

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

Meeting Minutes
May 9, 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 Olason.

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

Manager Legge moved to approve the minutes from the Board's meeting on April 11, 2022, as presented. Manager Anderson seconded the motion. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

VC Little Dam

Mike reported that neither he nor Sean has heard back from the County or the City on the revised JPA agreement that Sean sent the parties. The Board agreed to have Houston Eng. hold off on proceeding with design work until the parties sign the Joint Powers Agreement. Mike indicated that holding off on design for another month will not be an issue, but that waiting any longer than the June meeting would likely put the parties in a difficult situation if they want to pursue a late fall/winter construction bid. No action was taken by the Board today.

NRCS-RCPP Program

Mike reported there is not much to update on this, NRCS is working with their National Office figuring out details on how to address contracting and funding. He explained the first step will be a pre-study to determine the scope of the study. Then the NRCS will submit both the Sheyenne & James River watershed information for consideration by the NRCS national office. This is a multiyear process. This is still in the works and continues to look favorable.

Lower Sheyenne Joint Board

Manager Anderson reported on discussions held at the April 27th meeting of the Sheyenne River Joint WRD. Mike noted the Red River Joint WRD is open to the idea of sponsoring a potential pilot study for bank stabilization. He explained that they typically focus on retention but indicated a willingness to at least entertain the idea of sponsoring a bank stabilization study. Mike discussed an idea on a scope for the study being some sort of inventory of issues from Bald Hill Dam down the river, reaching out to the Highway Dept. and townships, combining all the information gathered, then prioritizing. After discussion, the Board agreed to have Mike and Manager Anderson present this scope and budget to the RRJWRD. The SWC's current cost-share policy has a category for bank stabilization; the policy requires that the project protect public infrastructure (e.g., roads, etc.). Manager Anderson stated that the Sheyenne River Joint WRD decided to meet one time per year, but if anything comes up the Board will meet as needed.

Thordenskjold Drain – structure repairs

Mike drove the area with Manager Buttke last week and stated there is an impressive amount of water flowing, they spent a lot of time in the northern part of the drain around Cuba Slough in Norma Twp. Mike reported that some culverts were running at full capacity, and some were not. Downstream by Nome CR#38 has been closed for the past 4-5 days. Discussion was held on the watershed, assessment boundary, contributing tributaries due to the current high-water situation, and design standards for culverts within the drain. Sean explained the North Dakota Stream Crossing Standards, by statute and administrative rule, provide a minimum design standard, he emphasized that even though the statute allows installation of larger culverts than required at any given crossing, the Board should consider potential downstream impacts when installing something larger than the Stream Crossing Standards require.

Kevin Ussatis was present and discussed the current water situation in the southern part of the drain. Commissioner Olauson mentioned properties in the northern townships are assessed though there is no designated channel. Discussion was held on the possibility of extending the drain beyond sect 2 of Thordenskjold Twp. Sean explained the potential options for extending the Drain. No action was taken by the Board, but the Board directed Mike to do another inspection when things dry up; Mike can then present some options regarding structure repairs and downstream crossings.

Manager Anderson reported that Joel Lyons has eradicated two beavers from the beaver dam reported last meeting, with the current flooding he is almost certain that has been washed downstream. When conditions are drier Manager Buttke will do a site visit.

NEW BUSINESS

Kurt Reidman – Sibley Trail

Kurt R. handed out a map of the Moser Slough area. He stated there is a lot of draining going into the slough and, as a result, the Slough is spilling over and taking out a township road; the flooding eventually goes by CR19 in Sibley Trail Township. Various parties have inquired into the possibility of draining the area to alleviate flooding of the township road. Mike explained if the watershed is over 80 acres a surface drainage permit is required. Mike also mentioned this area could be encompassed in the Sheyenne River watershed planning packet for the NRCS program. Sean explained that Mr. Reidman could also apply for an Emergency Drain Permit, then could apply for a permanent surface permit during the six-month Emergency Permit period. Manager Legge noted that this would be a private project and not a WRD project. Mr. Reidman will keep in touch on what he decides, the Board agreed to have Mike include this with the NRCS planning packet information.

Legal Drain 2 – cleanout & culvert install

Manager Anderson reported that Kochia has blown into the drain blocking the waterway, Wade Klubben has cleaned that out. Manager Anderson and Shawn Anderson had closed gates during the high flooding period; once the river level went down those gates were open again. The Board discussed the culverts east of the drop structures Klubben is working on for the Township, the need for compaction testing and the various firms that provide testing, and a timeframe of when work should begin. Manager Anderson stated there is a lot of water coming through there now, Manager Legge feels sometime in July will be a good time to start work.

LeRoy Triebold stated that he was told the culverts being discussed have already been removed and replaced. Don Jorissen stated that the road where these culverts are located was caved in over the weekend. The Board noted that if Klubben Excavating commenced work already, he should have notified someone, and the Board did not authorize this work.

Complaint: Rodney Rood – Robert Larson

Rodney Rood was present to discuss the complaint he filed. He stated that Mr. Larson keeps trying to plug his drain that has been there since the 70's, he's approached the Oak Hill Township Board, but nothing has been done. Sean explained the obstruction statute, then indicated the first step is for the Board to authorize Mike to investigate and to prepare a report for the next meeting. After discussion Mike suggested that Mr. Rood modify the complaint to accurately indicate this is an obstruction complaint, and to more accurately define the property where the obstruction is located. Mr. Rood made those changes to the original complaint and initialed them during the meeting.

After more discussion, Manager Legge moved to authorize Mike Opat to investigate and prepare a report. Seconded by Manager Fehr. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

RRJWRD – Basinwide Plan Development

Mike explained the RRJWRD is pursuing a pilot study on water conveyance projects, the first step is to inventory projects from the RRJWRD member Districts. He explained this is for snagging/clearing or Legal Drain projects, after discussion, Manager Fehr motioned to have Mike work with Heather and submit the requests. Seconded by Manager Anderson. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

2023 Budget Request

The Board reviewed past budget requests, they discussed Clausen Springs Dam needing brush cutting and geo technical work done. Discussion on how things will look with the tow wood at Kathryn Dam with that being submerged for quite a while. The Board agreed to continue with snagging/clearing, they discussed the potential projects within the James River watershed and Sheyenne River watershed. Heather will put together a draft and send it to the Board for review.

Engineer Report

Mike went over his report. Discussion was held on Sanborn Lake, the Board's surface drain permit and recent correspondence with Kurt T. when the project is opened. The Board discussed the O&M Plan. No action was taken by the Board today. Mike updated the Board on the Maple River Dam situation.

Mike also mentioned there is a plugged RR culvert in Potter Twp. Mike has passed along Matt Lovell's contact information to the RR.

Legal Report

Sean had nothing else to report.

Bills

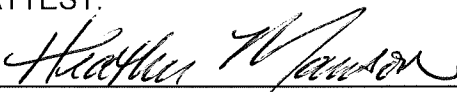
Manager Anderson moved to approve the bills as presented. Manager Buttke seconded the motion. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

With nothing further to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 10:36 a.m.

APPROVED:


Jerry Hieb, Chairman

ATTEST:


Heather Manson, Secretary-Treasurer

Barnes County Water Resource District
PO Box 306
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May 9th, 2022

PLEASE SIGN IN BELOW

Kurt Reidman

Kevin Ussatis

Donald Jones

Si Roy Trubel

Rodney Hood

Alan Olson

BBC

KURT TOMPKINS

USFWS