

MINUTES OF VIRTUAL / CONFERENCE CALL MEETING
RUSH RIVER WATER RESOURCE DISTRICT
ORIGINATING AT THE CASS COUNTY HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT
WEST FARGO, NORTH DAKOTA
MAY 17, 2022

A virtual / conference call meeting of the Rush River Water Resource District was held on May 17, 2022, at 8:00 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, Alexa Ducioame and Brady Woodard, 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 Chairman Hejl and unanimously carried to approve the order of the agenda, as amended.

Minutes

It was moved by Manager Sundberg, seconded by Chairman Hejl and unanimously carried to approve the minutes of the April 19, 2022, meeting.

Manager Gust joined the meeting at this time.

Drain No. 2 Improvement Project No. 2020-01

Kurt Lysne updated the Board on Drain No. 2 Improvement Project No. 2020-01. The contractor is waiting for the water to recede before finishing the project. Discussion was held on the condition of the roadway over the box culverts. Repairs will be made to the crossing as soon as conditions allow. Brady Woodard noted the contractor placed temporary signs in the project area for increased safety. The Board directed Mr. Woodard to communicate with the contractor that the roadway will need to be improved as soon as conditions allow.

Drain #29 – Metro Flood Diversion Project tie-in

Discussion was held on the Metro Flood Diversion Project tie-in to Drain #29 in Section 2 of Harwood Township. Sean Fredricks and Kurt Lysne will contact Kris Bakkegaard, Diversion Authority Director of Engineer, regarding any updates on the matter. Mr. Fredricks said an amendment will likely be added to the *Memorandum of Understanding* with the Diversion Authority regarding the matter.

Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) – Rush River Watershed

Mr. Lysne stated Moore Engineering, Inc. continues to work on adjustments to project design in response to feedback from 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.

Red River Joint Water Resource District (RRJWRD) Basinwide Plan Development – Project Inventory Request Form

Mr. Lysne discussed the Red River Basinwide Plan, a potential pilot project for funding water conveyance projects in the Red River Basin through the RRJWRD. Houston Engineering, Inc. is surveying member water resource districts to collect data regarding upcoming water conveyance projects in the Basin and will compile the information into the Basinwide Plan.

It was moved by Manager Gust and seconded by Manager Sundberg to authorize Moore Engineering, Inc. to submit information on the upcoming Rush River Water Resource District water conveyance projects to Houston Engineering, Inc. to be compiled into the Red River Basinwide Plan. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

Cass County Joint Water Resource District report

Manager Gust reported right of way acquisition for the Metro Flood Diversion Project is ongoing. 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

Manager Sundberg reported on the RRJWRD Full Board meeting held on April 13, 2022. Sean Fredricks also updated the Board on legislative matters discussed at the RRJWRD meeting that impact water resource districts.

Bills

It was moved by Manager Gust and seconded by Manager Sundberg 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.

Rush River / Drain #12 – erosion at the confluence with the Sheyenne River

Manager Sundberg reported on erosion from the recent rain events at the confluence of the Rush River and Sheyenne River between Sections 28 and 29 of Harwood Township. The erosion is also on the shoulder of 170th Avenue SE and encroaching onto the roadway. Mr. Lysne indicated it appears the damage is within the limits of the federal Drain #12 project and cost-share may be available for repairs through the State Water Commission. The Board directed Moore Engineering, Inc. to inspect the erosion site when the water recedes to assess any damages. Manager Sundberg indicated he will communicate with Harwood Township that the Water Resource District will inspect the area and determine the next steps following the inspection.

Swan Creek – sound wall

Chairman Hejl said property owners have expressed concern about noise on the southwest side of the City of Casselton. He discussed an idea about the possibility of constructing a sound wall that may potentially be located along Water Resource District right of way for Swan Creek. Brief discussion was held on the topic. Property owners will need to approach the City of Casselton if they would like to further explore the idea.

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