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Jason & Watershed Task Force:

Matching up drainage systems is one of the bigger challenges we face in the Upper & Lower Crow Creek Watershed. Sizing culverts, bridges, aqueducts, etc to handle the ever increasing flow volumes downstream has become very difficult because of various regulations. A local example of this is on Marshall County #16 1-mile west of the Amherst road intersection. There are 4-culverts at the intersection and only one 2 foot culvert a mile west where the water backs up as it tries to head south. This is woefully inadequate and there are other examples throughout the area.

A much larger example in the Upper-Lower Crow Creek drainage area is Putney Slough. At the James River Putney Slough is roughly 1-mile wide. In 1997 the county road passing through the slough was raised forming a dam. This action now forces hundreds of thousands of watershed runoff acres through a 50-foot bridge to get to the James River. The result of this, especially in the years 2009, 2010, 2011 and possibly now in 2013 is water being backed up almost to Britton. The consequences of this are many. Flooded farmland, flooded basements, damaged infrastructure in the form of roads and bridges and an ever rising water table. The monetary loss is in the millions. The only way we can alleviate this situation would be to increase the size of the outlet at Putney Slough.

Brown County is discussing the possibility of replacing the bridge and the control structure at the Putney Slough-James River junction, but there is no talk of expanding it.

An option that was recommended by State Engineer Mark Rath in 1995 was to open up Mud Creek. Mud Creed is a natural drain that heads Southwest to the James River out of Southwestern Marshall County. Opening up Mud Creek would greatly reduce the flooding in Western Marshall County and Northern Brown County. Mark's maps and engineering research are still available for study to explain this option.

Sincerely,

Gene Tisher