

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

Meeting Minutes

December 11, 2023 – 9:00 a.m.

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Managers – Scott Legge & Bret Fehr

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

Manager Anderson moved to approve the minutes from the November 13, 2023 meeting as printed. Manager Buttke seconded the motion. Upon voice vote, the motion carried unanimously; minutes approved as printed.

Sean mentioned that after Chairman Hieb's accident he and Mike reached out the Hurley and Les Hansen parties to let them know that we are not going to discuss the surface drain permit application or the complaint today. Both parties were understanding of this. Discussion on these will continue during the February 2024 meeting.

The Board reviewed the 2024 Meeting Schedule, discussion was held on the November meeting date, everyone agreed to hold the meeting on November 18th, 2024. Manager Buttke moved to approve the 2024 Meeting Schedule with the update discussed. Manager Anderson seconded the motion. Upon voice vote, the motion carried unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

VC Little Dam

Mike reported that the funding request was on the consent agenda for the SWC meeting on December 8th and around \$814,000 was approved for the project. Once the agreements come through Sean will review the language for the Board's approval. Mike discussed the next steps for the Board to move the project forward, along with a construction timeline. Discussion was held on bidding options, Mike and Sean will work on the language and options with the bid documents for the Board's review. Mike and Sean will work on this for the next couple of weeks and start advertising in January, then open bids in February; hopefully the Board will be in a position to consider awarding by March. Manager Anderson moved to authorize

Houston Engineering to prepare final plans and to advertise for bids. Manager Buttke seconded the motion. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

Mike will send an email to all the stakeholders to give them an update that the funding has been approved and the schedule.

NRCS-RCPP: Ten Mile Lake

Mike met with NRCS staff and NRCS indicated willingness to keep moving forward. When ice conditions are acceptable, Houston will be able to measure the depth of the slough and lake. Mike will try to get this wrapped up then provide the Board with the report in early 2024.

Thordenskjold Drain

Sean emailed out documents for the Board and for the Ransom County WRD to consider to proceed with the formal reassessment process, including a Resolution to set the Hearing for the two Boards to approve. The Ransom Co. Board approved the Resolution at their meeting on December 8. Under the Resolution, the Boards would set the Hearing for February 12th, 2024 at 9:30 a.m. during the regular BCWRD meeting. Mike handed out copies of the preliminary assessment list and map of the district boundaries with the updates discussed at the informational meetings. After discussion Manager Buttke moved to approve the Resolution along with the preliminary assessment list. Manager Anderson seconded the motion. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously. Sean will arrange for the publications in the *Times Record* and the *Gazette* and for mailings. Sean's office will send copies of all of the mailings to the Board. Mike explained at the Hearing we will go over the boundary map and percentages and gather feedback. Then the two Boards can consider any possible modifications before approving a final list at a future meeting.

Clausen Springs Dam

Mike reported the void repair has been completed, around 4 yds of flowable fill was used. Discussion was held on the new quote and revised design for the trash rack repair, this includes the installation. Manager Anderson moved to accept the new quote and revised design from TradeMark Tooling. Manager Buttke seconded the motion. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously. Mike mentioned that we are still waiting on the inspection report from the State, he will let Karen Goff know about the work that has been completed this year.

Hansen/Hurley Complaint

Discussion was tabled until the February meeting.

Surface Drain Permit Appl. No. 6221 – Pat Hurley Drain

Discussion was tabled until the February meeting.

Legal Drain 2

Mike reported at the last meeting there was discussion about significant price increase and availability of rip rap for the project, and that the Board has an opportunity to purchase the rock at a reduced price. He explained that Scott C. was able to get the rock ordered and delivered for less than what we anticipated. The Board discussed funding and financing options.

Mike will follow up with the State Water Commission to discuss availability of cost-share. The Board agreed the project will require a bond issue to finance the project. Ohnstad Twichell will start working on a bond issue in the amount of \$100K to finance the initial phase of the project. The assessment district could pay off that amount in approximately 3-4 years, then the Board could proceed with the second phase of the project. Sean will work with Katie Schmidt, bond counsel at Ohnstad Twichell, on a bond issue and will have a Resolution for the Board's consideration at the Board's January meeting.

The Board felt it would be best to hold the Advisory Board meeting on January 8th 2024 at 10:00 a.m. during the regular WRD meeting, so this issue can be discussed with landowners within the assessment district to gather their feedback, Heather will send out the change in meeting notice.

Snagging/Clearing 2023-24

Sean emailed out a draft agreement with Industrial Builders Inc. for the Board's review. Mike explained when conditions allow the plan is for them to pick up where they left off last year and continue down to the county line, then if they have time and budget left to look at and remobilize to other areas. IBI already signed and returned the agreement. Manager Anderson moved to approve the agreement with IBI. Manager Buttke seconded the motion. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

No new business to discuss.

Engineer Report

Mike reported no new measurements for Hobart or Sanborn Lakes, also Tomahawk Dam construction is complete. He mentioned the plan is still to hold the Sheyenne River Bank Stabilization Study discussion at the Upper Sheyenne meeting in March. Mike also noted Sean's presentation at the Annual Water Convention on working with your neighbors, Manager Anderson agreed and stated there were interesting topics with good discussions. Mike mentioned the copy of the Water Manager's Handbook is digital now.

Legal Report

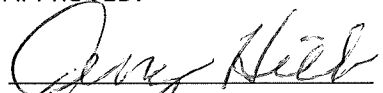
Sean discussed the Manager Training and Certification segment at the Convention and the statutory requirements regarding WRDs' obligations to meet twice a year with neighboring counties. Most joint WRD activities satisfy these requirements.

BILLS

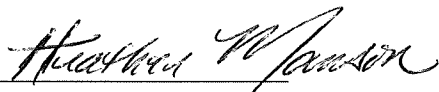
Manager Anderson moved to pay bills as presented. Manger Buttke seconded the motion. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

With nothing further to discuss the meeting adjourned at 10:34 a.m.

APPROVED:


Jerry Hieb, Chairman

ATTEST:


Heather Manson, Secretary-Treasurer

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December 11th, 2023

PLEASE SIGN IN BELOW

Shawn Olafson

BCC

Lo Ann

Donald Gorissen

V.C.