

Barnes County Water Resource District
PO Box 36
Valley City, ND 58072
#845-8508

Meeting Minutes

February 12, 2024 – 9:00 a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman – Jerry Hieb, Managers – Bruce Anderson, Scott Legge, 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 9:00 a.m.

Manager Legge moved to approve the minutes from the January 8, 2024 meeting. Manager Anderson seconded the motion. Upon voice vote, the motion carried unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

Hansen/Hurley Complaint

Continuing to be held in abeyance while the DWR and Board process the Hurley surface drain permit application.

Surface Drain Permit Appl. No. 6221 – Pat Hurley

The Board received a letter from Mr. Hansen's attorney along with an engineering report from his engineer, Joel Toso (Barr Engineering); Tose was present to discuss his report. Mr. Tose presented his report. In short, Mr. Toso suggests Mr. Hurley's project will result in sustained flows across Mr. Hansen's property. Manager Legge stated he felt Pat Hurley should be allowed time to submit an engineer's opinion as well. After lengthy discussion, the Board agreed Mr. Hurley should have the opportunity to submit engineering analysis as well. Mr. Hurley indicated he will ask his engineer to have a written report for the Board to review at the March 11th meeting. Kale VanBruggen, Mr. Hansen's attorney, requested that the Hansens get an opportunity to respond in writing regarding Mr. Hurley's engineer report. After more discussion, the Board agreed to allow Mr. Hurley to submit his engineering report by March 11th, then allow Les Hansen one week to have his response submitted by March 18th. The Board will then direct Mike and Sean to review and prepare recommendations for the April meeting.

VC Little Dam

Mike reported that the Archaeology report from Metcalf was sent out previously for the Board to review, there are some interesting facts about the Little Dam and the City of Valley City listed in the report. Mike mentioned the bid advertisement is going to the Times Record this week with the bid opening scheduled for March 7th, 2024 at the Houston Engineering office. The WRD could consider awarding the contract at the March 11th, 2024 meeting.

NRCS-RCPP: Ten Mile Lake

Mike reported ice conditions allowed HEI to collect depth measurements within the basin, he explained a lot of the area is well over 6.5ft deep, with the deepest parts measuring over 10.5ft deep. Mike has shared this information with NRCS, he explained there is an internal debate within the NRCS office as far as mitigation goes, he will keep the Board posted on those conversations. Mike explained this could possibly be worked through, or this could kill the project, the final report is expected to be complete late spring.

Clausen Springs Dam

Mike reported nothing new with this, we have not received the official inspection report from DWR yet. We have been addressing the big items that were discussed during the inspection such as the spillway void repair, brush removal, and the continued work with the trash rack modifications.

Snagging/Clearing 2023-24

Mike reported that Industrial Builders has checked the ice conditions, and it is not safe, at this point no work will be completed this winter. Mike mentioned that an option is to hold onto our allocated funds for winter 2024, and work on targeted bad areas. The Board agreed.

Stewart – Anderson Drain

Mike mentioned that the cost of the rock that was delivered onsite came in higher than what the contractor estimated and what the Board anticipated. The Board issued bonds to pay for the rock and the Board's other expenses incurred so far. The drain account has been receiving some assessment revenues and currently has around \$12,000 in it.

Sheyenne River Bank Stabilization Study

Mike reported the Board previously agreed to hold an informational meeting in conjunction with the Upper Sheyenne River Joint WRD meeting on March 20th, 2024 at the Valley City Eagles during the Bald Hill Dam segment, to see if there is any interest in moving this project forward. The Board agreed to have Mike work with Heather to get invites sent out and do a press release.

NEW BUSINESS

2025–2027 Water Development Plan

Mike will work with Heather to pull together a preliminary list for the Board to review at the next meeting before the deadline submittal to the DWR on April 30th, 2024.

Engineer Report

Mike had nothing new to report.

Legal Report

Sean had nothing new to report.

Bills

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

The regular meeting recessed at 10:04 a.m. for the Thordenskjold Drain Reassessment Hearing.

Thordenskjold Drain – Reassessment Hearing

Mike explained the main purpose of the reassessment hearing is to focus on the proposed boundary changes to the drain assessment district, to ensure the properties that benefit from the drain pay their fair share of maintenance costs. The reassessment may include percentage modifications as well. The Board will listen to comments from those in attendance, take those comments under advisement, and investigate further if necessary. Ultimately the Board will make a final decision at a later date regarding the new assessment list. The Board and the Ransom County WRD have an agreement that requires the Ransom Board to also approve the list.

Mike gave a history of the drain. The Board levies a maintenance levy against properties within the assessment district that benefit from the drain, currently set at \$2.00/acre; properties at the 100% benefit level pay \$2.00 per acre, properties at 50% benefit level pay \$1.00 per acre, etc. A \$2.00 maintenance levy collects just over \$42,000 per year. The drain fund currently has a balance of around \$225,000 in the account.

Mike then discussed the yearly maintenance, along with a master plan for future repairs/improvements. He explained that during recent water events it was observed how different areas were contributing more to the drain. That prompted the Board to conduct

informational meetings, and the Board has been working with the Ransom Co. WRD regarding benefits in Ransom County.

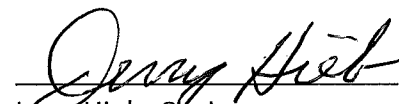
Mike presented a map for discussion showing the preliminary boundaries with benefit percentages. Discussion was held on five parcels included in the outer boundary. There was discussion on one parcel listed in the interior of the drain. Once all comments were addressed, and there were no other questions, the hearing closed at 10:35 a.m.

Ron Hartl (Ransom Co. WRD) stated that working with the BCWRD has been positive, he appreciates the open communication with this joint effort.

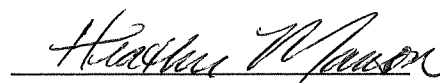
Jamie Smith (Highway Supt.) joined the meeting to discuss the 50/50 Highway/Water position. Heather has held that position for six years and has recently accepted the full-time position at the Highway Dept. Jamie feels there is no longer a need for the half-time highway position in the office. She discussed a proposed plan to move forward for the Board's consideration to keep the continuity between departments, after more discussion the Board agreed with Jamie's proposal. The Board agreed to post a part-time Admin Asst. position for 20-24 hrs/week, starting at \$20.00 hourly wage. Manager Anderson will be the Board representative during interviews.

With nothing further to discuss the meeting adjourned at 10:44 a.m.

APPROVED:


Jerry Hieb, Chairman

ATTEST:


Heather Manson, Secretary-Treasurer

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

February 12th, 2024

PLEASE SIGN IN BELOW

Kate Van Bruggen

Joel Toso, Barr Engineering

Donald Jorissen

Shawn Olson

BCC

Rachelle Hansen

John Anderson

Kent Sortland

Kevin Assatis

Tim Kuehn

Chuck Luesser

Ron Hartl - Ransom Co Water Bd

Alexander Wenzel

Chad Wendel

Neal Butke

Roy Butke

Dan Houde