

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

Meeting Minutes

January 9, 2023 - 9:00 a.m.

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

ABSENT: Manager Bret Fehr

Chairman Hieb called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m.

Sean Fredricks discussed the Reorganization process, then opened the floor for nominations for Chairman. Manager Anderson nominated Jerry Hieb. Manager Legge moved that nominations cease and that the Board cast a unanimous ballot for Jerry Hieb. Manager Buttke seconded that motion. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried. Jerry Hieb will serve as Chairman. Manager Legge then moved to reappoint Bruce Anderson as Vice Chairman along with Heather Manson as Secretary-Treasurer. Manager Buttke seconded the motion. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously. The Board reviewed and discussed the portfolios. Manager Legge moved to keep the portfolios and committee members in place. Manager Buttke seconded the motion. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously. Sean Fredricks discussed his rate increase; the Board expressed their appreciation for all his work. Manager Legge moved to re-appoint Sean Fredricks legal counsel for the WRD and to approve his rates for 2023. Manager Anderson seconded the motion. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously. Mike Opat then discussed Houston Engineering's 2023 Fee Schedule; the Board thanked him as well for all his work. Manager Anderson moved to approve the 2023 Fee Schedule from Houston Eng. and to re-appoint Houston as the WRD's engineering firm. Manager Buttke seconded the motion. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

Manager Anderson moved to approve the minutes from the Board's meeting on December 12, 2022. Manager Legge seconded the motion. Motion carried; minutes approved as printed.

OLD BUSINESS

VC Little Dam

Mike reported we are still waiting on the permit review, hoping to hear back in February/March. He mentioned the archaeology field work is complete, a report on this will be provided early 2023.

NRCS-RCPP Program

Mike reported there is no new update with this. He is currently waiting on information from NRCS to work on the scope and budget.

Thordenskjold Drain

Mike reported there is no new update with this. The Board agreed to invite landowners from the SW quadrant in Barnes Co. along with landowners in Ransom Co. whose parcels benefit from the Drain, and who could ultimately be added to the assessment district, to an informational meeting that will be part of the WRD regular February meeting. Mike will work with Heather on the notices.

RRJWRD – bank stabilization

Mike reported work is in progress. Houston Eng. is wrapping up the prioritization of information from the online survey, Mike will work on possibly having a draft report by February/March 2023.

Clausen Springs Dam:

Mike reported that we are waiting on final inspection report from DWR this will likely come spring 2023. Heather will check with the Highway Dept. on the potential rebuild of the trash rack. Manager Anderson did talk with Joel Lyons about beaver traps on the downstream side of the dam, he will be out this spring once water starts flowing. He reminded the Board that all involved parties with the EAP are meeting today to discuss revisions/updates, and any other final changes to make sure everyone understands their roles and responsibilities. It was decided Manager Buttke and Chairman Hieb will attend the discussion.

Snagging/Clearing:

Mike reported that IBI is mobilizing this week, with hopes to begin snag/clear activities on January 16th. Scott Nelson (IBI) reported that some large trees fell in the river in an area that was snagged last year, they will start with those trees and jump back to where they left off last year, then proceed south.

NEW BUSINESS

Vaughn Zacharias- Water Permit Application No. 7261

Sean explained the Board does not have jurisdiction over these permits but can submit comments to the state if they choose to do so. After discussion, no action was taken by the Board.

Engineer Report

Mike recapped on the RRJWRD basin wide study program and how they are focusing funding on projects that are within the realm of NRCS type projects, he mentioned how important this could be with potential additional funding for the two PIFR's we are currently working on with NRCS. Mike will keep the Board updated on this.

Legal Report

Sean recapped on the two separate bills the Drainage Committee recommended to the legislature; one is a "clean up" bill that the North Dakota WRD Association supports, and the other is a cost-benefit bill that would severely limit the ability of WRDs to construct drains. Sean will be sending out emails to give everyone a heads up during the legislative session.

Bills

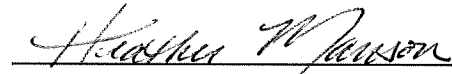
Manager Legge moved to approve the bills as presented. Manager Buttke seconded the motion. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

With nothing further to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 10:02 a.m.

APPROVED:


Jerry Hieb, Chairman

ATTEST:


Heather Manson, Secretary-Treasurer

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January 9th, 2023

PLEASE SIGN IN BELOW

Shawn Olafson
BJ KRATZ

BCC
NDGF