

MINUTES OF VIRTUAL / CONFERENCE CALL MEETING
RUSH RIVER WATER RESOURCE DISTRICT
ORIGINATING AT THE CASS COUNTY HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT
WEST FARGO, NORTH DAKOTA
APRIL 19, 2022

A virtual / conference call meeting of the Rush River Water Resource District was held on April 19, 2022, at 8:00 a.m.

Present were William A. Hejl, Chairman; Jacob Gust, Manager; Carol Harbeke Lewis, Secretary-Treasurer; Melissa Maertens, Administrative Assistant; Sean M. Fredricks and Katie J. Schmidt, Ohnstad Twichell, P.C.; Kurt Lysne, Alexa Ducioame and Brady Woodard, Moore Engineering, Inc.; Mike Opat, Houston Engineering, Inc.; Mary Scherling and Duane Breitling, Cass County Commissioners; Kris Bakkegard, Diversion Authority Director of Engineering; and Tom Soucy, Cass County Highway Department. Manager Richard Sundberg was absent.

Approval of agenda

It was moved by Manager Gust, seconded by Chairman Hejl and unanimously carried to approve the order of the agenda, as amended.

Minutes

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

Drain No. 2 Improvement Project No. 2020-01

Kurt Lysne updated the Board on Drain No. 2 Improvement Project No. 2020-01. The contractor will complete the project this spring. Brady Woodard noted the roadway over the box culverts needs to be recompact as soon as conditions are favorable. The contractor placed temporary signs in the project area for increased safety.

Drain #29 – Metro Flood Diversion Project tie-in

Mr. Lysne and Kris Bakkegard discussed the Metro Flood Diversion Project tie-in to Drain #29 in Section 2 of Harwood Township. The Metro Flood Diversion Project tie-in can be located on either Water Resource District property for Drain #29 or Metro Flood Diversion Project right of way. If the tie-in is located on Water Resource District property, the Water Resource District could construct future modifications to Drain #29 with no federal permit requirements. Following discussion, the Chairman tabled the matter until the next meeting to allow more time for review of the options presented.

Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) – Rush River Watershed

Mr. Lysne stated Moore Engineering, Inc. is working on adjustments to project design in response to feedback from recently held public meetings with City of Amenia officials, the North Dakota Department of Transportation and the Cass County Highway Department regarding the RCPP – Rush River Watershed Plan design. Further discussion was held on the project design. Final project design is due in September 2022.

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 discussed a list of Rush River Water Resource District projects to submit to the NDDWR for the 2023 Water Development Plan. It was moved by Manager Gust and seconded by Chairman Hejl to authorize Moore Engineering, Inc. to submit the list of Rush River Water Resource District projects to the NDDWR for the 2023 Water Development Plan. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

Cass County Joint Water Resource District report

Manager Gust reported the groundbreaking ceremony for construction of the Diversion Channel and Associated Infrastructure of the Metro Flood Diversion Project is currently scheduled for August 2022.

Red River Joint Water Resource District (RRJWRD) report

Sean Fredricks reported the RRJWRD approved cost-share for the Elm River Dam No. 1 and Elm River Dam No. 2 Improvements Project at their meeting on April 13, 2022. Mr. Fredricks also updated the Board on legislative matters that impact water resource districts.

Kurt Lysne discussed the Basinwide Funding Plan, a potential pilot project for funding water conveyance projects in the Red River Basin through the RRJWRD. Houston Engineering, Inc. will be surveying member water resource districts to compile data regarding upcoming water conveyance projects to include in the Basinwide Funding Plan. Information from the water resource districts is due May 20, 2022.

North Dakota Insurance Reserve Fund – proxy for annual meeting

A motion was made by Manager Gust and seconded by Chairman Hejl to authorize the Secretary-Treasurer to sign and return the North Dakota Insurance Reserve Fund proxy for Rush River Water Resource District. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

Letter of engagement to the Office of the State Auditor for 2021 audit services

A motion was made by Manager Gust and seconded by Chairman Hejl to approve the letter of engagement to the Office of the State Auditor for 2021 audit services for Rush River Water Resource District. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

Bills

It was moved by Manager Gust 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 and Gust. Manager Sundberg was absent. The Chairman declared the motion passed.

Notice regarding Water Permit Application No. 7215 for David Thompson in the W 1/2 of Section 22 in Rich Township

The Board briefly discussed the NDDWR Notice regarding *Water Permit Application No. 7215* for David Thompson in the W 1/2 of Section 22 in Rich Township. The Board directed the Secretary-Treasurer to inform the NDDWR they had no comment to submit on the application.

Sheyenne River Joint Water Resource District report

The Sheyenne River Joint Water Resource District did not have a quorum at their April 5, 2022, meeting. Mike Opat reported Barnes County Water Resource District's proposed project will be brought to the RRJWRD for further discussion instead of the Sheyenne River Joint Water Resource District and will be submitted to the NDDWR for the 2023 Water Development Plan. The next meeting of the Sheyenne River Joint Water Resource District will be held on April 27, 2022.

Cass County Flood Sales Tax Committee (CCFSTC) meeting

Discussion was held on the CCFSTC meeting held on April 18, 2022. Mary Scherling noted there is a significant increase in the number of projects requesting funding and projects are being funded based on the current funds available. A higher percentage of funding was approved for some projects. Brief discussion was held on potential CCFSTC cost-share for the RCPP – Rush River Watershed project.

Summit Carbon Solutions pipeline

Manager Gust briefly reported on the Summit Carbon Solutions carbon dioxide pipeline project in North Dakota that is being constructed to capture and store carbon dioxide.

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