

MINUTES OF VIRTUAL / CONFERENCE CALL MEETING
RUSH RIVER WATER RESOURCE DISTRICT
ORIGINATING AT THE CASS COUNTY HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT
WEST FARGO, NORTH DAKOTA
MARCH 15, 2022

A virtual / conference call meeting of the Rush River Water Resource District was held on March 15, 2022, at 9:00 a.m.

Present were William A. Hejl, Chairman; Richard Sundberg, Manager; Jacob Gust, Manager; Carol Harbeke Lewis, Secretary-Treasurer; Nina Stone, Accountant; Melissa Maertens, Administrative Assistant; Sean M. Fredricks, Ohnstad Twichell, P.C.; Kurt Lysne, Moore Engineering, Inc.; Mike Opat, Houston Engineering, Inc.; Mary Scherling and Duane Breitling, Cass County Commissioners; and Tom Soucy, Cass County Highway Department.

Approval of agenda

It was moved by Manager Sundberg, seconded by Manager Gust and unanimously carried to approve the order of the agenda, as presented.

Minutes

It was moved by Manager Gust, seconded by Manager Sundberg and unanimously carried to approve the minutes of the February 15, 2022, meeting.

Drain No. 2 Improvement Project No. 2020-01

Kurt Lysne updated the Board on the Drain No. 2 Improvement Project No. 2020-01. The contractor will complete the project this spring. Moore Engineering, Inc. recently surveyed the berms to ensure the minimum berm design elevation.

Upper Rush Improvement District No. 78

Mr. Lysne indicated the petitioners are still collecting the additional funds needed to pursue the Upper Rush Improvement District No. 78 project.

Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCP) – Rush River Watershed

Moore Engineering, Inc. is proceeding with project design and coordinating public meetings with City of Amenia officials regarding the RCP – Rush River Watershed Plan. Final project design is due in September 2022. Mr. Lysne stated property owners where right of way is needed for the project will be updated on the status of the project soon.

2022 inspection of Rush River Water Resource District facilities

It was moved by Manager Gust and seconded by Manager Sundberg to authorize Moore Engineering, Inc. to conduct the 2022 inspection of Rush River Water Resource District facilities. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

Weed, cattail, tree and brush control

A motion was made by Manager Gust and seconded by Manager Sundberg to approve and authorize the Chairman to sign the *Agreement* with Larson Helicopters, LLC to provide aerial and ground spraying services for weed, cattail, tree and brush control for 2022. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Manager Sundberg and seconded by Manager Gust to approve the Cass County Weed Control Work Order form for spraying services regarding weed, cattail, tree and brush control for Rush River Water Resource District facilities. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

Appointment of Sheyenne River Joint Water Resource District representative and alternate representative for calendar year 2022

It was moved by Manager Gust and seconded by Chairman Hejl to appoint Richard Sundberg to serve as the Sheyenne River Joint Water Resource District representative and William A. Hejl to serve as the alternate representative for calendar year 2022. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

2023 Water Development Plan – request from the North Dakota Department of Water Resources (NDDWR) / State Water Commission to identify potential water development projects, the timing of their implementation and estimated costs

Mr. Lysne briefly discussed a list of Rush River Water Resource District projects to submit to the NDDWR for the 2023 Water Development Plan. The final list of projects to submit for the 2023 Water Development Plan will be brought to a future meeting for consideration.

Cass County Joint Water Resource District report

Manager Gust reported on acquisition of flowage easements regarding the Metro Flood Diversion Project. Mary Scherling discussed the Metro Flood Diversion Authority informational open house meeting that was held yesterday in Hickson, North Dakota, for property owners where flowage easements are needed regarding the Metro Flood Diversion Project. Commissioner Scherling noted there were many thoughtful questions and great discussions at the meeting. Additional open houses are scheduled for today in Christine, North Dakota, and tomorrow in Hickson, North Dakota.

Red River Joint Water Resource District report

The next Red River Joint Water Resource District Full Board meeting is scheduled for April 13, 2022.

Legislative updates

Discussion was held on legislative matters that impact water resource districts.

Bills

It was moved by Manager Sundberg and seconded by Manager Gust to approve the wire transfers and the electronic funds transfers, as presented. Upon roll call vote, the following Managers voted in favor: Hejl, Sundberg and Gust. The Chairman declared the motion passed.

Brewer Lake / Erie Dam - drawdown

Mr. Lysne reported drawdown of Brewer Lake has begun per the *Agreement for the Operation of Brewer Lake / Erie Dam Low-level Discharge*. The Cass County Highway Department assisted in the opening of the gate at Erie Dam.

Spring melt

Mr. Lysne discussed the most recent spring flood outlook and indicated Moore Engineering, Inc. will continue to monitor Water Resource District facilities during the spring melt.

Adjournment

There being no further business to be considered by the Board, the meeting adjourned without objection.

APPROVED:

William A. Hejl
Chairman

ATTEST:

Carol Harbeke Lewis
Secretary-Treasurer