

Renville County Water Resource Board

Minutes of RCWRB Special Meeting, April 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

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 1:30 p.m.

Chair Peter Gates called for any corrections or additions to the agenda. Hearing no additions or corrections, the Chair declared the agenda approved as presented.

The minutes of the January 8, 2024, meeting were reviewed. Vice Chair Dan Steinberger moved to approve the January 8, 2024, meeting minutes with one amendment – on page 2, change the “Mouse River” to “Des Lacs River.” Manager Guy Solemsaas seconded the motion. After discussion, the motion carried.

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.

Old Business: none.

New Business: Engineer Jennifer Malloy (Apex Engineering) reported on her communications with the Army Corps regarding the Mouse River Park Inspection Records. The Records are provided to the Souris River Joint Board. Malloy will request the Records from the Souris River Joint Board. Older inspection records (2018 or older) were provided to Apex Engineering by HDR when the Board selected Apex Engineer as its engineering firm.

Attorney Kale Van Bruggen (Rinke Noonan, Ltd.) reported on draft bills prepared by the ND Department of Water Resources addressing procedures for stream crossing determinations, watercourse determinations, and flowage easement mitigation on surface drain permits. The Board directed Van Bruggen to monitor action on the draft bills and report back to the Board.

DRAFT/UNOFFICIAL MEETING MINUTES

Engineer Jennifer Malloy (Apex Engineering) reported on the ND Department of Water Resources and State Water Commission's request to water resource boards to identify potential water development projects, the timing of their implementation, and estimated costs for the 2025-2027 biennium Water Development Plan. Projects identified on the Water Development Plan are given priority consideration for funding. The District is not obligated to proceed with projects identified on the Plan. Malloy will resubmit existing projects on the current Water Development Plan including the Tolley Slough Outlet, the Hamlet Drain, the 7-Mile Coulee Drain, and the Calhoun-Hamerly Drain.

Souris River Joint Board: Vice Chair Dan Steinberger reported that there was no bid on the Mouse River Park bridge for a fourth time. Steinberger reported on a cost-share program that helps eliminate inadvertent water storage caused by lands inundated by the 2011 flood. A meeting was held in 2023 in Mohall and Velva. No one from Renville County signed up to participate in the program. Steinberger asked Ackerman-Estvold to identify 10-acre or large spots along the river that would qualify for the program.

Vice Chair Dan Steinberger brought a letter of complaint:

Dan Steinberger attended the White Ash Township (158-86) annual meeting and reported on several water management matters.

Steinberger requested the White Ash Township remove sediment from the Township right-of-way near the culvert in Section 22. The Township did not act.

Steinberger reported a culvert was installed in the prairie trail between the SE ¼ Section 22 and the SW ¼ of Section 23 of White Ash Township. A landowner claimed that the culvert was necessary to allow water to naturally flow across the prairie trail from west to east that was otherwise being obstructed. The culvert is submerged on the east side but not on the west side. Vice Chair Steinberger moved to authorize Jennifer Malloy to compile LiDAR data and flow direction maps and send to the Board. Manager Guy Solemsaas seconded the motion. After opportunity for discussion, the motion carried.

Steinberger reported that White Ash Township is proposing to build a berm in the 76th Street north right-of-way in the SE ¼ of Section 10. The intent is to divert the water north, away from the nearby farm site. Steinberger is going to discuss the permit statute in N.D.C.C. 61-16.1-38 with the Township Board.

No other Board action will be taken at this time.

A motion to adjourn was made by Vice Chair Steinberger. The motion was seconded by Manager Solemsaas. On voice vote, the motion carried. Having completed all business on the noticed and amended agenda, the Chair declared the meeting adjourned at 3:11 p.m.

Minutes approved by the Board on July 8, 2024.

Peter Gates, Chair

Kale R. Van Bruggen, Secretary

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