

MINUTES OF THE RUSH RIVER WATER RESOURCE DISTRICT MEETING
ORIGINATING AT THE CASS COUNTY HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT
HERITAGE CONFERENCE ROOM
WEST FARGO, NORTH DAKOTA
FEBRUARY 18, 2025
9:00 A.M.

A meeting of the Rush River Water Resource District was held on February 18, 2025, at 9:00 a.m.

Present were William A. Hejl, Chairman; Richard Sundberg, Manager; Jacob Gust, Manager; Melissa Hinkemeyer, Director, Secretary-Treasurer; Amy Hepper, Accountant; Elizabeth Smith, Administrative Assistant; Rita Nelson, Accounting Assistant; Sean M. Fredricks and David C. Piper, Ohnstad Twichell, P.C.; Alexa Ducioame, Levi Hanson, Kelly Olson, and Brady Woodard, Moore Engineering, Inc.; Mike Opat, Houston Engineering, Inc.; Duane Breitling, Cass County Commissioner; and Tom Fuchs, Metro Flood Diversion Authority.

Approval of agenda

It was moved by Manager Sundberg and seconded by Manager Gust to approve the order of the agenda, as presented. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

Minutes

It was moved by Manager Sundberg and seconded by Manager Gust to approve the minutes of the January 21, 2025, meeting, as presented. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

Metro Flood Diversion Project – Rush River, Lower Rush River (Drain #2), and Drain #30 transitions

Brady Woodard reported that the P3 developer for the Metro Flood Diversion Project has completed construction of their portion of the Drain #30 transition. The Water Resource District portion of the Drain #30 transition will begin when weather allows.

Tom Fuchs reported construction progress has slowed due to the weather. No bridges or drain inlets are open at this time. The Red River Control Structure is working on hanging the final gate on the structure and the Highway 81 bridge has a completion goal of 2025.

Alexa Ducioame reported that Moore Engineering, Inc. is nearly ready to submit permit applications for the Lower Rush River and Rush River transitions. The Rush River transition project will go through the bidding process.

Rush River / Lower Rush River – Future bridge replacements and flattening side slopes

Ms. Ducioame updated the board on the funding for the Rush River and Lower Rush River future bridge replacements and flattening side slopes. Ms. Ducioame stated Moore Engineering, Inc. will prepare a cost-share application for the project when the funding is finalized.

Rush River / Lower Rush River – Siebels Third Subdivision

Sean Fredricks reported that the Board is waiting to sign the partial release of easement until the Board is reimbursed for Water Resource District incurred expenses regarding the matter.

Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) – Rush River Watershed

Ms. Ducioame reported that Moore Engineering, Inc. met with the Department of Water Resources (DWR) to discuss the Application to Construct for the RCPP – Rush River Watershed project. Moore Engineering, Inc. also met with FEMA to discuss the modeling needed for the CLOMR.

Legislative updates

Mr. Fredricks reported on legislative items that impact the water resource districts including cost-share percentages, economic analyses, and an interim study regarding watershed districts.

Cass County Joint Water Resource District (CCJWRD) report

Manager Gust reported that the CCJWRD is continuing to acquire flowage easements for the Metro Flood Diversion Project. Manager Gust also reported on a dispute between the Metro Flood Diversion Authority and the P3 developer regarding the Metro Flood Diversion Project.

Chairman Hejl noted Jason Benson the former Cass County Engineer was hired as the new Executive Director of the Metro Flood Diversion Authority. The Board indicated they would like to invite the new Cass County Engineer to a future meeting.

Red River Joint Water Resource District (RRJWRD) report

Manager Sundberg stated that the next RRJWRD full board meeting is scheduled for April 9, 2025.

Bills

It was moved by Manager Sundberg 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, Sundberg, and Gust. The motion carried unanimously.

March Meeting

Discussion was held on the date of the March meeting.

A motion was made by Manager Gust and seconded by Manager Sundberg to move the next Rush River Water Resource District meeting to March 17, 2025. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

Adjournment

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

APPROVED:

William A. Hejl
Chairman

ATTEST:

Melissa Hinkemeyer
Secretary