

MINUTES OF MEETING
CASS COUNTY JOINT WATER RESOURCE DISTRICT
CASS COUNTY HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT
WEST FARGO, NORTH DAKOTA
APRIL 24, 2014

The Cass County Joint Water Resource District met on April 24, 2014, at 8:00 a.m. at the Cass County Highway Department, West Fargo, North Dakota.

Present were Mark Brodshaug 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 and Pamela Graff Corbin, Water Resource District staff; Sean M. Fredricks, Chris McShane and Lukas D. Andrud, Attorneys for the Board; Lee Beauvais, Chad Engels and Kurt Lysne, Engineers for the Board; Jacob Gust, Sheyenne-Maple Flood Control District #1 Superintendent; Eric Dodds, Advanced Engineering and Environmental Services, Inc.; Bruce Spiller and Ty Smith, CH2M HILL Engineers, Inc.

Minutes

It was moved by Manager Olson and seconded by Manager Wolfer to approve the minutes of the April 10, 2014, meeting, as amended. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

It was moved by Manager Jacobson and seconded by Manager Buringrud to approve the minutes of the April 4, April 8 and April 10, 2014, meetings, as presented. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

Approval of agenda

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

Metro Flood Diversion Project – access update

Chris McShane said letters and agreements have been sent to landowners regarding right-of-entry for the Metro Flood Diversion Project. Mr. McShane explained that surveys will be done after September 1, 2014, to avoid disrupting farm operations.

Right-of-entry for the Oxbow-Hickson-Bakke Ring Levee Project was discussed. Mr. McShane said surveying for cultural resources surveys will begin the week of May 8, 2014, and will only include photographic documentation of buildings. Property owners will be given a notice by telephone before surveying takes place.

Lee Beauvais said the URS Corporation will be performing cultural survey work soon on the Wild Rice Dam removal / rehabilitation.

Mr. Beauvais said a draft report has been completed regarding phase II cultural resources surveys completed around the Maple River. The Board will discuss landowner reimbursement for shovel testing performed as part of these surveys at the next meeting.

Oxbow-Hickson-Bakke Ring Levee Project

Bruce Spiller said bid opening for the first construction phase of the Oxbow-Hickson-Bakke Ring Levee Project is planned for May 6, 2014. He explained the schedule must remain flexible, as work will be integrated with the plans of the City of Oxbow and the Oxbow Country Club. Mr. Beauvais added that homeowners are being kept informed of construction timelines for planning purposes.

Metro Flood Diversion Project – project update

Mr. Spiller said work is ongoing regarding the in-town levees for the Metro Flood Diversion Project and construction is set to begin in August of 2014. There will be a meeting next week regarding financing for the Metro Flood Diversion Project with the Corps of Engineers.

Metro Flood Diversion Project – land acquisition

Lukas Andrud updated the Board on matters relating to farmland acquisition. Jacob Gust questioned if the Board is purchasing land outside of the necessary right-of-way required for the Metro Flood Diversion Project for the purposes of land exchange. Chairman Brodshaug said the Diversion Authority has instructed the Cass County Joint Water Resource District to temporarily hold off on additional land purchases.

Eric 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 the appraiser is working to develop reports. Mr. Beauvais added that construction on the in-town levees will start towards the end of this year only on property owned by the City of Fargo or the Fargo Parks District.

Mr. Beauvais reported on the kickoff meeting regarding the development of the proposed assessment district for the Metro Flood Diversion Project to discuss public outreach plans. He added that the Cass County Commission and the Finance Committee have indicated their interest in moving towards a vote on the proposed assessment district soon. He speculated a vote may take place in late 2014 or early 2015.

Flood risk reduction / development of retention projects

Mr. Engels discussed the meetings on the development of retention projects held on April 8, 2014, in Casselton and distributed maps showing a compilation of feedback from landowners regarding locations for potential retention projects and where landowners see flooding issues. The Board discussed the importance of holding a follow-up meeting with landowners to show the results of the landowner comments received and keep the conversation of flood risk reduction in the Buffalo Creek, Swan Creek and Rush River Watersheds going. The matter will be discussed further at a future meeting.

Maple River Dam – operation and maintenance of CRP acreage

Kurt Lysne discussed a letter received from the United States Department of Agriculture regarding the operation and maintenance of Cass County Joint Water Resource District’s Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) acreage at the Maple River Dam. The Cass County Joint Water Resource District is required to complete a mid-management practice on 39.4 acres.

It was moved by Manager Buringrud and seconded by Manager Jacobson to authorize the Chairman to sign a letter to the Farm Service Agency branch of the United States Department of Agriculture to advise them of management practices being completed on the CRP acreage at the Maple River Dam. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife (USFWS) – letter to property owners regarding easements for wetland protection

The Secretary-Treasurer will distribute a draft letter for the Board to review that will be sent to landowners that have received information regarding the USFWS Wetland Easement Program. The Board wants to be sure landowners are aware of potential consequences from signing the easements.

Bills

It was moved by Manager Buringrud and seconded by Manager Wolfer to approve payment of Checks #11210 through #11216, the wire transfer and the debit card transaction, as presented. Upon roll call vote the following Managers voted in favor: Brodshaug, Olson, Jacobson, Buringrud and Wolfer. Motion passed.

Adjournment

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

APPROVED:

Mark Brodshaug
Chairman

ATTEST:

Carol Harbeke Lewis
Secretary-Treasurer