

MINUTES OF VIRTUAL / CONFERENCE CALL MEETING
NORTH CASS WATER RESOURCE DISTRICT
ORIGINATING AT THE CASS COUNTY HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT
WEST FARGO, NORTH DAKOTA
MARCH 26, 2024
8:00 A.M.

A virtual / conference call meeting of the North Cass Water Resource District was held on March 26, 2024, at 8:00 a.m.

Present were Ken Lougheed, Chairman; Robert Thompson, Manager; Jay Colwell, Manager; Melissa Hinkemeyer, Secretary-Treasurer; Carolyn Fiechtner, Administrative Assistant; Sean M. Fredricks, Ohnstad Twichell, P.C.; Kurt Lysne, Alexa Ducioame, and Brady Woodard, Moore Engineering, Inc.; Kyle Litchy, Cass County Highway Department; and Kent Severson, Gardner resident.

Approval of Agenda and Minutes

It was moved by Manager Thompson, seconded by Manager Colwell and unanimously carried to approve the order of the agenda and the minutes of the February 27, 2024, meeting, as presented.

Drain #23 – right of way

Brady Woodard reported he continues reaching out to property owners regarding right of way along Drain #23. All property owners have been contacted and Mr. Woodard indicated one property owner has agreed to donate right of way regarding Drain #23. Kurt Lysne inquired if the right of way discussions included fee title or easement acquisition. Mr. Woodard confirmed that the discussions with property owners involved fee title acquisition of right of way along Drain #23.

Drain #23 – damaged culverts in the NE 1/4 of Section 8 in Gardner Township

Brady Woodard stated the property owner in the NE 1/4 of Section 8 in Gardner Township reported two 30” culverts that are damaged and in need of replacement regarding Drain #23. The Board discussed repair options.

After discussion, the Board directed Moore Engineering to investigate whether the two damaged 30” culverts in the NE 1/4 of Section 8 in Gardner Township regarding Drain #23 are properly sized and bring the information to a future meeting for further discussion on the matter.

Drain No. 26 Improvements 2023 project

Alexa Ducioame discussed the cost estimate for the Drain No. 26 Improvements 2023 project. The cost estimate exceeds the drain’s funding ability. Ms. Ducioame said discussions of combining assessment districts with Rush River Water Resource District legal assessment drains that outlet into Drain #13 were held at the recent Rush River

Water Resource District meeting. A meeting of the North Cass – Rush River Joint Water Resource District will be scheduled to further discuss the topic.

Mr. Lysne suggested the Drain No. 26 Improvements 2023 project be removed from the agenda until discussions are held with the joint board. The Board agreed.

Cass County Planning – Voigt Subdivision

Manager Colwell moved and Manager Thompson seconded to authorize the Secretary to submit comment on the Voigt Subdivision application to Cass County Planning, with input from the Water Resource District Engineer. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

Cass County Flood Sales Tax – request for projects

The Secretary discussed a letter received from the Cass County Commission requesting flood risk reduction projects for Cass County Flood Sales Tax funding consideration. Mr. Lysne indicated he is not aware of any new North Cass Water Resource District projects to submit for Cass County Flood Sales Tax funding consideration at this time.

Manager Thompson left the meeting at this time.

North Dakota Department of Water Resources 2025-2027 Water Development Plan

Mr. 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 draft list of potential North Cass Water Resource District projects was discussed, and a final list will be brought to the April meeting for consideration.

Costello Drain

Chairman Lougheed reported property owners remain interested in potentially pursuing Costello Drain becoming a legal assessment drain. Interested property owners are encouraged to contact the Water Resource District to request the Board begin the process to convert Costello Drain into a legal assessment drain.

North Dakota Insurance Reserve Fund – annual meeting

The Secretary discussed a letter from the North Dakota Insurance Reserve Fund providing notice of the annual meeting.

A motion was made by Manager Colwell and seconded by Chairman Lougheed to authorize the Secretary-Treasurer to sign and return the North Dakota Insurance Reserve Fund proxy for North Cass Water Resource District. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously. Manager Thompson was absent from the vote.

Bills

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

Cass County Highway Department 2025 crossing replacements on legal assessment drains

Kyle Litchy reported to the Board upcoming crossing replacements on legal assessment drains in North Cass Water Resource District that the Cass County Highway Department will be working on in 2025:

- Drain #16 crossing in Section 1 of Kinyon Township / Section 6 Noble Township
- Drain #19 crossing in Section 25 in Kinyon Township / Section 30 in Noble Township

Mr. Litchy noted the Cass County Highway Department is currently waiting on hydraulic reports to know what size crossings will be needed.

Adjournment

There being no further business to be considered by the Board, it was moved by Manager Colwell, seconded by Chairman Lougheed, and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting. Manager Thompson was absent from the vote.

APPROVED:

Ken Lougheed
Chairman

ATTEST:

Melissa Hinkemeyer
Secretary-Treasurer