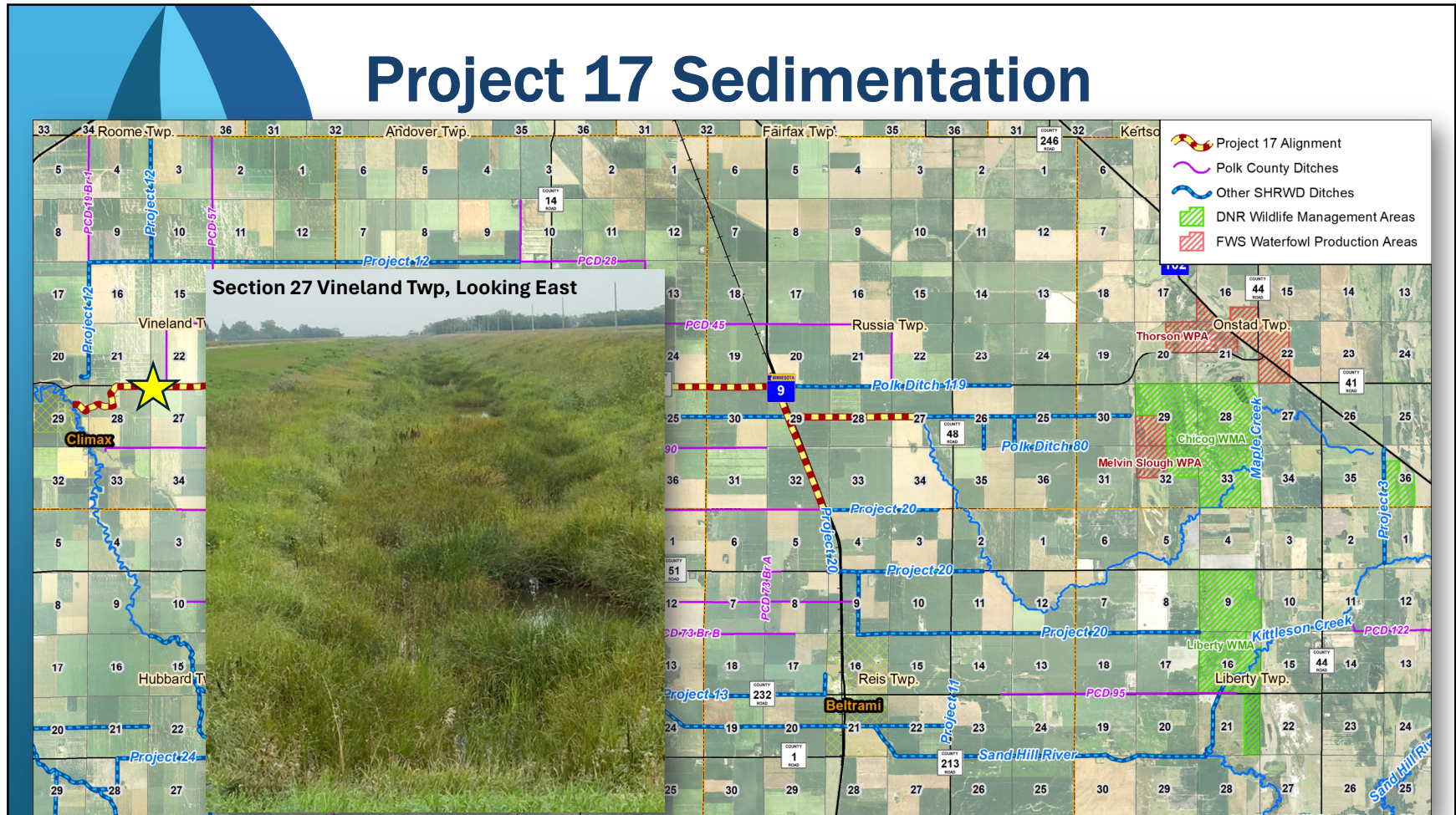
- SHRWD secured Board of Soil and Water Resources grant to install grade control structures (*approx. 80% of Project Costs*)
- Additional pending grant application to stabilize side slopes

