

MINUTES OF MEETING
MAPLE RIVER WATER RESOURCE DISTRICT
CASS COUNTY HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT
WEST FARGO, NORTH DAKOTA
FEBRUARY 6, 2014

The Maple River Water Resource District met on February 6, 2014, at 9:00 a.m. at the Cass County Highway Department, West Fargo, North Dakota.

Present were Rodger Olson, Chairman; Jurgen Suhr, Manager; Gerald Melvin, Manager; Carol Harbeke Lewis, Secretary-Treasurer; Brittany C. Moen, Administrative Assistant; Sean M. Fredricks, Attorney for the Board; Chad Engels and Mike Opat, Engineers for the Board; Pat Downs, Red River Retention Authority; Keith Weston, Natural Resources Conservation Service; Edward McConnell, Mayor of Casselton; Sheila Klevgard, Casselton City Auditor; Bob Runck, Jr. and Roger Vining, property owners in Casselton Township.

Swan Creek 2013 assessment

Ed McConnell met with the Board to discuss the 2013 Swan Creek assessment to the City of Casselton. The Board informed Mayor McConnell the maintenance levy may be at the maximum level for a while, as work is needed on Swan Creek. The Water Resource District Engineer and Attorney will prepare a memorandum to Mayor McConnell regarding the Swan Creek assessment district, and the Secretary-Treasurer will notify the city annually regarding Swan Creek assessments. Chairman Olson discussed the importance of retention on Swan Creek and in all of Cass County.

Upper Swan Creek Channel Improvements

Bob Runck, Jr. met with the Board to discuss the need to clean Swan Creek northwest of Casselton. He also believes retention is needed on Swan Creek.

It was moved by Manager Suhr and seconded by Manager Melvin to authorize Moore Engineering, Inc. to prepare a cost estimate and submit a cost-share request to the State Water Commission regarding the Upper Swan Creek Channel Improvements Project through Sections 20, 21, 27 and 28 of Casselton Township. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

Development of retention projects

Chad Engels discussed the need for development of retention projects in Cass County and the best way to proceed with new projects. He referred to a PowerPoint presentation on the Maple River Watershed Comprehensive Detention Plan and pointed out that the highest priority is in the northwest part of the watershed. Keith Weston suggested meeting with property owners to look at any localized problems and to get

feedback. Mr. Weston said he would help facilitate meetings. Funding for retention was also discussed. Up to 50% cost-share may be available through the Farm Bill. The State Water Commission cost-share policy is being reviewed, which when complete, may include increased cost-share for retention projects.

It was moved by Manager Melvin and seconded by Manager Suhr to make the recommendation to the Cass County Joint Water Resource District to support the development of retention projects in Cass County. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously. Mr. Engels will develop a scope of work for the Cass County Joint Water Resource District.

Requests for flood risk reduction project funding assistance from Cass County sales tax

It was moved by Manager Melvin and seconded by Manager Suhr to authorize the Secretary-Treasurer to sign and send a letter to the Cass County Administrator regarding Maple River Water Resource District's requests for flood risk reduction project funding assistance from Cass County sales tax. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

Upper Maple River Dam

Mike Opat updated the Board on issues relating to the Upper Maple River Dam and said the permit for the project has been received from the Corps of Engineers. He distributed a draft right-of-way and easement purchase summary and an opinion of probable cost for the Board's review. The Board will wait until after the project votes are tallied to begin plans and specifications for the Upper Maple River Dam.

A Maple-Steele Joint Water Resource District meeting to discuss the Upper Maple River Dam is scheduled for February 14, 2014.

Pontiac Township Improvement District No. 73

Mike Opat updated the Board on issues relating to Pontiac Township Improvement District No. 73 and said work on the project will begin again when it warms up. A draft *Operation and Maintenance Plan* was distributed for the Board's review.

Garsteig-Embden Maintenance assessment district

Sean Fredricks distributed a draft *Resolution Regarding Creation of the Garsteig-Embden Maintenance District and Setting Hearing* for the Board's review. The Board will request the issue be added to the Cass County Commission's agenda for their February 18, 2014, meeting for further discussion.

State Water Plan for the 2015-2017 biennium – projects / programs to submit

The Board discussed projects to submit to the State Water Plan for the 2015-2017 biennium. Moore Engineering, Inc. will work to create a list of projects and programs to submit.

Animal Damage Control – First Amendment to Independent Contractor Agreement

It was moved by Manager Suhr and seconded by Manager Melvin to approve the *First Amendment to Independent Contractor Agreement* with JAC Predator and Large Pest Control. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

Minutes

It was moved by Manager Suhr, seconded by Manager Melvin and unanimously carried to approve the minutes of the January 2, 2014, meeting.

Bills

It was moved by Manager Suhr and seconded by Manager Melvin to approve the payment of Checks #5183 through #5193 and the electronic funds transfer, as presented. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

Metro Flood Diversion Project update

Chairman Olson updated the Board on issues regarding the Metro Flood Diversion Project.

Adjournment

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

APPROVED:

Rodger Olson
Chairman

ATTEST:

Carol Harbeke Lewis
Secretary-Treasurer