

**Renville County Water Resource Board**

Minutes of RCWRB Regular Meeting, January 8, 2024, held in the Community Room of the Renville County Courthouse, 205 Main Street East, Mohall, North Dakota.

Present:

Chair Peter Gates

Vice Chair Dan Steinberger

Manager Guy Solemsaas (via video conference)

Attorney Kale Van Bruggen, (via video conference)

Engineer Jennifer Malloy (via video conference)

Robin Stark, Treasurer

Meeting called to order by Chair Peter Gates at 9:00 a.m.

Chair Peter Gates called for nominations for the position of Board Chair for the 2024 year. Dan Steinberger nominated Peter Gates for Chair. Guy Solemsaas seconded the nomination. Gates called for further nominations three times. Dan Steinberger then moved to cast a unanimous ballot for Peter Gates as Board Chair and to cease all nominations. Guy Solemsaas seconded the motion. After opportunity for discussion, the motion carried by voice vote. Peter Gates abstained from voting on the motion.

Chair Peter Gates called for nominations for the position of Board Vice Chair for the 2024 year. Guy Solemsaas moved to cast a unanimous ballot for Dan Steinberger for the position of Board Vice Chair and to cease all nominations. Chair Peter Gates seconded the motion. After opportunity for discussion, the motion carried by voice vote. Dan Steinberger abstained from voting on the motion.

Manager Guy Solemsaas moved to appoint Robin Stark as Treasurer for the District. Vice Chair Dan Steinberger seconded the motion. After opportunity for discussion, the motion unanimously carried by voice vote.

Vice Chair Dan Steinberger moved to appoint Kale Van Bruggen as Secretary for the District. Manager Guy Solemsaas seconded the motion. After opportunity for discussion, the motion unanimously carried by voice vote.

Chair Peter Gates called for any corrections or additions to the agenda. Vice Chair Steinberger noted he had one letter of complaint to add to the Letters of Complaint portion of the agenda and one follow-up from previous Letters of Complaint. Hearing no other additions or corrections, the Chair declared the agenda approved as amended.

The minutes of the October 9, 2023, meeting were reviewed. Vice Chair Dan Steinberger moved to approve the October 9, 2023, meeting minutes. Manager Guy Solemsaas seconded the motion. After discussion, the motion carried.

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Treasurer Robin Stark presented the bills for approval by the Board. Vice Chair Dan Steinberger moved to approve payment of bills as presented. Manager Guy Solemsaas seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Chair Peter Gates – aye, Vice Chair Dan Steinberger – aye, Manager Guy Solemsaas – aye. Motion carried.

Treasurer Stark reported the income since the last meeting, including checking account and savings account balances and the balance of the Assessment Drain No. 1 account.

New Business: Attorney Van Bruggen (Rinke Noonan Law Firm) reviewed the membership form from the ND Water Resource District Association. Chair Gates recommended the District's general email address (rcwrb1@gmail.com) be used for the Water Resource District Manager contact. Consensus of the Board was for Robin Stark to have access to the District's general email address as a backup. Van Bruggen will send the membership form to the Association.

Souris River Joint Board: Vice Chair Dan Steinberger reported that Mouse River Park bridge public bidding yielded no bids for a third time. HDR Engineering is looking for a contractor. Chair Peter Gates will look for an operation & maintenance manual for the structures at Mouse River Park. The Board discussed inspections by the Army Corps and the ND Department of Water Resources and where the inspection reports go. Engineer Jennifer Malloy will follow up with both agencies and inquire about inspection records.

Vice Chair Dan Steinberger reported that White Ash Township is installing a box culvert on the Mouse River. The Souris River Joint Board has directed Ackerman-Estvold to prepare a proposal for universal oversight of bridges that cross the Mouse River.

Vice Chair Dan Steinberger brought a letter of complaint:

Landowner of NE¼ Section 21-158-86 & renter, Dan Steinberger, against White Ash Township regarding a crossing between NE¼ Section 21 & NW¼ Section 22, just north of the intersection of 74th Street NW and 49th Avenue NW.

Dan Steinberger reported the Complaint is that White Ash Township recently hired Farden Construction to replace the culvert crossing and the culvert on the west side of the road is higher than the lowest elevation of the road right-of-way. Steinberger reported that the Township Board Chair and Randy Edwards from Farden Construction inspected and reported that the installation was acceptable to the Township Board, but that the road and crossing is retaining water on the upstream (west) side of the road.

Chair Peter Gates reported that he spoke with representatives of the Township Board and Engineer Jennifer Malloy about the crossing. Gates did a site inspection and found that although the culvert could have been 2-3 inches lower on the inlet (west) side, the main issue is that the culvert should be lowered by another 10-12 inches to remove the water on the inlet side. However, the culvert is already at ground level on the outlet side and

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the right-of-way and field downstream would need to be maintained to make lowering the inlet side feasible.

Dan Steinberger stated the Township has the responsibility to correct issues with the crossing. Steinberger would like to see the Township go to the landowner to clean out downstream of the culvert to correct the issue.

Attorney Van Bruggen reported that the crossing is under the jurisdiction of the road authority, White Ash Township, and the District's role is limited under N.D. Century Code, section 24-06-34 to receiving notice from the township when the township plans to install or modify a culvert and to providing comment within 30 days prior to the date construction or reconstruction is to begin.

Dan Steinberger noted that he may talk to the Township and the landowner in Section 22 about maintenance in the right-of-way and on the waterway in Section 22 and then resetting the culvert.

Engineer Malloy noted that she recommends culverts be set at a grade no flatter than one-half percent and that installation start at the upstream side, not the downstream side.

No Board action will be taken at this time.

Vice Chair Dan Steinberger requested an update on the July 10, 2023, letter of complaint by Bruce Johnson against NDDOT. Steinberger reported that Johnson removed part of the berm in the Highway 28 NDDOT right-of-way. Engineer Jennifer Malloy reported that Johnson talked to the NDDOT and was told that he could get a permit and then remove the berm at his own cost.

A motion to adjourn was made by Vice Chair Dan Steinberger. The motion was seconded by Manager Guy Solemsaas. On voice vote, the motion carried. Having completed all business on the noticed and amended agenda, the Chair declared the meeting adjourned at 10:00 a.m.

Minutes approved by the Board on April 8, 2024.

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Peter Gates, Chair

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Kale R. Van Bruggen, Secretary