

MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING
MAPLE-STEELE JOINT WATER RESOURCE DISTRICT
CASS COUNTY HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT
WEST FARGO, NORTH DAKOTA
AUGUST 7, 2014
1:00 P.M.

The Maple-Steele Joint Water Resource District met on August 7, 2014, at 1:00 p.m. at the Cass County Highway Department, West Fargo, North Dakota.

Present were Jurgen Suhr, Chairman; Rodger Olson and Gerald Melvin, Maple River Water Resource District; Josh Ihry and Greg Thykeson, Steele County Water Resource District; Carol Harbeke Lewis, Secretary-Treasurer; Sean Fredricks, Attorney for the Board; Bill Brudvik, Attorney for Steele County Water Resource District; Mike Opat, Engineer for the Board; Mary Podoll and Keith Weston, Natural Resources Conservation Service; Sharon Josephson, Congressman Collin Peterson's Office; Pat Downs, Red River Retention Authority; and Randy Gjestvang, State Water Commission. Absent was Tor Bergstrom, Steele County Water Resource District.

Minutes

It was moved by Manager Olson, seconded by Manager Melvin and unanimously carried to approve the minutes of the June 25 and July 11, 2014, meetings, as presented.

Upper Maple River Dam – Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to tour the project

Mary Podoll, NRCS North Dakota State Conservationist, toured the Upper Maple River Dam site this morning. She informed the Board they are looking into potential funding options through the NRCS for the project. Keith Weston said there are a number of possibilities if the application by the Red River Retention Authority for the Regional Conservation Partnership Program is approved. Pat Downs said the proposal will be in by October 2, 2014, and he hopes to know by the end of October if the application is approved or not.

Mr. Weston said the Agricultural Conservation Easement Program could be a possible source of funding for the project. This would also allow for technical assistance from the NRCS if there is an option for wetland mitigation.

Ms. Podoll said if the RCPP application is approved, she will work with headquarters to enable a quick turnaround. She pointed out there are programs for landowners available now.

Upper Maple River Dam – land acquisition and easements

It was moved by Manager Thykeson and seconded by Manager Melvin to approve and authorize the Chairman to sign the *Purchase Agreement* with Harold and Rebecca Zerface regarding the Upper Maple River Dam Project. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

Manager Ihry presented a written offer yesterday to Kim Hanson on property needed for the project. He requested that Mr. Hanson respond within 10 days. He will make a courtesy call to Mr. Hanson tomorrow if he has not heard back from him.

Mr. Opat updated the Board on other right of way issues relating to the project.

It was moved by Manager Olson and seconded by Manager Ihry to increase the offer on flood easements to reflect a 25% increase on the value of the underlying land regarding the Upper Maple River Dam Project. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously. Mr. Opat will send out the updated offers.

Potential funding for the project through the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) was discussed. It was moved by Manager Ihry and seconded by Manager Thykeson to authorize the Water Resource Engineer to submit a revised permit application and plans to the State Water Commission incorporating any changes required for the Upper Maple River Dam Project to qualify for funding through the NRCS. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

Upper Maple River Dam – project schedule

The Upper Maple River Dam Project will be bid out in November or December.

A meeting will be held in the near future with the Carpenter Township Board of Supervisors to discuss a potential agreement with them for operation and maintenance responsibilities relating to the project.

Adjournment

There being no further business to be considered by the Board, it was moved by Manager Olson and seconded by Manager Melvin to adjourn the meeting.

APPROVED:

Jurgen Suhr
Chairman

ATTEST:

Carol Harbeke Lewis
Secretary-Treasurer