

## Flows

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more rigorous analyses with additional climactic factors and then consider whether or not it would be useful to look at the land use factors.”

Jay Gilbertson, manager of the EDWDD, was present at Thursday’s meeting and explained his organization’s interest in the research.

“We’re trying to figure out if the flows we are experiencing and other issues might

be the result of something more than just the fact it is raining a lot,” he said. “At this point, we’re learning in some cases yes and in some cases no. I suspect in the long run, we’ll want to continue to pursue this to see if we can draw better conclusions as to whether or not development around the city of Sioux Falls is what has generated more water at, say, the Akron gage (along the Big Sioux River), or is it some other factor north of Watertown and the Upper Big Sioux Basin?”

Gilbertson said he

doesn’t believe land use changes such as tiling alone could be causing increased flows at this time.

“But 20 years from now at the current rate, that could certainly be a different story,” he stated.

Dave Bartel, the JRWDD executive director, said he believes his organization will cooperate with EDWDD and the USGS on future research.

“A lot of the theory is, the James River is silting in so bad,” he said. “That gives the impression of increased flows, but actually the river is just belling out. There

may be some additional rain and flows, but I think a lot of the problem is siltation.”

In other business Thursday, the JRWDD:

- heard a report from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers about conditions at the Jamestown and Pipestem reservoirs in North Dakota. A landowner and some of the JRWDD board members inquired why the Corps can’t use more of its storage space in the reservoirs to hold water until the winter months. That way, there wouldn’t be as much flooding along the lower stretches

of the James River during the summer months.

“It just seems to me we should be able to hold more water up there until a later date and then release it,” Bartel said. “Irrigators, fishermen and farmers would like to see it.”

He plans to tour the reservoirs in the near future in order to better understand the storage system.

Corps officials said they have to take into account the authorized purposes of the system and that any desired changes would have to be worked into the agency’s manual;

- noted that the mill levy for the district in its proposed 2014 budget will remain at approximately \$958,000 — the same as the previous two years. The budget is expected to be finalized at the board’s September meeting; and

- approved several projects, including bank stabilization efforts and a wood pile clean up in Spink County.

*You can follow Nathan Johnson on Twitter at [twitter.com/AnInlandVoyage](https://twitter.com/AnInlandVoyage)*

## Farm

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the legislation would be dealt with separately at a later date, and Cantor said after the vote that Republicans would “act with dispatch” to get that legislation to the floor. That bill is expected to make cuts much deeper than the original bill, which trimmed around 3 percent, or about \$2 billion a year, from the \$80 billion-a-year feeding program.

Many Republicans had said the cut wasn’t enough since the program’s cost has doubled in the last five years. Democrats have opposed any cuts. The food stamp program doesn’t need legislation to continue, but Congress would have to pass a bill to enact changes.

Dropping the food stamps drops the cost of the farm bill from \$100 billion a year to about \$20 billion a year.

The measure passed Thursday would cut farm program spending by about \$1.3 billion a year and is almost identical to the larger bill defeated last month, except for the dropped food stamp language. It includes one new

provision that repeals laws from the 1930s and 1940s that kick in when current farm law expires. Farm-state lawmakers have kept those laws on the books so there would be incentive to pass new farm bills, but the threat of outdated policies kicking in has been a headache for farmers who worry they can’t depend on Congress to create new laws or extend more recent versions of the law.

Repealing those decades-old laws could mean that Congress would have little incentive to create new farm bills, however, and could make many of the new farm programs permanent.

The bill would also expand government subsidies for crop insurance, rice and peanuts and eliminate subsidies that are paid whether a recipient farms or not.

During debate Thursday, House Democrats called for a series of procedural votes to delay a vote. They painted the legislation as taking the food stamps away from the hungry.

Late Wednesday, President Barack Obama had threatened to veto the House bill if it reached his desk. In voting for the bill, conservative lawmakers made the unusual move of bucking the

conservative groups Club for Growth and Heritage Action, both of which said they would use a “yes” vote against Republicans in future campaigns. While those groups originally supported the idea of dropping the food stamps and taking that part of the bill up separately, they later said the GOP idea was a ruse to get the bill in conference with the Democratic-led Senate, where food stamps will be added back in with smaller cuts

The Senate overwhelmingly passed a farm bill last month with only a half-percent cut to food stamps and would be reluctant to go along with a split bill or further cuts to the programs. After House passage, Senate Agriculture Chairwoman Debbie Stabenow, D-Mich., called the bill “an insult to rural America.”

