

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

Meeting Minutes

March 14, 2022 - 9:00 a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Jerry Hieb, Managers Bruce Anderson, Dan Buttke, Scott Legge, and Bret Fehr; Sean Fredricks, Ohnstad Twichell (via WebEx); Mike Opat, Houston Engineering; and Barnes County Commissioner Shawn Olauson (via WebEx).

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

Manager Anderson moved to approve the minutes from the Board's meeting on February 14, 2022, as presented. Manager Buttke seconded the motion. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

NRCS-RCPP Program

Mary Podoll and Rita Sveen were in attendance to explain the different funding programs that NRCS has available, they discussed requirements along with costs and funding levels for each program. Mike and the Board discussed the history and ongoing issues with Meadow Lake, Eckelson Lake, and Ten Mile Lake. After a long wide range discussion, both Mary and Rita felt confident the PL566 program would best fit the areas discussed. With all the similarities of these potential projects Mary suggested bundling projects into one planning packet. After more discussion, the Board agreed to bundle Eckelson Lake & Ten Mile Lake in the Sheyenne River watershed planning packet, then include Meadow Lake & Island Lake in the James River planning packet. Manager Fehr motioned to have Mike and Heather work on the formal request letters to NRCS and to authorize Heather to sign them. Seconded by Manager Legge. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously. The Board agreed moving forward Mike will be the point of contact on this.

VC Little Dam

Mike and Manager Anderson met with the City and Beth Didier (BC Auditor) to discuss who will pay any additional local costs beyond the \$340K committed by the County Commission, if local costs exceed that \$340K threshold. Lengthy discussion was held on contingency funds, bonds, project design, and agreement language. The Board directed Sean to ensure the draft agreement requires the City will take over O&M following construction, identifying the County's \$340K share of local costs, and the WRD uneasily accepting responsibility if local costs exceed \$340K. Manager Anderson directed Sean to add language to indicate the City is responsible for any additional ROW acquisition. Sean will provide the parties the agreement with the modified language. Mike handed out an updated cost estimate spreadsheet. There was discussion of a cheaper project, possibly including removal of the dam. Mike discussed a possible option of doing a rock wedge below the dam to get rid of the roller effect.

Mike will bring a task order for the April meeting, in meantime, he will work on getting things going with the surveys. He is hoping to be able to bid this out late summer or early fall, with a possible work window of when the water is manageable this late fall or winter.

Bob Koeplin has contacted Mike regarding a pedestal for signage; he is sending Mike more information.

Snagging and Clearing

Mike reported that conditions improved favorably, IBI has gotten as far as Oak Hill Twp. sect 3/2 and will more than likely be done tomorrow with this project. Houston Eng. has been on site; Mike will provide an updated map and report at the April meeting.

2023-2025 Water Development Plan

Mike reported the Project lists are due April 30th, Manager Anderson suggested adding a bank stabilization project to the list, the Board agreed then decided to wait until after the scheduled Lower Sheyenne meeting to see what is discussed. The Board agreed to keep both Meadow Lake and Eckelson Lake on the list, they also agreed to keep snagging/clearing along with Brown Dam on as well. During the February meeting the Board agreed that Ten Mile Lake should remain on the list. Mike then discussed the new format with the SWC, if a project is not included in the Project Plan, it will not be considered for funding for the first six months of the biennium. Mike will continue to work with Heather to have the draft ready to submit after the April meeting.

Surface Drain Permit Application No. 5957

Sean Fredricks reported that the DWR sent out a Solicitation of Views for comments regarding the State's "statewide or interdistrict significance" review for Dale Jorissen's Surface Drain Application No. 5957. After discussion, the Board did not have any comments regarding the Department of Water Resources' "statewide or interdistrict significance" review. The Board will wait for the State to forward a "Record of Decision" for the Board to consider and to approve the final permit.

Highway #9 culvert

Mike discussed the email from Jay Praska regarding the centerline pipe just west of Jct ND 1 & ND 9, the email states the last correspondence regarding this temporary pipe between the District and NDDOT is from July 2012. There was an agreement in 2011 where the Board agreed to install a temporary 36" pipe with the caveat that the Board would remove the pipe a year later. There was some discussion at the time about leaving the pipe in place and it is still in place today. The Board agreed to have Mike work with Heather on a response to Jay's email, and to let him know about the current situation with 10 Mile Lake. Mike also mentioned that this could impact the project contemplated under Dale Jorissen's Surface Drain Application No. 5957. Mike will explain the situation to Mr. Jorissen.

Lower Sheyenne Joint Board

Manager Anderson reported that he and Mike will be attending a Lower Sheyenne Joint Board meeting in April to discuss the prospect of pursuing riverbank stabilization funding. Mike briefly discussed the Upper Sheyenne's Joint pilot project and the RRJWRD's proposed pilot project for conveyance projects. The Lower Sheyenne might want to pursue something similar.

Chairman Hieb mentioned the upcoming Upper Sheyenne meeting at the VC Eagles Club on March 16th, 2022 at 9 a.m. Rich Schueneman will give the snow pac/flood report.

Engineer Report

Mike reported he is working on engaging with a geotechnical engineer for Clausen Springs Dam, he will have possible costs to discuss with the Board at next month's meeting. Manager Buttke mentioned that he *has not* heard back from the Fingal Wildlife Club if they want to pursue cost-share from the SWC.

Legal Report

Sean reported a Water Topics Overview Committee meeting is coming up next month. He also reported that the Legislative Drainage Committee meets on April 11th, this is significant for all WRDs and can be viewed online as well. Sean will keep the Board updated on these.

Bills

Manager Legge moved to approve the bills as presented. Manager Buttke seconded the motion. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

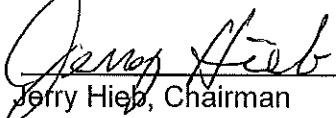
Other Business

Sheryl Smith mentioned to the Board the USFWS will be installing a box culvert at Tomahawk Dam, the Board asked Heather to see if Kurt T. (USFWS) will email the information to have on file.

Don Jorissen had questions with how Century Code states the responsibility of culverts within township roads, his concern are the culverts east of the drop structures along LD2. Sean Fredricks explained road authorities have an obligation to pay 40% of drain crossing costs along the course of a legal drain.

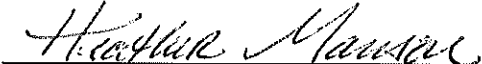
With nothing further to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 11:09 a.m.

APPROVED:



Jerry Hieb, Chairman

ATTEST:



Heather Manson, Secretary-Treasurer

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March 14th, 2022

PLEASE SIGN IN BELOW

Donna Jarison

RITA SUEEN, NRCS

Shelby Larson NRCS

Mary Poolall USDA-NRCS

Brent Gustafson NRCS

Sheryl Smith