

MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING
CASS COUNTY JOINT WATER RESOURCE DISTRICT
MOORE ENGINEERING, INC.
WEST FARGO, NORTH DAKOTA
MAY 30, 2023

The Cass County Joint Water Resource District met on May 30, 2023, at 10:00 a.m. at Moore Engineering, Inc. in West Fargo, North Dakota.

Present were Keith Weston and Rick Steen, Southeast Cass Water Resource District; Jacob Gust, Rush River Water Resource District; Carol Harbeke Lewis, Secretary-Treasurer; Melissa Hinkemeyer, Administrative Assistant; Kurt Lysne, Josh Hassell, Pat Downs and Jessica Martin, Moore Engineering, Inc.; Mike Opat, Houston Engineering, Inc.; Christi Fischer, Rita Harmsen-Sveen and Jonathan Petersen, Natural Resources Conservation Service; Emilee Lachenmeier, North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality; Andrea Travnicek and Randy Gjestvang, North Dakota Department of Water Resources; Monte D. Deis, North Dakota Department of Transportation; Duane Breitling, Cass County Commissioner; Aaron and Marilyn Henderson and Carol Petersen, Barnes County property owners.

Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) - Upper Maple River Watershed public scoping / plan update meeting

Pat Downs welcomed everyone to the RCPP - Upper Maple River Watershed public scoping / plan update meeting and introductions were made. Christi Fischer stated the purpose of the meeting is to re-conduct the initial public scoping meeting as the RCPP – Upper Maple River Watershed Plan is now required to proceed through the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Environmental Impact Statement process rather than the previously-conducted Environmental Assessment process. Ms. Fischer presented a summary of the RCPP – Upper Maple River Watershed planning process to-date and discussed the goals and objectives of the Plan, including flood damage and nutrient reduction. Through the planning process, project alternatives were identified and evaluated. One project alternative, alternative #2A, remains in the Plan. Discussion was held on the currently planned design features of alternative #2A.

Rita Harmsen-Sveen next discussed the National Environmental Policy Act responsibilities and initial scoping concerns regarding the RCPP – Upper Maple River Watershed Plan such as soil erosion, water quality, plant and animal habitats and human environmental matters.

A comment form regarding this meeting has been posted on the Cass County Joint Water Resource District website. Comments can be submitted to the Cass County Joint Water Resource District, the NRCS, or at www.regulations.gov and will be accepted for all forms postmarked by July 17, 2023.

Additional discussion was held on the currently planned design features of alternative #2A of the RCPP – Upper Maple River Watershed Plan. Discussion was held on a potential meeting with impacted property owners on-site to discuss the preliminary plans for alternative #2A of the RCPP – Upper Maple River Watershed Plan. The Board directed Moore Engineering, Inc. to coordinate with the NRCS to schedule a meeting with impacted property owners on-site of alternative #2A of the RCPP – Upper Maple River Watershed Plan.

A recording of the meeting along with related information presented at the meeting is on file in the Cass County Joint Water Resource District office.

Adjournment

There being no further business to be considered by the Board, the meeting adjourned without objection.

APPROVED:

Rodger Olson
Chairman

ATTEST:

Carol Harbeke Lewis
Secretary-Treasurer