

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

Meeting Minutes

October 10, 2022 - 9:00 a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Vice Chair Bruce Anderson, Managers Scott Legge, Bret Fehr, Sean Fredricks, Ohnstad Twichell (via WebEx); Mike Opat, Houston Engineering, Shawn Olauson Barnes County Commissioner.

ABSENT: Chairman Jerry Hieb, Manager Dan Buttke

Vice Chair Anderson called the meeting to order at 9:06 a.m.

Manager Legge moved to approve the minutes from the Board's meeting on September 12, 2022 as printed. Manager Fehr seconded the motion. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

VC Little Dam

Mike reported the project is moving along. Permits have been submitted and he reminded the Board that the permit review process will take a while and, unfortunately, the Board will not likely have a permit to proceed until sometime in 2023. Discussion was held on the USGS gauge, Mike has been coordinating with them and as part of the permitting process has been in contact with an archaeologist. He explained it is not uncommon for gauges to be moved and reset. Mike will report at the next meeting. The Board may have to consider a short-term bond to finance design and development. Sean Fredricks reported Ohnstad Twichell can proceed with a short-term bond if the Board decides that is the best route.

NRCS-RCPP Program

Mike reported there was a miscommunication, Christie Fischer will be attending the November meeting.

Thordenskjold Drain

Manager Anderson reported that Chairman Hieb has not been able to get ahold of Scott Olerud, Ransom County water manager, to discuss potential assessments in Ransom County. Chairman Hieb will continue to try to contact Mr. Olerud. The Board agreed they should not proceed with any landowner meetings until Chairman Hieb has the opportunity to discuss Ransom County assessments with Mr. Olerud.

Discussion was held on repairs and drain account funds. Kevin Ussatis mentioned that the damaged wing walls have been pulled out of the crossing by his driveway, D. Bjone did the work.

RRJWRD – bank stabilization

Mike reported the project will now be 100 % funded by SWC & RRJWRD. GIS people are starting their process, Mike is working with their tech people to come up with an online survey to collect data. The goal is to have a site where WRD's, Twp.'s, Highway Dept.'s and Utilities can click on a map to show where and what the issues are, then upload that data, after processing Mike should have a report for the Board early next year.

Sanborn Lake

Manager Anderson visited with Dan Peltier from BNSF and to explain the elevations mandated by the State under the Board's permit for the project. The State permit sets a low elevation of 1427 officially (Game & Fish unofficially agreed to an elevation of 1426.5). On the other hand, the Board's agreement with BNSF sets a maximum elevation of 1427. Mr. Peltier indicated BNSF would be willing to participate in efforts to engage the State to reduce the permitting threshold. Mike and Manager Anderson will continue to discuss a potential modification to the Board's agreement with BNSF. Manager Anderson reported that the elevation today is at 1425.86. He will continue to check the gate once a month by opening and closing it to make sure it is operational.

Clausen Springs Dam:

Mike will be meeting Karen Goff (DWR-Dam Safety Program Manager) at Clausen Springs Dam after today's meeting to do the inspection, Mike will provide an informal report at the next meeting.

Discussion was held on the EAP Update, the Board is still looking for an individual for the top tier of the flow chart to check the dam during an event to observe and notify. Heather talked with Tim Tangen he would be willing to help, he plans to attend a meeting for more information. There was discussion on responsibilities of private citizens and coverage, after more discussion the Board decided to approach Kerry Johnson BC Highway Dept. about a potential agreement and his thoughts.

Stewart-Anderson Drain

Manager Legge reported the culvert in CR#11 has been installed, he did a site visit and is very pleased with how it all looks. He and Shawn Anderson will get the gate installed later this month. It was agreed that the field approach culvert west of here will be replaced next year, we need funds for snow removal. Drain account funds are currently at \$17,627.20, there are bills submitted today for approval that need to be taken out.

Snagging/Clearing 2022-2023

Mike reported that the funding is in place, he has reached out to IBI, and the Board approved the agreement Sean drafted with IBI; we are working on getting Chairman Hieb's signature. Once the agreement is signed, Mike will coordinate with IBI and proceed when conditions allow. Commissioner Olauson asked what the outlook is on future snagging/clearing projects since the State Water Commission is considering the possibility of cutting funding for snagging and clearing. Sean explained there seems to be a movement to try to eliminate cost share for snagging/clearing, fortunately we have Ag Commissioner Goehring and others who support and understand the importance of snagging/clearing. Sean will keep us informed on the happenings of the SWC meeting this Thursday.

Manager Anderson reported Hobart Drain is currently still open with an elevation of 1416.88

NEW BUSINESS**Engineer Report**

Mike reported he has not heard anything from Meadow Lake Township, he has nothing new to report.

Legal Report


Sean had nothing new to report.

Bills

Manager Legge moved to approve the bills as presented in the updated bill statement. Manager Fehr seconded the motion. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

With nothing further to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 10:01 a.m.

APPROVED:


Bruce Anderson, Vice-Chair

ATTEST:


Heather Manson, Secretary-Treasurer

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October 10th, 2022

PLEASE SIGN IN BELOW

Shawn Olavs

BCC

Donald Jorissen

Kevin Ussats