

Barnes County Water Resource District

Po Box 306

Valley City, ND 58072

701-845-8508

April 13, 2020

## MEETING MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT: (via phone) Chairman Jerry Hieb, Managers – Bruce Anderson, Bret Fehr, Daniel Buttke, Chris Gross - Moore Eng., Sean Fredricks – Ohnstad Twichell, Josh Hassell -Moore Eng., Commissioners - Shawn Olauson, John Froelich, Cindy Schwehr

ABSENT: Manager Scott Legge

Also Present: See attached list

Before the meeting was called to order Mr. Fredricks explained for the call-in meeting anyone who wishes to speak please address the Chair, let him know who you are then, request to speak.

Chairman Hieb called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Manager Anderson made the motion to approve the March 9, 2020 minutes as presented. Seconded by Manager Fehr. Motion carried; minutes approved as printed.

## OLD BUSINESS

**Hobart Lake:** Manager Anderson reported that the gate was closed again April 6<sup>th</sup>, 2020 due to the potential flood risk in Valley City, then opened on April 10<sup>th</sup>, 2020 and has been running full bore ever since. He stated that MVTL pulled a water test we are awaiting official results if the drain can stay open MVTL will go back to testing every week. Manager Anderson had mentioned past discussions the possibility of having VCSU do the testing having them do a few months first to make sure that the data is similar as MVTL's, the data cannot be skewed. No action was taken by the board at this time.

**Kathryn Dam:** Mr. Gross reported that the Tangen Purchase Agreement has been signed and returned to his office, the Wadeson Purchase Agreement is being reviewed and not been signed yet. Manager Anderson made the motion to approve the Purchase Agreements for Tangen and Wadeson. Seconded by Manager Buttke. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously. Mr. Gross then reported that the SWC approved the construction permit, still working with COE on the 404 permit and the SWC with the Sovereign Lands permit. He stated that the State Historical Preservation Office is determining if there are any mitigation efforts necessary for the project, specifically with the remnants of the mill downstream. He relayed to the board that we are very close to getting final paperwork back from those agencies.

**10 Mile Lake:** Discussion was held on the petition bond that was forwarded to Mr. Broten and Mr. Abrahamson Mr. Broten and Mr. Abrahamson. Mr. Broten stated that right now they formed a group of landowners for this, they are talking to other landowners to see what kind of support there is for the project. He does not think there will be any opposition, the issue will be the funding. A timeframe for signatures was discussed, Mr. Fredricks explained that there is no real time frame you can have as many signatures or as few with the money for the bond. Mr. Gross explained that the WRD does not have a fixed time but the cost share agreement for engineering task expires in June 2021, he suggested getting signatures within the next 1-2 months. Mr. Broten expressed that he did not think that there will be a lot of opposition with this, the concern is funding. Discussion was then held on cost share and that process. Mr. Broten asked if landowners could be more involved with the prelim plan, there are a lot of options for an outlet. Mr. Fredricks and Mr. Gross explained that when a petition bond is submitted that does not mean the end of the public's participation, the first thing is to meet with the group of landowners to gather information and ideas, then discuss regulatory issues, cost estimates and have informational meetings.

Mr. Broten reported that culverts are currently running full they will monitor when the flow starts to drop, he will be in contact with SWC regarding the conditions on the emergency permit that expires October 11<sup>th</sup>, 2020.

Commissioner Froelich stated at a previous meeting he had indicated that he thought the county would support this when it was completed, since that time the County Commission has discussed this, and they will help with a portion of the \$75,000 bond. He stated that Mr. Broten can convey this to landowners that if they come up with some money the County will help with the rest. Chairman Hieb asked Commissioner Olauson his thoughts, he stated that he agrees with Commissioner Froelich.

Paul A. mentioned the Moore Eng. elevation marker that is down, he is unable to give reports. Mr. Hassell is going to follow up with the SWC about the real-time markers. The maps for the markers have been sent to Mr. Lindsay we are waiting for his response.

**Eckelson Lake:** Chairman Hieb talked to Manager Legge he stated that water is running, and the spraying of cattails has worked well, we will do it again this fall.

Manager Anderson received a phone call from George Piatz (Stewart Twp.) he stated that water is coming from Eckelson Lake through Hwy #1 down the line to the Sheyenne River. Mr. Piatz said that when the culverts were put in Hwy #1 about 10 yrs. ago the WRD said they would address any issues downstream, there are two culverts washed out in sec 8/9 & 9/10. Mr. Piatz wants to know if the board is going to help with this issue. Mr. Piatz would like the engineers to check these spots to see if culverts can just be replaced or if there needs to be a hydrology study done. Mr. Fredricks suggested the board do some research before acting on this and move forward from there, Mr. Gross thinks there has been an analysis done in these areas already, he will go through old records. Mr. Fredricks reminded the board that the WRD does not have jurisdiction over or maintain township roads. No action was taken by the board at this time.