BANK SLUFFING WEST OF HIGHWAY 9

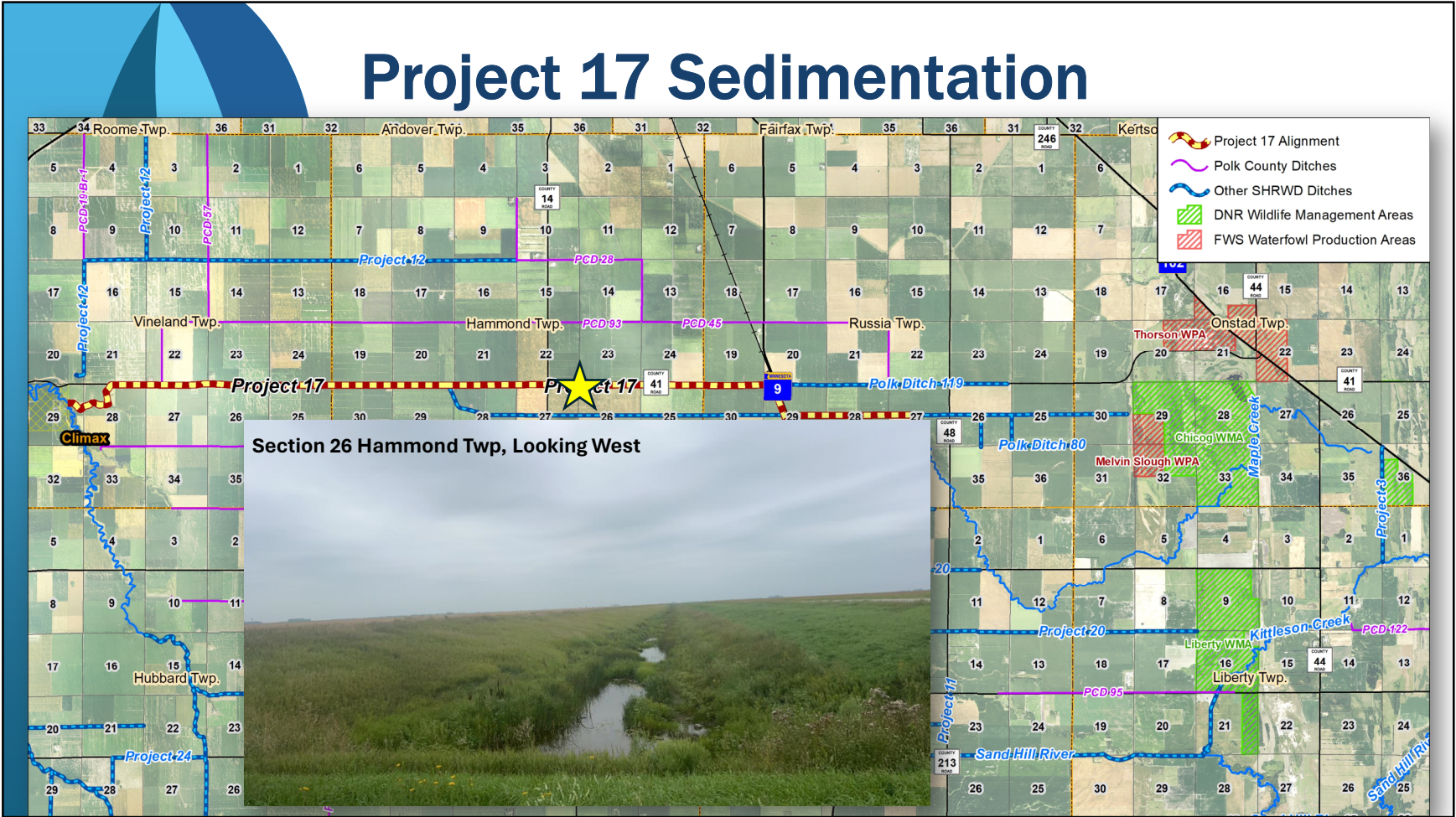
- Included in the SHRWD 1W1P as a priority area with intent of funding in the future with state provided funds.
- May create opportunity for outside funding.

