

RICHLAND-SARGENT JOINT WATER RESOURCE DISTRICT
 Richland County Courthouse, Wahpeton, ND
 July 28, 2014

The Richland-Sargent Joint Water Resource Board (RSJWRB) met July 28, 2014 at 10:00 AM at the Richland County Courthouse, Wahpeton, North Dakota.

THOSE PRESENT: Managers Richard Engst, Roger Zetocha, Lucas Siemieniowski, Arv Burvee, Robert Rostad, Don Moffet, Gary Friskop, James Haugen, Secretary-Treasurer Monica Zentgraf, Attorney Sean Fredricks, and Engineer Mike Bassingthwaite. Others present were Dwaine and Brian Baldwin, Steve Harles, Rodrick Lenz, and Cari Wefel.

The meeting was called to order by Chr. Haugen.

Minutes

A motion was made by Mgr. Engst and seconded by Mgr. Siemieniowski to approve the minutes of the February 24, 2014 meeting as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Mgr. Zetocha and seconded by Mgr. Engst to approve the minutes of the April 21, 2014 meeting as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Financial Matters

A motion was made by Mgr. Engst and seconded by Mgr. Siemieniowski to accept the February 2014 through June 2014 financial reports as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Mail

- 1) Robert Singelman- Letter regarding "Drain Tax for a Drain That Does Nothing For My Property".
- 2) Interstate Engineering- Copy of letter sent to Robert Singelman in response to Mr. Singelman's letter dated July 8, 2014. Upon review of Mail Items #1 and #2, the Managers directed Attorney Fredricks to forward a letter to Mr. Singelman in response to his letter.
- 3) Big Stone South to Ellendale (BSSE)- January newsletter

Permanent Easements

It was reported that all permanent right-of-ways have been recorded in the Sargent County Deeds Office. The Managers directed that copies of the easements be forwarded to the respective landowners.

Reconstruction/Improvement Project

Attorney Fredricks announced that the Board previously approved the extension and improvement of RS #1 and published notice in the Richland and Sargent County newspapers. He further announced the appeal period for the Board's action has expired.

Mr. Lenz spoke at this time. He stated the vote for the improvement project was overwhelmingly defeated by the people and even though the people spoke, the Board chose to move forward with the project. Guests in attendance provided opinions on many issues, including, but not limited to the Board's decision to move forward with the project, assessments, reassessment of the RS #1 district, cleaning needed on the south end of the drain, and better public communication by the Board.

A petition signed by thirteen landowners within the District was presented to the Board. "This petition.....reflects the disapproval of the Representatives on the Richland County Water Board moving forward with the RS #1 extension project. The voters have spoken. It is paramount that you conduct yourselves in a manner by which the people you represent have indicated through the overwhelming defeat of the project continuance." Mrs. Wefel told the other guests she has been attending the board meetings and the Board Members looked long and hard at how to do the project in the most cost effective and efficient manner. Mrs. Wefel spoke in favor of moving forward with the project.

Mr. Lenz suggested the Board reassess the District; the Managers stated the drainage district was reassessed in 2008. Attorney Fredricks explained that if the District takes on debt the drainage district cannot be reassessed.

Authorization to Execute Permit Applications

Engineer Bassingthwaite presented the Board with the US Army Corps of Engineers ("USACE") and ND State Water Commission ("ND SWC") permit applications. A motion was made by Mgr. Siemieniewski and seconded by Mgr. Engst authorizing Chr. Haugen to execute the USACE and ND SWC permit applications. The motion carried unanimously.

2014 Drain Assessment

At previous meetings the Managers intentions were to assess \$4 per acre on a weighted basis with \$3 earmarked for the improvement project and \$1 earmarked for other maintenance issues. Given today's discussion about a need to clean approximately two miles of the channel (southern end) it reinforces the Board's opinion that a \$4 assessment is necessary and proper. At this time a motion was made by Mgr. Engst and seconded by Mgr. Siemieniewski to set the 2014 maintenance assessment at \$4/acre on the weighted method of assessment. The motion carried unanimously.

Public Meeting

Mgr. Burvee recommended the Board consider holding a public meeting this fall to inform the people of the Board's plan. A meeting will be scheduled after harvest.

Clean Out- Southern End of Legal Drain

Consensus of the Managers was to have Engineer Bassingthwaite, Mgr. Siemieniewski, Dwaine Baldwin, and Brian Baldwin inspect the southern end of the legal drain to determine the areas in greatest need of cleaning.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Board, Chr. Haugen adjourned the meeting at 11:20 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Monica Zentgraf
Secretary

James Haugen
Chairman of the Board