

RICHLAND COUNTY WATER RESOURCE DISTRICT
Richland County Courthouse, Wahpeton, ND
March 26, 2019

The Richland County Water Resource Board ("RCWRB") met March 26, 2019 at 9:00 AM at the Richland County Courthouse, Wahpeton, North Dakota.

THOSE PRESENT: Managers Arv Burvee, Gary Friskop, James Haugen, Don Moffet, Robert Rostad, Engineering Technician Justin Johnson, and Secretary-Treasurer Monica Zentgraf.

THOSE ABSENT: None

Minutes

The March 19, 2019 minutes were presented. A motion was made by Mgr. Rostad and seconded by Mgr. Burvee to approve the March 19, 2019 minutes as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Financial Matters

●Vouchers- Vouchers for the month of March 2019 were presented for the Board's review and approval. A motion was made by Mgr. Moffet and seconded by Mgr. Haugen to approve Vouchers #18013 through #18038 and the electronic funds transfers for the IRS and Job Service payments. The motion carried unanimously.

Mail:

- 1.) Big Stone South to Ellendale (BSSE)- Notification that the BSSE transmission line has been completed.
- 2.) NDSU Extension Service- Notice of annual spring Township Officers meeting scheduled for April 16, 2019. Mgr. Burvee volunteered to attend the meeting.
- 3.) MnDak Coalition- Emailed document the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources filed regarding their position on the Fargo-Moorhead Flood Diversion Project injunction. Judge Tunheim will hear arguments in April 2019.
- 4.) Interstate Engineering- Email regarding rights-of-way along Proj #41. Managers expressed concerns with the inslopes of the legal drain being farmed. Considerable discussion was held relative to installing a buffer strip to deter this practice and to keep sediment from washing into and being deposited in the channel. The Managers also discussed cleaning a portion of the channel as requested by Paul Berndt and Darin Prochnow during the March 19th meeting. After much consideration, a motion was made by Mgr. Moffet, and seconded by Mgr. Burvee, authorizing Ehlert Excavating to clean Proj #41 in the E1/2 Sections 36 and 25, Mooreton Township, and to re-establish a 16 foot buffer strip in Sections 36, 25, 24, and 13, Mooreton Township. Gary Friskop to install the buffer strip. Mgrs. Haugen, Moffet, Rostad, and Burvee voted in favor of said motion; Mgr. Friskop abstained from voting. The motion carried. A letter will be sent to the affected landowners to notify them of the work and to request them to stay outside of the buffer strip. (Berndt #18-027)

Soil Conservation District Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)

Jennifer Klostreich, of the Richland County Soil Conservation District, visited with the Managers about an RCPP project their office is involved in and to seek their support. The RCPP project is a multi-year soil health project which promotes practices to improve soil health such as reduced tillage, cover crops, conservation crop rotation, and erosion control. Incentives will be paid to farmers for conservation improvements up to a five year period. Farmers would be provided with assistance in applying correct nutrients and analyzing soil microbial activity to monitor progress; technical and educational assistance would also be available for participants. Ultimately farmers should see decreased input costs. Public benefits

include clean water and more sustainable farming, reduced soil erosion, increased wildlife habitat, and sustained or improved natural resources. The meeting concluded with a motion by Mgr. Moffet, seconded by Mgr. Burvee, to support the RCPP program. The motion carried unanimously.

Proj #1 Reconstruction

Prior to holding a conference call with Legal Counsel to discuss preparation of a written agreement between the District and the private party interest in funding a portion of the Proj #1 reconstruction, the Managers discussed the District's financial involvement and various items to be included in the agreement. Mike Bassingthwaite, of Interstate Engineering, joined the meeting and took part in the discussion. Mr. Bassingthwaite advised the Board of his updated cost estimate for the project, which is \$232,000 (excluding expenses paid to date). Board consensus was to limit the District's financial involvement to a total of \$106,000 (including expenses paid to date).

The Board subsequently held the conference call with Sean Fredricks, the District's legal counsel. Discussion included details regarding the agreement, the need for both the right-of-way to be secured and the private party's contribution deposited with the District's office prior to awarding the contractor's bid. The Managers directed Mr. Fredricks to prepare the right-of-way documents and the agreement. The Board will move forward with advertising for bids in the near future. (RCWD #17-017)

Proj #41 Buffer Strips

The Managers held a brief conversation with Mr. Fredricks about their concern with the encroachment problem on Proj #41. They are concerned with the drain filling with sediment caused by the farming practices adjacent to the channel. Mr. Fredricks explained the Board's jurisdiction under a "Right-of-Way Deed".

Mr. Bassingthwaite left the meeting.

Snow Removal from Legal Drains

Discussion was held regarding requests from individuals who desire to remove snow from the legal drains. Upon submission of an application, the Board will consider requests on a case-by-case basis.

Beaver Dams

Mr. Johnson reported contractors removed some beaver dams this past week; the remainder will be addressed after spring runoff is over.

Legislative Matters

The House Energy and Natural Resources Committee gave SB2139 (Snagging and Clearing) a 14-0 "Do Pass" recommendation. Jack Dwyer, of the North Dakota Water Users Association, recently contacted all Water Resource Districts asking them to contact their local legislators for support of SB2275 (Creation of a low-interest, long-term revolving loan fund for infrastructure investments).

Applications

A motion was made by Mgr. Moffet and seconded by Mgr. Burvee to approve Appls #19-001 and #19-002 for removal of snow from Proj #4(32) with the condition that the applicant is responsible for all damages to the legal drain. Work at applicant expense. The motion carried unanimously.

Appl #19-001

Rick Kielb

SE1/4 Sec 11, Ibsen Twp

Appl #19-002

Jeff Steger

SE1/4 Sec 8, IbsenTwp

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Board, Chr. Friskop adjourned the meeting at 12:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Monica Zentgraf
Monica Zentgraf
Secretary

Gary Friskop
Gary Friskop
Chairman of the Board