

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

Meeting Minutes

February 13, 2023 - 9:00 a.m.

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

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

Manager Anderson moved to approve the minutes as printed from the Board's meeting on January 9, 2023. Manager Legge seconded the motion. Motion carried; minutes approved as printed.

OLD BUSINESS

VC Little Dam

Mike reported that both the state and the COE are reviewing the Board's permit applications. A report came back from the Cultural Resources Consultant with findings similar to Kathryn Dam. Mike explained that COE is informally indicating the mitigation will be similar to what was required for Kathryn Dam. We are hopeful the State will expedite their review.

NRCS-RCPP Program

Mike reported that he met with NRCS staff to discuss the scoping efforts. He explained that, as part of the scoping for the PIFR, NRCS requires wetland mitigation acres for each project. The Board discussed locations of a few potential mitigation sites. Mike mentioned that NRCS is concerned that there will be many mitigation acres required for each project, and there could be issues finding enough suitable mitigation for both planning efforts. Christi Fisher (NRCS) would like to proceed with one project now, then potentially proceed with another one later. After lengthy discussion, the Board agreed that while Ten Mile Lake presents the biggest challenge from the mitigation standpoint, it has more design work done and there is more certainty in the cost-benefit ratio and permitting. The Board agreed to continue to move forward with Ten Mile Lake.

RRJWRD-bank stabilization

Mike reported he has a very rough draft of the information from the online survey. There were around 893 areas of interest submitted, the majority of them are private sites, but there are also some public sites. Mike explained the prioritization process. After the snow melts this spring, he would like to spot check these sites and take ground photos to include in the final report for the Board to review. Mike has

been providing the RRJWRD updates, he will let them know the status and give them a rundown of the numbers from today.

Clausen Springs Dam:

Mike reported the EAP meeting with the stakeholders went well and he made the updates discussed. He discussed some options for electronic signatures and distribution of final copies, the goal is to have the EAP finalized early March before spring runoff. Mike also mentioned meeting with Tim Tangen and Brad Knutson at the Dam to give them an idea of what to look for and review duties. Mike then presented a quote from C-FAB Welding for the trash rack repair/improvement. After discussion the Board asked Mike to get a couple more quotes to compare.

Snagging/Clearing:

Mike reported that IBI is currently working on the river immediately north of Kathryn. They plan to focus on this area for a week, with hopes of moving downstream of the dam next week and get as close to the county line as they can weather permitting.

Thordenskjold Drain – landowner discussion

The Board invited landowners from Barnes Co. and Ransom Co. that would potentially be added to the assessment district to this regular WRD meeting for an informal informational discussion. The Board also invited Ransom County WRD members though none were able to attend. Mike started with introductions, thanked everyone for coming, and stated that the purpose of today's discussion is to gather as much input as we can from landowners. He then discussed the background of the drain and explained the proposed reassessment considerations. He next explained how the Board will likely determine benefits as they consider the reassessment, and he presented a current map of the assessment district along with the potential changes proposed. Discussion was held on drain funds, potential maintenance, along with culvert sizing/replacement. Mike and Sean explained what the reassessment process requires by law and offered a potential timeline. The Board discussed possible benefit percentages and asked for input from landowners. Mike will draft a map with those potential percentages listed for the Board to review at the next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

I-94 Drainage Project

The WRD was contacted by SRF Consulting regarding a request to acquire ROW from the WRD for a drainage project along I-94 near the mobile home park on the west side of Valley City. The BC Water Management District (now the BCWRD) developed a sewer and water project back in the 1970's. The City of Valley City has been operating and maintaining the booster station on the parcel for years, even though deeds on file with the Recorder's Office shows the WRD still owns this parcel. Sean indicated the Board was required to own the parcel until the Board paid off the bonds for the project, which happened years ago; the parties likely just neglected to transfer ownership. Sean explained the process for transferring the parcel over to the City of Valley City would simply require the Board to execute a Quit Claim Deed to convey the Board's ownership to the City. The Board indicated they do not want to hold up this NDDOT project. After discussion, Manager Legge moved to authorize Sean to prepare a Quit Claim Deed to convey ownership to the City, and to authorize Chairman Hieb and Heather to sign the deed, to convey ownership

of the parcel to Valley City. Manager Buttke seconded the motion. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

Baldhill Dam Operational Meeting

Chairman Hieb mentioned this is discussed during the Upper Sheyenne Meeting, that meeting will be held Wednesday March 15th, 2023 - 9 a.m. at the VC Eagles Club.

Kent Sortland – Water Permit Application No. 7297

Mike and Sean explained that 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 had nothing new to report.

Legal Report

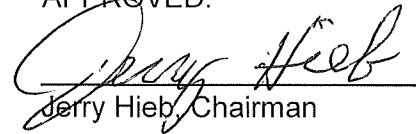
Sean provided a legislative update, including HB1391, HB1462, SB 2326, and SB 2037. The Board asked Sean to prepare a handout regarding the Legislative Updates to hand out at the BC Township Officer's meeting on March 23rd.

Bills

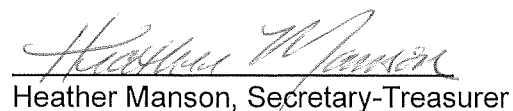
Manager Legge moved to approve the bills as presented. Manager Buttke seconded the motion. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

With nothing further to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 11:49 a.m.

APPROVED:


Jerry Hieb, Chairman

ATTEST:


Heather Manson, Secretary-Treasurer

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February 13th, 2023

PLEASE SIGN IN BELOW

Alvan Olanson

BCC

Edna Kuntson

Laural Johnson

Dan Barsted

Darin Tingley

Bob Nelson

Derry Hilbertson

Charles Wendell

Jim Storhoff

Mike Storhoff

Vance Zachaus

Jim Della

Jordan Sorby