

MINUTES OF VIRTUAL / CONFERENCE CALL MEETING
NORTH CASS WATER RESOURCE DISTRICT
ORIGINATING AT THE CASS COUNTY HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT
WEST FARGO, NORTH DAKOTA
FEBRUARY 27, 2024
8:00 A.M.

A virtual / conference call meeting of the North Cass Water Resource District was held on February 27, 2024, at 8:00 a.m.

Present were Ken Lougheed, Chairman; Robert Thompson, Manager; Melissa Hinkemeyer, Secretary-Treasurer; Leilei Bao, Accountant; Carolyn Fiechtner, Administrative Assistant; Sean M. Fredricks, Ohnstad Twichell, P.C.; Duane Breitling, Cass County Commissioner; Kurt Lysne, Alexa Ducioame and Brady Woodard, Moore Engineering, Inc.; Duane Breitling, Cass County Commissioner; Blaine Laaveg, Cass County Highway Department; and Stan Wolf, Cass County Weed Control.

Approval of Agenda and Minutes

It was moved by Manager Thompson, seconded by Chairman Lougheed and unanimously carried to approve the order of the agenda and the minutes of January 23, 2024, meeting as presented.

Drain #23 – right of way

Alexa Ducioame reported that Moore Engineering, Inc. is currently working on the legal descriptions regarding right of way along Drain #23.

Brady Woodard reported that he continues reaching out to property owners regarding right of way along Drain #23. Mr. Woodard indicated one property owner is donating right of way regarding Drain #23. Talks continue with property owners.

Drain No. 26 Improvements 2023

Alexa Ducioame discussed the preliminary plans for the Drain No. 26 Improvements 2023 project. The project will establish an improved channel grade and lay back the side slopes for increased slope stability. Moore Engineering, Inc. also recommends constructing a rock chute at the outlet to help reduce erosion. Discussion was held on the estimated cost of the project, including potentially phasing out the project.

Discussion was held on potentially combining the Drain #26 maintenance assessment district with the Drain #13 maintenance assessment district as Drain #26 and Drain #13 share the same outlet. The Board directed Moore Engineering, Inc. to reach out to the Rush River Water Resource District to discuss the possibility of combining Rush River Water Resource District and North Cass Water Resource District legal assessment drains with a shared outlet and schedule a follow-up joint meeting with Rush River Water Resource District.

Cass County Weed Control work order

Stan Wolf, Cass County Weed Control, discussed the Spotted Hemlock identification within Cass County and the efforts involved in the *Cass County Weed Control Work Order*.

After discussion, a motion was made by Manager Thompson and seconded by Chairman Loughheed to approve and authorize the Chairman to sign the *Cass County Weed Control Work Order* for spraying services regarding weed, cattail, tree and brush control for North Cass Water Resource District facilities. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

North Dakota Department of Water Resources (NDDWR) 2025-2027 Water Development Plan

Kurt Lysne briefly discussed a letter from the NDDWR regarding the identification of potential water development projects, the timing of their implementation and estimated costs for inclusion in the 2025-2027 Water Development Plan. A list of potential North Cass Water Resource District projects to submit to the NDDWR for the 2025-2027 Water Development Plan will be brought to a future meeting for consideration.

North Dakota Red Tape Reduction initiative

The Secretary reported the State sent a notice solicitating input to reduce red tape regulation in North Dakota. The Red Tape Reduction initiative aims to eliminate unnecessary and outdated regulation, rules, policies and procedures to make government more efficient and effective. The Secretary stated through the Cass County Joint Water Resource District comments were submitted to the State regarding the Red Tape Reduction initiative, with the assistance of the Water Resource District Attorney and Engineer.

Bills

It was moved by Manager Thompson and seconded by Chairman Loughheed to approve the payment of the wire transfers and electronic funds transfers, as presented. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

Adjournment

There being no further business to be considered by the Board, Manager Thompson motioned, and Chairman Lougheed seconded to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

APPROVED:

Ken Lougheed
Chairman

ATTEST:

Melissa Hinkemeyer
Secretary-Treasurer