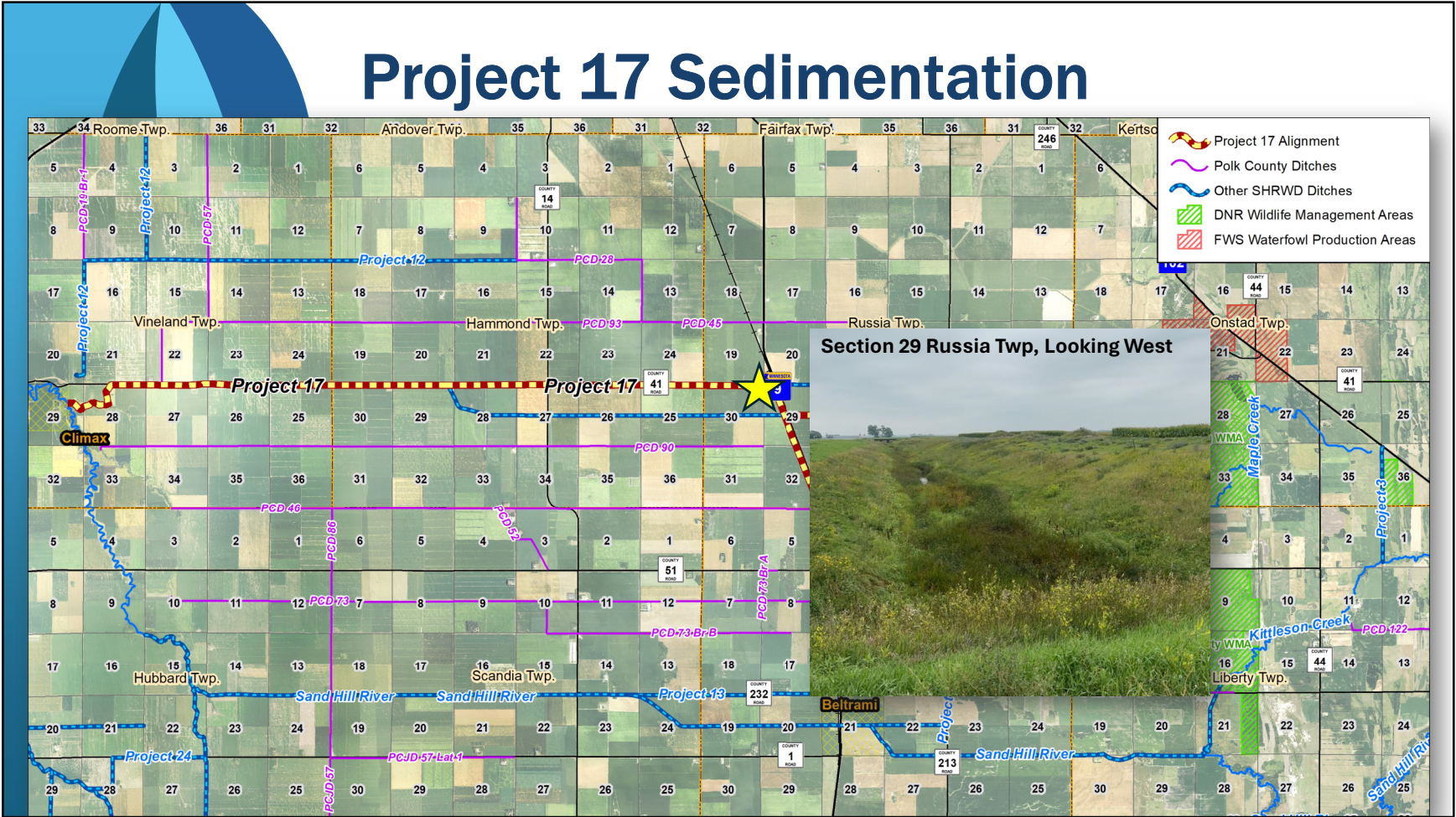


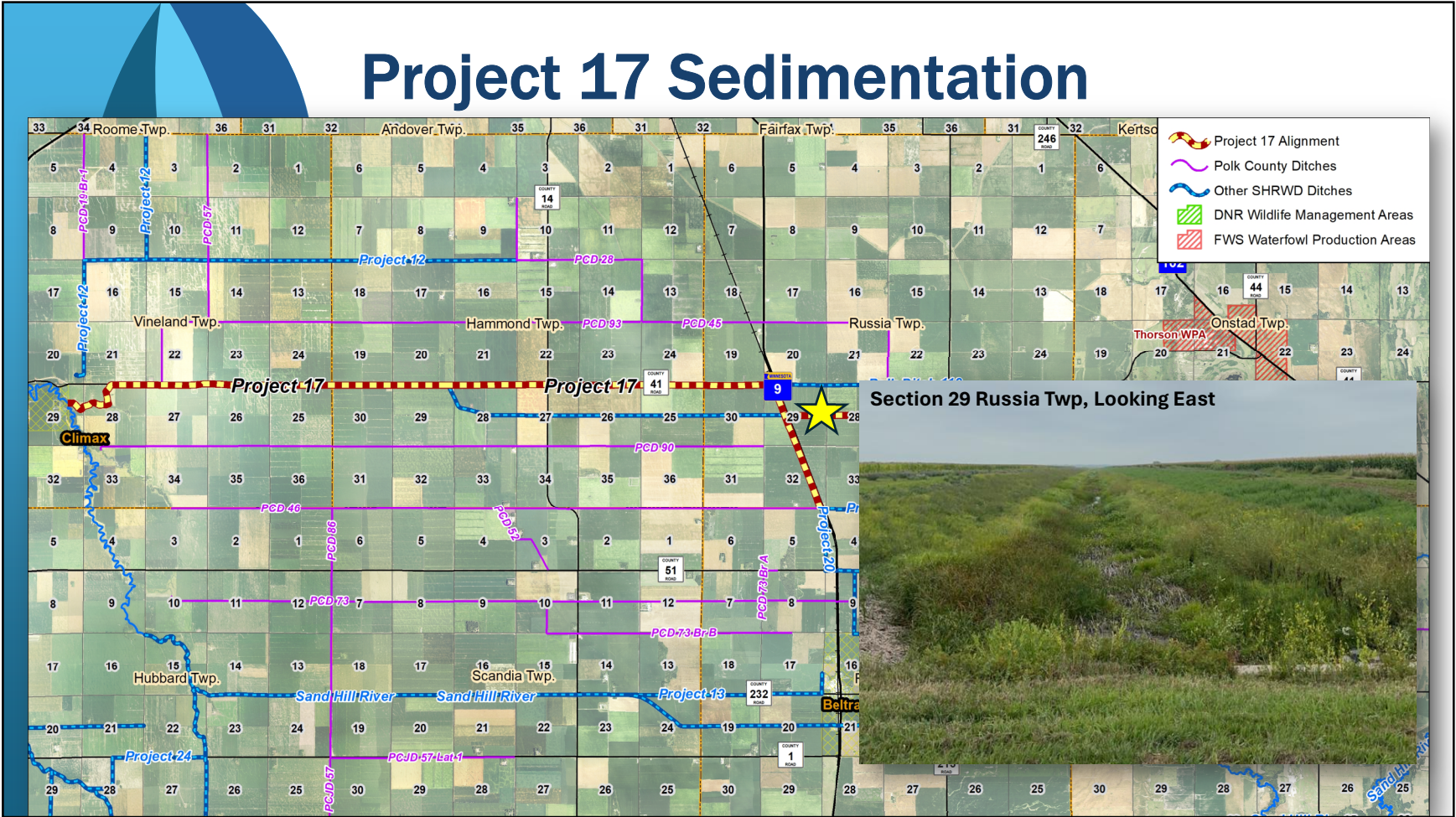
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9









Project 17 Clean-Out Options

- **Option 1: Continue to Monitor & Reevaluate at Future Date**
 - Has the current channel conditions worsened drainage since construction?
 - Work may still need to be completed at a future date.
- **Option 2: Phased Approach (Maximum annual levy)**
 - Complete cleanout work as funds allow annually.
 - Will take many years to complete.
 - Overall costs will likely be higher than Option 3 due to multiple construction contracts and annual inflation of construction costs.
- **Option 3: Large Repair (Estimated at \$400,000 - \$450,000)**
 - Do a large portion of the cleanout in one construction contact.
 - All disturbance would occur in one year (ideally).
 - Will be a large up-front cost that the system would borrow against other WD funds and pay off with future assessments.
 - Overall costs will likely be less than Option 2 due to one construction contract and annual inflation of construction costs.
- **Option 4: Someplace between Option 2 & 3**