House and Senate negotiators will have to resolve differences between the two bills.

Just hours before Thursday’s expected floor vote, it was still unclear whether GOP leaders had the votes needed to pass the new farm-program-only measure. House Democrats reacted angrily to

the last-minute move by the GOP.

But GOP leaders moved quickly. The night-before release of the bill’s text underscored the lengths to which Boehner had to go as he tried to get legislation past his fractious Republican caucus.

Splitting the popular farm bill from the controversial food stamp cuts and releasing the bill’s text at 8 p.m. EDT on the eve of Thursday’s scheduled vote denied conservatives the time to rally opposition. But the bill’s prospects remained a tense question through the day.

Before the vote, Boehner acknowledged that the process was unusual but said, “My goal right now is to get a farm bill passed.”

But in a floor speech, House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., said, “You are taking food out of the mouths of your own poor constituents.”

The White House agreed that food stamps should not be left out of the bill. The Obama administration had also threatened to veto the original bill, saying it did not include enough reductions to farm subsidies and the food stamp cuts were too severe.

## Corn

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That would include Chris Edgington’s farm, which he operates with his son, his father and a brother in north central Iowa near St. Ansgar.

This is the first year in more than 60 that an entire crop couldn’t be planted on the family’s 2,000 acres, he said. Just a third of the normal corn crop was planted this year and they took crop insurance payments for the remaining two-thirds.

“Not only is it a financial decision you have to make but it’s an emotional one as well,” Edgington said. “We are definitely as a group geared to put something in the ground and harvest it. This is a challenge to a lot of farmers to not have a crop out there.”

Farther east, in states that were hit hard by last year’s drought, some cornfields looked great while others had fallen prey to numerous storm systems and heavy rain.

Darrel Good, agricultural economics professor at University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, said the state’s

corn was mostly shaping up well.

“In the northern two-thirds of the state, we have crops that in really very good shape,” he said. “Here in the east-central part of the state I would say it’s the best looking crops that I can recall.”

Producing an expected record crop in a year that started poorly for many is largely possible because of the number of acres planted in corn, Hart said.

Farmers planted 97.4 million acres in corn this year, the USDA said. Just four years ago it was about 87 million acres. That combined with corn plants that better withstand heat, drought and other stresses results in bigger harvests under less than optimal conditions, Hart said.

Corn prices will likely stay high because of a dwindling supply this summer due to last year’s drought, which produced just 11 billion bushels, and a late harvest this fall. Higher prices are good for farmers selling grain, but they increase the cost of feed for livestock producers using corn-based feed for cattle, chickens and pigs.

Food prices aren’t likely to be affected much by the change.

## MVCA

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tion he took two years ago to be closer to his ailing father.

When it came time to re-enter the world of education, he wanted to make sure he found a position at a Christian school, he said.

“In the public schools, you can get a good education, but you’re obviously limited in what you can do,” Forbes said. “I really didn’t want to be back in education unless I could teach to the whole person, and I can do that (at the MVCA).”

Founded in 2008, the MVCA is a school community that serves students from kindergarten through eighth grade using Bible-based curriculum. Its mission is to “provide educational services for Christian parents wanting to strengthen moral integrity, Biblical values and academic proficiency in their child while recognizing God-given talents and fostering them for a life of learning, leading and service,” according to the school’s website.

As MVCA administrator, Forbes’ duties include public relations, supervising teachers and overseeing curriculum. He will also serve as the school’s physical education teacher.

Forbes said he is excited to be involved with the school as both an administrator and an educator, and he believes his wide variety of experience will prove useful for both roles.

“For me to have a background in both, I think it gives me a perspective that somebody who was only in one field wouldn’t have,” he said.

With classes not beginning until Aug. 21, Forbes is currently focused on reaching out to the entire Christian community to let people know what the school has to offer.

“This is not for just one church — it’s nondenominational — so I’m trying to unite everyone,” he said.

While his duties have just begun, Forbes said he can already tell that he is going to enjoy his time at the MVCA.

“The school community is very close. It really is just an extension of the home,” he said. “I’m planning on it being a very special place.”

For more information about the MVCA or questions about enrollment, call 605-665-4470 or 970-986-9384.

*You can follow Derek Bartos on Twitter at [twitter.com/d\\_bartos](https://twitter.com/d_bartos)*

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