**Sanborn Lake:** Mike Opat (Houston Eng.) reported that elevation shots were taken about a month ago, he had stated that the RR is happy with how things look. Manager Anderson reported that the flow has decreased, the culverts are running 2/3 full. There was discussion on the elevation of the discharge pipe, it is believed to be set at 1423. Discussion was held on when to close the pipe and an Operation Plan. Mr. Hassell explained to the board that the project is currently operating under the emergency drain permit and going to be moving towards a permanent permit. Along with the transition to a permanent permit when it comes an Operating/Maintenance Manual will be required by the SWC, this is when conditions will be set. Manager Anderson will continue to monitor this, he also asked Mr. Opat to let him know what the latest elevations are of Sanborn Lake when taken.

**Clausen Springs Dam:** Mr. Gross reported that final comments have been received from the SWC on the EAP Update, signature sheets have been sent out to corresponding agencies. Once those are received the EAP will be updated and complete copies will be sent to the agencies and the WRD office. Regarding the safety repairs of the dam, Industrial Builders is working on a schedule of work for to the board for review. They plan to get started when conditions allow.

Chairman Hieb discussed the work on the Thordenskjold assessments, Mr. Hassell explained currently we are reviewing the parcels in the drainage assessment that have changed ownership within the last ten years to make sure when the board is ready to do payback's they are going to the right people. Once all the information is gathered a finalized summary of payback will be presented to the board to review.

## **New Business**

Manager Anderson received a call from Ed Thom, he is very upset with the water level around him and is afraid he will have sewer backup into his basement. Manager Anderson did a site visit and reported the water there is as high as it has ever been. He stated the water on the North side of the RR tracks is 4'8" from the top of the rail, on the South side of the RR tracks it is 10' from the top of the rail. Manager Anderson visited with Amanda D. (NRCS) she needs a 1026 from Mr. Thom before approving a temporary permit to drain due to sewer backup. Mike Opat (Houston Eng.) stated from the RR's standpoint they were looking for something from the WRD in the lines of a legal drain or lateral drain to Hobart. Mr. Opat stated the RR asked him to take some shots to give them an idea of the situation, they would consider pumping through the tracks. There was some discussion about going the temporary route with pumping, some of the board would like to see something permanent there. Mr. Opat will keep the board informed.

Del Ray Enger with Meadow Lake township stated they have roads covered with water; he asked the board if there is anything the WRD can do to drain the lake down. Discussion was held on the previous proposed drainage project with this lake with the water going west into the James River (this was the shorter route), there was a lot of opposition with this and the project was unsuccessful. Mr. Enger stated in the meantime the County has built the road up twice, Chairman Hieb mentioned it might be best for the townships involved to apply to the State

Engineers Office for an Emergency Drain Permit to get some relief and protect the roads, then the board can look at a potential future project. Discussion was held on this process.

Mr. Gross discussed the City of Valley City's Application to Construct No. 2608 Flood Reduction Risk. After discussion Manager Anderson made the motion to authorize Moore Eng. to draft a response letter with technical concerns to SWC. Seconded by Manager Fehr. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

Manager Fehr discussed a water drainage issue with the City of Wimbledon. Water drains east out of the city to the lagoons, then to Mud Lake and on towards 10 Mile area. The water is so high there are concerns whether the city lagoons will be able to drain out or not. Manager Fehr will let the board know if anything changes with this.

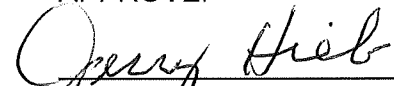
**Engineer Report:** Mr. Gross had nothing new to report.

**Legal Report:** Mr. Fredricks touched base on the economic analysis with the SWC.

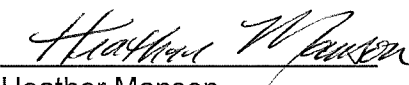
**Bills:** Manager Fehr made the motion to pay bills with the additions discussed. Seconded by Manager Buttke. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

With nothing further to discuss the meeting was adjourned.

APPROVE:

  
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Jerry Hieb, Chairman

ATTEST:

  
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Heather Manson  
Secretary - Treasurer

Call-In Attendance

BOARD

4-13-20

Jerry Hub  
Bruce Anderson  
Dan Bratke  
Strawn Olanson  
Bret Fehr  
Cindy Schwehr  
John Froelich  
Dale Jonsson  
Eric Broten  
Mike Opat  
Malvin Wundal  
Paul Abrahamson  
Hal Ray Enger  
Josh Hassell  
Chris Gross  
Sean Fredricks