Project 17 Finances

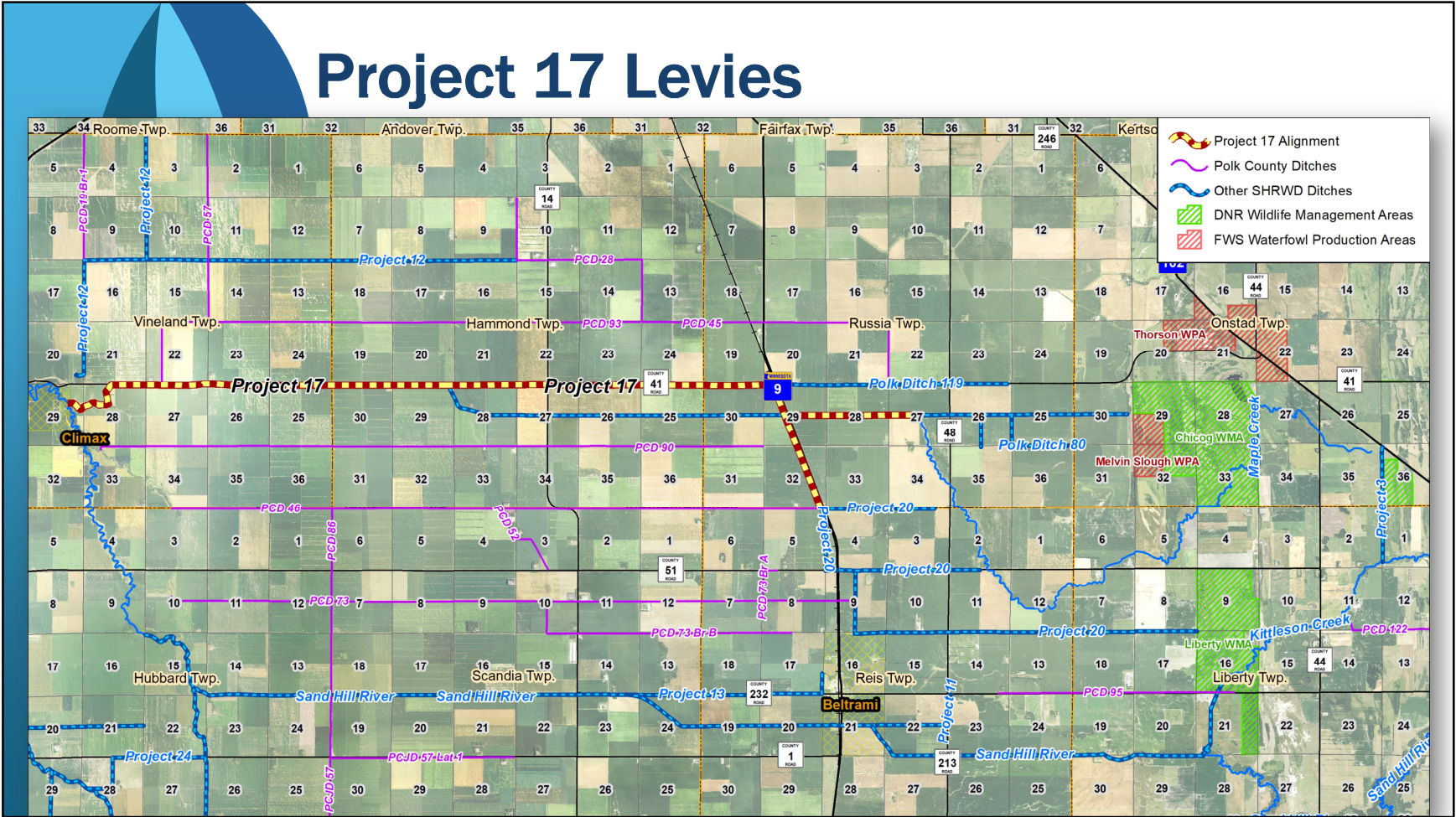
- **2024 Levied Amount: \$50,000**
 - *Increased due to system age and needed maintenance.*
- **Current Fund Balance: \$ 7,637.94**
- **Maintenance Activities Have Included:**
 - *Annual inspection costs.*
 - *Cattail spraying.*
 - *Spring flood repairs.*
 - *Ordinary maintenance (culverts, bank repairs, etc.).*
- **Detailed expense reports are available upon request from the SHRWD.**

