

MINUTES OF MEETING
CASS COUNTY JOINT WATER RESOURCE DISTRICT
CASS COUNTY HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT
WEST FARGO, NORTH DAKOTA
MARCH 27, 2014

The Cass County Joint Water Resource District met on March 27, 2014, at 8:00 a.m. at the Cass County Highway Department, West Fargo, North Dakota.

Present were Mark Brodshaug (by phone) and Dan Jacobson, Southeast Cass Water Resource District; Rodger Olson, Maple River Water Resource District; Michael R. Buringrud, North Cass Water Resource District; Raymond Wolfer, Rush River Water Resource District; Carol Harbeke Lewis, Secretary-Treasurer; Brittany C. Moen, Administrative Assistant; Sean M. Fredricks, Chris McShane and Lukas D. Andrud, Attorneys for the Board; Lee Beauvais and Chad Engels, Engineers for the Board; Jacob Gust, Sheyenne-Maple Flood Control District #1 Superintendent; Eric Dodds and Rocky Schneider, Advanced Engineering and Environmental Services, Inc.; Jason Benson, Cass County Engineer; and Pat Downs, Red River Retention Authority.

Manager Olson called the meeting to order.

Minutes

It was moved by Manager Buringrud and seconded by Manager Jacobson to approve the minutes of the March 13, 2014, meeting, as presented. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

Approval of agenda

It was moved by Manager Jacobson and seconded by Manager Wolfer to approve the order of the agenda, as amended. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

Metro Flood Diversion Project – access update

Lee Beauvais displayed a map of all parcels that access will be required to for the Metro Flood Diversion Project. The data base of all right-of-entry required along the southern alignment has been completed by the Houston-Moore Group, LLC and letters and agreements will be sent to landowners in the middle of April.

Cultural survey work will take place soon on the Wild Rice Dam removal / rehabilitation.

Chris McShane summarized the discussion from a conference call with the Corps of Engineers on Tuesday and reported that access on the Minnesota side of the project is a priority.

The Board discussed crop damage payments. Manager Olson would like a set amount to be established by Pifer's Land Management for the Board's consideration.

Metro Flood Diversion Project – project update

Eric Dodds said the Water Resources Reform and Development Act (WRRDA) bill will be acted on in late April.

The Minnesota Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is ongoing. Mr. Dodds reported that the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is working closely with the Corps of Engineers and has indicated a desire to get back on schedule.

The physical model of the Maple River aqueduct has been constructed and is undergoing testing in Rosemount, Minnesota. Plans are underway for an open house to see the model sometime in August.

Metro Flood Diversion Project – land acquisition

Mr. Dodds updated the Board on issues regarding land acquisition for the Metro Flood Diversion Project. He said the appraisal process on properties for the in-town levees is underway and access to 7 additional properties will be required.

The appraisal process of residential properties for the Oxbow-Hickson-Bakke Subdivision Ring Levee Project is ongoing. Mr. Dodds said initial contact with a few property owners remains. Houston-Moore Group, LLC and the appraisers are working to put together information for a potential meeting with residents of Oxbow regarding the acquisition process. The draft appraisals on the Oxbow Country Club and Golf Course have been submitted and are still in review.

Jason Benson discussed the possibility of establishing grass seed stock needed for the Metro Flood Diversion Project. Mr. Beauvais said the seed is not readily available and no one has made a commitment to suppliers to grow the seed needed. *Save the Hens* has contacted Mr. Beauvais for background information. The right location would need to be identified, which could include other land owned by the Water Resource District. Mr. Benson said a *Request for Proposals* would need to be published. Chairman Brodshaug cautioned the Board about pursuing this until they have been authorized to do so or knowing what is needed.

Lukas Andrud presented information regarding farmland acquisitions for the Board's review.

It was moved by Manager Jacobson and seconded by Manager Wolfer that a previously approved *Purchase Agreement* include 2 separate parcels; one in the SW 1/4 of Section 11 and the other in the NW 1/4 of Section 14 in Raymond Township. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Andrud said Pifer's Land Management is developing a flex rent form to be used. It will be submitted to the Board for their review when it is complete.

Mr. Dodds distributed a *Letter Agreement* between Cass County Joint Water Resource District and Advanced Engineering and Environmental Services, Inc. (AE2S) regarding assessment district development and implementation services including an updated scope of services and 2014 hourly fee and expense schedule for the Board's review and consideration.

It was moved by Manager Buringrud and seconded by Manager Jacobson to approve and authorize the Chairman to sign the *Letter Agreement* with AE2S regarding assessment district development and implementation services. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

Flood risk reduction / development of retention projects

Chad Engels distributed a draft presentation schedule regarding the upcoming meetings on the development of retention projects on Tuesday, April 8, at the Governors' Inn in Casselton. The Board discussed the importance of emphasizing the meetings are for the development of projects that will benefit rural and agricultural communities in the Rush River, Buffalo and Swan Creek watersheds. Mr. Engels will send a draft PowerPoint presentation on the issue to the Board for further review and comments.

Reimbursement request #26 from the City of Fargo from funds administered by the State Water Commission, pursuant to SB 2020

It was moved by Manager Buringrud and seconded by Manager Jacobson to approve reimbursement request #26 from the City of Fargo from funds administered by the State Water Commission, pursuant to SB 2020. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

Bills

It was moved by Manager Jacobson and seconded by Manager Wolfer to approve payment of Checks #11178 and #11179, as presented. Upon roll call vote the following Managers voted in favor: Olson, Jacobson, Buringrud, Wolfer and Brodshaug. Motion passed.

Adjournment

There being no further business for the Board to consider, it was moved by Manager Buringrud, seconded by Manger Wolfer and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting.

APPROVED:

Mark Brodshaug
Chairman

ATTEST:

Carol Harbeke Lewis
Secretary-Treasurer