ZERO NET VALUE IN THE REAL WORLD

Ag in the realm of wetland legislation

Water for the pioneers

Realities of Today's Farms

- Changing of the guard- older generation finally starting to retire.
- New generation taking on astronomical debt
- Higher operating costs change risk scenario's
- Risk levels are very high- specialized operations
- Need for consistent yearly returns
- Poorly managed operations likely to fail
- Financial stress can impact long term strategies

Ag has zero value

- Marginalize the ag sector by implying they put no value in environmental consideration.
- Wetland assessments put zero (value)consideration into ag impacts.
- Wetland policy does not take into consideration water management implications.
- Ag has created some of their on problems by not being vocal enough on water issues.
- Individual farm land owners have little input yet are likely the ones who are in the best position to assess environmental situations on their land.

ZERO ACCOUNTABILITY IN THE SYSTEM

- Complaint based systems place no accountability on those making the complaints.
- Administrators of the rules have little accountability or structure and often are in a position to promote their own biases at the expense of others.
- Regulatory environment that stretches resources so thin that they can’t administer in timely fashion.
- Assessment costs and other expense unfairly placed on certain segments of the population. Where is society sharing equally.

Problem not going away

2009 Google Photo

2014 Google Photo

Seriously stressing crop

Erosion becomes a real issue

Overflowing slough onto sandy ground 2011

Cutting through draw 2011

Regulation- one shoe doesn't fit all

- Does wetland policy look at:
- Shape and location of the wetland.
- Wetlands in different climatic locations
- Wetlands in relation to the water table.
- Impacts in relation to agriculture use
- Wetland value to economic cost

Wetland policy

- Decision based criteria. Number vs area.
- Ephemeral vs permanent
- Riparian areas around wetland. Cost to maintain
- Water management of excess flow of wetlands.
- Effectiveness under weather, climate extremes.

Reality vs theory

- Love affair with wetlands
- Urban population has little concept of net(environmental) costs of an excess moisture environment.
- Farming in general remains a high cost, low return environment. Net profit often is related to increased real estate values.
- Climatic variables are constantly changing. No one recipe works under all conditions.

Farming in today's world

- There is a need for a consistent return over time and climatic variation.
- Need to address the environment your production is happening in (soil, moisture environment)
- Need to consider risk management strategies to moderate extremes.
- Need to work with others to address environmental concerns without threatening economic viability of your farm.

All we are asking

- Better Partnerships with environment.
- Solutions that work for everyone.
- Recognition that society is regulating both private property and rights of an individual.
- Understand that majority of the rural ag population are understanding and caring people who live and work in a natural environment.