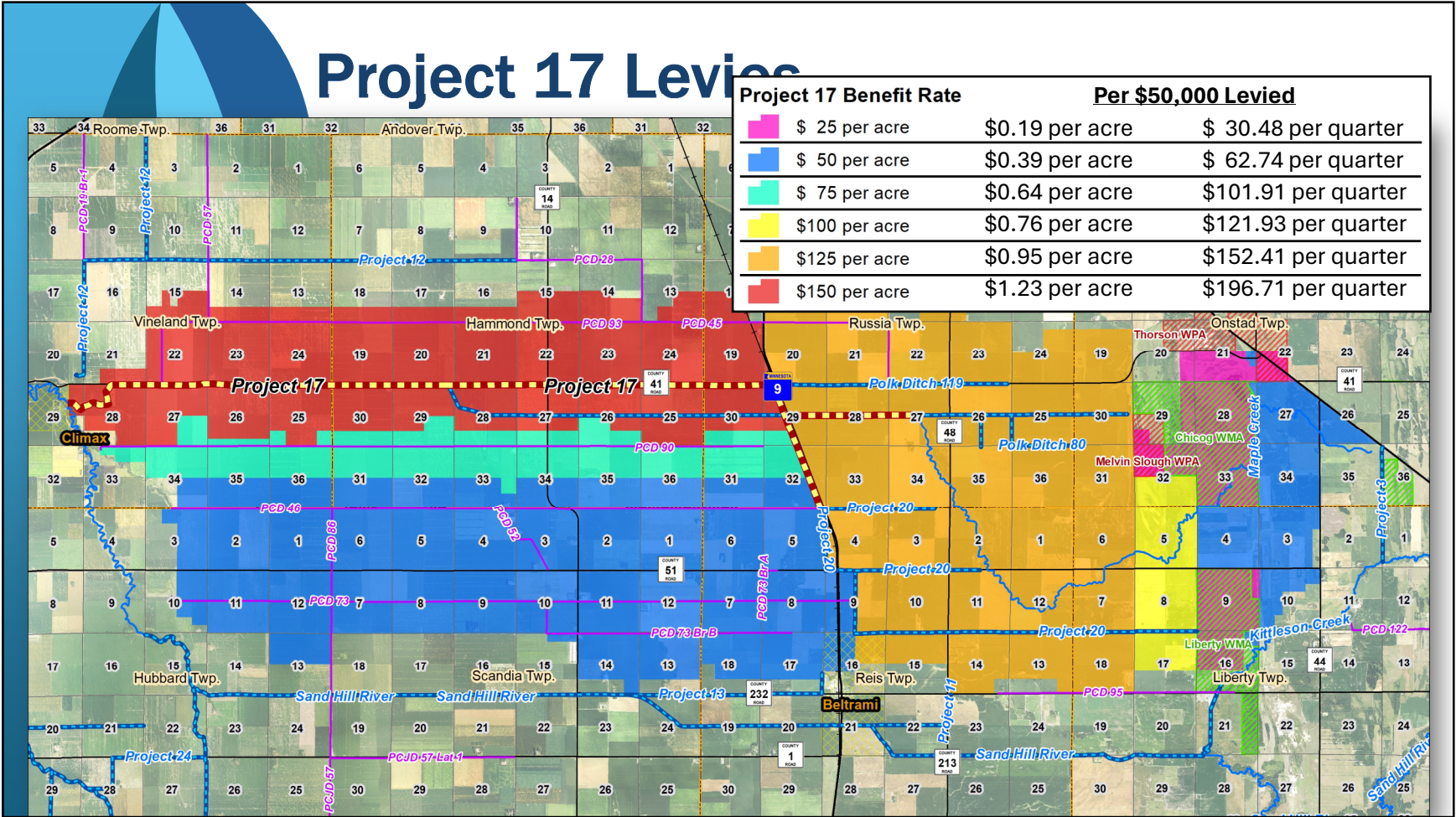


Project 17 Finances

How would a project be financed?

- Drainage authority can levy taxes for maintenance.
- Maintenance account cannot exceed 20% of benefits (\$1,312,210.75 maximum for Project 17)
- SHRWD generally attempts to keep annual assessments consistent. *(IE... avoid large “peaks” and “valleys”)*
- SHRWD is in a strong cash position which allows for funds to be borrowed from other accounts rather than borrowing from bonding or bank.
- Depending on Option selected, Project 17 maintenance may be borrowed to other accounts until costs are paid back with future assessments.






Comments

- Please include comments on the provided forms
- Submit comments to the SHRWD by April 12, 2024

**WATERSHED DISTRICT PROJECT # 17
DRAINAGE LANDOWNER MEETING (3/25/2024)
QUESTIONNAIRE**

 SAND HILL RIVER
WATERSHED DISTRICT

Contact Information (Optional)

Name: _____

Phone Number: _____ E-mail: _____

May we contact you for more information? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Project 17 Cleanout Options

Based on the information presented today, which option for cleaning Project 17 along Polk County Road 41 would you prefer? (Check one box)

☐ Option 1: Continue to Monitor & Reevaluate at Future Date

☐ Option 2: Phased Approach

☐ Option 3: Large Repair

☐ Option 4: Somewhere between Option 2 & 3


Please provide any additional comments you have: _____

Additional Comments

Completed forms may be mailed to or dropped off at the SHRWD office (219 N Mill St, PO Box 584, Fertile, MN 56540).

For more information, please visit our website at the QR code at the right, or <http://www.sandhillwatershed.org> (Projects → Ditches → Project 17). You can also contact our office at (218) 945-3204.

THANK YOU for your participation!





Thank you for attending!

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