

RICHLAND COUNTY WATER RESOURCE DISTRICT
Richland County Courthouse, Wahpeton, ND
March 23, 2021

The Richland County Water Resource Board ("RCWRB") met March 23, 2021 at 9:00 AM at the Richland County Courthouse.

THOSE PRESENT: Managers Clint Arndt, Arv Burvee, Mark Fahsholz, Gary Friskop, Don Moffet, Engineering Technician Justin Johnson, and Secretary-Treasurer Monica Zentgraf.

THOSE ABSENT: None

Approval of Agenda

A motion was made by Mgr. Moffet, seconded by Mgr. Fahsholz, and unanimously carried to amend the agenda to add the Proj #31 reconstruction to the meeting with Houston Engineering.

Minutes

The March 9, 2021 minutes were presented. A motion was made by Mgr. Fahsholz and seconded by Mgr. Arndt to approve the March 9, 2021 minutes as presented. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

Financial Matters

•**March 2021 Vouchers**- Vouchers for the month of March 2021 were presented for the Board's review and approval. A motion was made by Mgr. Moffet and seconded by Mgr. Friskop to approve Vouchers #18569 through #18588 and the electronic funds transfer for the IRS and Job Service North Dakota payments. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

Mail

- 1) NDSU Extension Service- Notification of March 30, 2021 annual spring Township Officers meeting. Chr. Burvee will make the presentation for the RCWRD.

Applications

Drain Tile Appls #21-014 thru #21-016 were presented to the Board. A motion was made by Mgr. Arndt and seconded by Mgr. Fahsholz to defer Drain Tile Appls #21-014 thru #21-016 pending 30 day notice to downstream landowners. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

Appl #21-014	Dale & Mary Erbes	SE1/4 Section 4, Antelope Twp
Appl #21-015	Duane & Maxine Boehning	SE1/4 Section 4, Greendale Twp
Appl #21-016	Loren & Patricia Ellefson	N1/2 Section 15, Wyndmere Twp

Appl #21-017, Red River Communications: Section 22/27, Garborg Township
A motion was made by Mgr. Fahsholz and seconded by Mgr. Friskop to defer Appl #21-017 pending review by Interstate Engineering. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

NRCS Watershed Planning

Zach Herrmann and Gabe Bladow, of Houston Engineering, met with the Board for the purpose of discussing a funding opportunity available through NRCS. NRCS recently began funding the Watershed Operations Funding Program (PL 566), which was available many years ago. This program follows the same planning requirements as the Regional Conservation Partnership Program ("RCP"), which the RCWRB is currently involved in.

Mr. Herrmann and Mr. Bladow feel that if there is a watershed issue in Richland County, this may be an opportunity to investigate and establish a solution. Final cost share for the program varies, but NRCS pays all costs except land rights, permitting, and administrative/legal for flood control.

Discussion was held regarding problems in the Swan Creek watershed. Mr. Bladow is familiar with the area and felt it would fit within the program. Consensus of the Managers was for Houston Engineering to provide a scope of work, cost estimate, and timeline for the preliminary investigation report (first step in the process). It was noted that this portion of the project would not be eligible for NRCS funding.

Proj #31 Reconstruction

A brief discussion was held regarding rights-of-way needed for the Proj #31 partial reconstruction. Mgr. Friskop has not been able to connect with Jay Miller to discuss the work proposed on the Miller property in the NE1/4 Section 28, Devillo Township. Chr. Burvee will try to contact Mr. Miller. Mr. Bladow will provide the Office with the legal descriptions for the rights-of-way so comparable sales figures can be secured from the Richland County Assessor. (RCWRD #18-022)

Mr. Herrmann and Mr. Bladow left the meeting.

Proj #66A Study

Mike Bassingthwaite, of Interstate Engineering, met with the Board at this time. Problems within the watershed as well as potential work which could be done to reduce flooding issues were discussed. The Managers reconsidered their earlier decision (March 9, 2021 meeting) to meet with the people in the assessment district, but rather to meet with only the people who would be involved with cleaning the Interstate 29 road ditches and Kube drain. After considerable discussion, the consensus was to meet with the people in the assessment district to review Interstate Engineering's watershed study and discuss options. Plans are to hold a meeting within the next three weeks. (RCWRD #20-040).

Mr. Bassingthwaite left the meeting.

Proj #95 Outlet Cleanout

Mr. Bassingthwaite returned at the request of the Managers.

The Richland County Assessor's comparable sales figures were reviewed for the cleanout the Board is contemplating at the outlet of Proj #95 located in Section 31, Ibsen Township. A meeting will be scheduled with the tenants of the two properties. (RCWRD #20-030)

Mr. Bassingthwaite left the meeting.

Legislative Update

HB 1437 was given a 6-0 "Do Pass" recommendation by the Senate Ag Committee with an amendment to remove the notification requirement for all drain tile projects under 80 acres except for those projects where the water will go to a legal assessment drain. The bill is expected to be heard on the Senate Floor this week, and if it passes, will go back to the House to either concur with the Senate amendment or it will go to Conference Committee.

SB 2208 passed on the House Floor as amended sending it back to the Senate to either concur with the House amendments or it will go to Conference Committee.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Board, Chr. Burvee adjourned the meeting at 12:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Monica Zentgraf
Monica Zentgraf
Secretary

Arv Burvee
Arv Burvee
Chairman of the Board