

MINUTES OF VIRTUAL / CONFERENCE CALL MEETING
CASS COUNTY JOINT WATER RESOURCE DISTRICT
ORIGINATING AT WEST FARGO PUBLIC WORKS
810 12TH AVENUE NW, WEST FARGO, NORTH DAKOTA
MARCH 14, 2024
8:00 A.M.

A virtual / conference call meeting of the Cass County Joint Water Resource District was held on March 14, 2024, at 8:00 a.m.

Present were Rodger Olson, Maple River Water Resource District; Ken Lougheed, North Cass Water Resource District; Jacob Gust, Rush River Water Resource District; Keith Weston and Rick Steen, Southeast Cass Water Resource District; Melissa Hinkemeyer, Secretary-Treasurer; Leilei Bao, Accountant, Carolyn Fiechtner, Administrative Assistant; Sean M. Fredricks, Luke Andrud, and Katie Schmidt, Ohnstad Twichell, P.C.; Rob Stefonowicz, Larkin Hoffman; Kurt Lysne, and Brady Woodard, Moore Engineering, Inc.; Mike Opat, Houston Engineering, Inc.; Duane Breitling and Mary Scherling, Cass County Commissioners; Madeline Daudt and Jessica Warren, Metro Flood Diversion Authority; Eric Dodds, Dean Vetter and Sabrina Tusa, AE2S; Paul Barthel, Jacobs; Scott Stenger and Dale Ahlsten, ProSource Technologies, LLC; Ken Helvey and Katie Laidley, SRF Consulting Group, Inc.; Kelsey Lee, Oly Olafson and Wade Whitworth, HDR, Inc.; Doug Johnson, DKJ Appraisal LLC; Leo Richard, Stanley Township property owner; and Dane Larsen, Harwood.

Approval of agenda

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

Minutes

It was moved by Manager Lougheed and seconded by Manager Weston to approve the minutes of the February 22, 2024, meetings (two sets), as presented. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

Metro Flood Diversion Project – project updates and general topics

Paul Barthel provided an overview of the construction status of various components of the Metro Flood Diversion Project. Discussion was held on construction timelines of various portions of the Diversion Channel for the Metro Flood Diversion Project.

Manager Gust joined the meeting at this time.

Metro Flood Diversion Project – relocation and RHDP reimbursement review / approval

It was moved by Manager Steen and seconded by Manager Weston to approve the following relocation and replacement housing payments regarding the Metro Flood

Diversion Project:

- OIN 2014 for Brett and Heidi Odegaard, as outlined in the letter dated March 7, 2024
- OINs 1112 and 1113 for Terry and Kristie Sauvageau, as outlined in the letter dated March 8, 2024
- OINs 1112 and 1113 for Joseph and Jolene Sauvageau, as outlined in the letter dated March 8, 2024

Upon roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

Metro Flood Diversion Project – Temporary Construction Easement (TCE) extension letters

Dean Vetter discussed proposed extensions of *Temporary Construction Easements* on OINs 8678X and 9744X through June 15, 2029, regarding the Metro Flood Diversion Project.

It was moved by Manager Steen and seconded by Manager Weston to approve the *Temporary Construction Easement* extensions on OINs 8678X and 9744X through June 15, 2029, regarding the Metro Flood Diversion Project and authorize the Secretary-Treasurer to send a letter with payment to the property owners. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

Metro Flood Diversion Project – Berlin Township and Harwood Township plats

Eric Dodds discussed the FMD-Berlin Subdivision and FMD-Harwood Subdivision plats regarding the Metro Flood Diversion Project. The Metro Flood Diversion Authority is in the process of platting all lands that will permanently be required for the Project. Mr. Dodds noted the plan for platting the Storm Water Diversion Channel and Associated Infrastructure of the Metro Flood Diversion Project is to plat property in each of the associated townships following the Cass County Subdivision Ordinance.

Following discussion, it was moved by Manager Weston and seconded by Manager Loughheed to approve and authorize the Chairman to sign the FMD-Berlin Subdivision and FMD-Harwood Subdivision plats. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

Utility Easement for Cass County Electric Cooperative in the SE 1/4 of Section 12 in Warren Township (OINs 233, 235)

Manager Gust moved to approve and authorize the Chairman to sign the *Utility Easement* for Cass County Electric Cooperative in the SE 1/4 of Section 12 in Warren Township (OINs 233, 235) regarding the Metro Flood Diversion Project. Manager Loughheed seconded the motion. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

Regional Conservation Partnership Program

Kurt Lysne briefly reported on the RCPP – Rush River Watershed Plan. Discussions continue with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and the City of Amenia on the final levee alignment and project plans.

Mr. Lysne next reported on the RCPP – Upper Maple River Watershed Plan. The NRCS

continues to work on finalizing the Plan.

Maple River Dam – 2024 Lease Agreements

Manager Steen moved to approve and authorize the Chairman to sign the *Lease Agreements* with Steven Fleischfresser and Dean Sprunk for 2024 regarding the Maple River Dam. Manager Weston seconded the motion. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

Metro Flood Diversion Project – acquisition review / approval – Offutt/Brandt amended Complaint

It was moved by Manager Steen and seconded by Manager Lougheed to amend the motion from the February 22, 2024, meeting to approve and authorize a deposit of \$4,089,378.46 for OINs 809, 830, 846, 1883 and 9348 regarding the Metro Flood Diversion Project. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

Bills

It was moved by Manager Steen and seconded by Manager Lougheed to approve payment of Checks #15311 through #15315, and the wire transfers, as presented. Upon roll call vote, the following Managers voted in favor: Olson, Lougheed, Gust, Steen and Weston. The Chairman declared the motion passed.

Weed control – spotted hemlock

Discussion was held on control of spotted hemlock on Water Resource District properties, as the plant is now on the Cass County noxious weeds list. Spotted hemlock has been found in several areas around the county.

Cass County Highway Department renovations

The Secretary reported the Cass County Highway Department renovations are complete. All Water Resource District meetings will be held in the new conference rooms at the Cass County Highway Department starting next week.

Adjournment

There being no further business to be considered by the Board, it was moved by Manager Steen, seconded by Manager Weston, and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting.

APPROVED:

Rodger Olson
Chairman

ATTEST:

Melissa Hinkemeyer
Secretary-Treasurer