

MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING
MAPLE-STEELE JOINT WATER RESOURCE DISTRICT
CASS COUNTY HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT
WEST FARGO, NORTH DAKOTA
SEPTEMBER 19, 2014

The Maple-Steele Joint Water Resource District met on September 19, 2014, at 8:00 a.m. at the Cass County Highway Department, Fargo, North Dakota.

Present were Jurgen Suhr, Chairman; Rodger Olson and Gerald Melvin, Maple River Water Resource District (by telephone); Josh Ihry, Tor Bergstrom and Gregg Thykeson, Steele County Water Resource District (by telephone); Carol Harbeke Lewis, Secretary-Treasurer; Julie Zaeske Norman, Administrative Assistant; Sean M. Fredricks and Lukas D. Andrud, Attorneys for the Board (by telephone); Mike Opat, Engineer for the Board; Pat Downs, Red River Retention Authority; and Ralph Thompson, property owner in Carpenter Township.

A special meeting was held to discuss land acquisition associated with the construction of the Upper Maple River Dam.

Permanent Easement – Cleo Thompson property

Chairman Suhr invited Ralph Thompson to speak to his concerns regarding the provisions of the easement offer for his property. Mr. Thompson stated that he is definitely in favor of the overall project, but has concerns relative to the appraised value of the land.

Following discussion, it was agreed that Managers Melvin, Suhr, and Thykeson will inspect the property prior to issuing a final offer to Mr. Thompson.

Land Acquisition – Zerface property

All Board members were brought up-to-date on the current counter offer presented by the Zerface family. The counter offer requests mineral rights and the right of first refusal should the property become available for sale at any time in the future.

It was moved by Manager Ihry and seconded by Manager Thykeson to direct the Water Resource District Attorney to prepare a *Purchase Agreement* with Harold and Rebecca Zerface for acquisition of the NE1/4 of Section 35, Carpenter Township, Steele County, North Dakota for the Upper Maple River Dam Project, as outlined. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

Land Acquisition – Hanson

The Board authorized Mr. Fredricks to prepare a final offer for the Kim Hanson property.

Outstanding Purchase Agreements

Mr. Opat updated the Board on the status of all outstanding *Purchase Agreements*.

Carpenter Township Agreement

The Carpenter Township *Agreement* prepared by the Water Resource District Attorney was previously distributed to the Board for review. Having no comments or objections, the Board directed Mr. Opat to deliver the *Agreement* to Carpenter Township officials for their consideration.

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) analysis on property for Upper Maple River Dam

Pat Downs presented some options for NRCS involvement with the land acquisition currently in process for the Upper Maple River Dam Project. The Board directed Mr. Downs to provide the property locations to the NRCS for analysis. Meetings may be scheduled with the property owners in the future to discuss the options available.

Adjournment

There being no further business to be considered by the Board, it was moved by Manager Ihry, seconded by Manager Suhr and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting.

APPROVED:

Jurgen Suhr
Chairman

ATTEST:

Carol Harbeke Lewis
Secretary-Treasurer