

**Barnes County Water Resource District
Po Box 306
Valley City, ND 58072
701-845-8508**

April 5th, 2021

SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Jerry Hieb, Managers – Bret Fehr, Scott Legge, Bruce Anderson, Dan Buttke, Josh Hassell - Moore Eng., Chris Gross – Moore Eng., Sean Fredricks – Ohnstad Twichell, Barnes County Commissioner Shawn Olauson, Matt Lindsay-SWC, Hunter Obrigewitch-SWC (all via phone)

Chairman Hieb called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m., then turned the meeting over to Matt Lindsay to discuss options for the permanent application for the Sanborn Lake Outlet.

Mr. Lindsay stated currently the BCWRD has a surface drain permit application submitted for the permanent drain for the Sanborn Lake Outlet. The WRD had submitted a request with the permit application to eliminate the necessity of a statewide significance hearing since the WRD had already coordinated with the necessary agencies. Further, the project has been in the ground since 2011 downstream easements have been secured by the WRD. He mentioned there were a few letters submitted during the required 30-day comment period from interested agencies. Discussion today is on the letter submitted by the ND Game & Fish requesting the elevation not to be lower than 1427 feet.

Discussion was held on the O&M plan submitted, Mr. Hassell explained the emergency and non-emergency scenarios currently drafted in the O& M and reminded the board of water quality and that keeping this at 1427 removes the need for testing. There was also discussion on the Agreement between the WRD and BNSF. Manager Anderson and Chairman Hieb discussed the difficulties in monitoring the control structure with the elevation at 1427 and no freeboard, Manager Legge mentioned the issues the City of Sanborn has had in the past.

After more discussion Mr. Lindsay explained the three options for the WRD to consider moving forward...

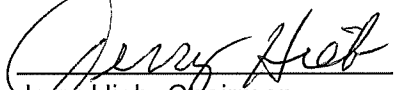
1. Move forward as it stands now and continue with the non-statewide significance along with State Engineer condition that the lake elevation cannot go lower than 1427 feet. This option can be processed quickly by the OSE.
2. If the WRD wants to pursue a lower elevation than 1427 feet, it is required to go through the statewide hearing process, which is a very lengthy process that could take up to a year for approval.

3. The WRD can table the application, have discussion with ND Game & Fish to see if we can come up with a suitable elevation lower than 1427, and have an agreement drawn up between agencies to submit to SWC.

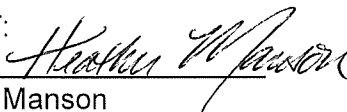
The board agreed to table the permanent permit application for Mr. Hassell to correspond with ND Game & Fish to see if they will agree with an elevation of 1426. The board will then decide what route to pursue at their regular meeting on April 12th, 2021. Mr. Lindsay will wait to hear back from the WRD.

With nothing further to discuss the meeting was adjourned at 10:04 a.m.

APPROVE:


Jerry Hieb, Chairman

ATTEST:


Heather Manson
Secretary - Treasurer