

MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING
MAPLE-STEELE JOINT WATER RESOURCE DISTRICT
CASS COUNTY HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT
WEST FARGO, NORTH DAKOTA
OCTOBER 2, 2014

The Maple-Steele Joint Water Resource District met on October 2, 2014, at 9:00 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; Josh Ihry, Tor Bergstrom and Greg 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; and Pat Downs, Red River Retention Authority.

Upper Maple River Dam - land acquisition

Mike Opat reported on the status of the land acquisition for the Upper Maple River Dam project.

- Harold and Rebecca Zerface property - Luke Andrud reported that a signed *Purchase Agreement* was received from Harold and Rebecca Zerface on October 1, 2014. The property owners also signed the *Lease Agreement* for 2015.
- Hazel Overland property - Mr. Opat reported that Hazel Overland has agreed to sign the *Purchase Agreement*, as presented.
- Michael and Cynthia Whitmore - Mr. and Mrs. Whitmore have indicated they will be signing the *Purchase Agreement*.
- Gary and Mary Ihry - Mr. and Mrs. Ihry have also indicated their intent to sign the *Purchase Agreement*, as presented.
- Kim Hanson - a letter and *Purchase Agreement* representing a final offer to Mr. Hanson was delivered. Mr. Hanson was given a 10-day period to respond, which ends on Monday, October 6, 2014.
- Ralph and Cleo Thompson - there was nothing new to report on this land acquisition.
- Carpenter Township - Mr. Opat had not met with the township at the time of this meeting. An update will be available next week.

It was moved by Manager Thykeson and seconded by Manager Olson that the Water Resource District Attorney and Engineer prepare and send a final offer letter and *Purchase Agreement*, with a response period of 10-days, to Ralph and Cleo Thompson and Michael and Cynthia Whitmore regarding the Upper Maple River Dam Project. Upon a roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

Responding to a question posed by Manager Olson, Mr. Opat reported that the expenditures for land acquisition will be within the established budget.

The Board requested an opportunity to review the Zerface *Lease Agreement* for 2015 before final approval is given. The Secretary-Treasurer will circulate the agreement for review.

A special meeting will be held to take action on the land acquisition once the property owners have an opportunity to respond to the final offer letter.

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

Pat Downs updated the Board on the issues encountered with the preparation of a proposal for NRCS involvement with the land acquisition for the Upper Maple River Dam. Mr. Downs stated that it does not appear the NRCS timeline will coincide with the timeline established by the Board for land acquisition. However, he does anticipate that additional monies will be available for the property owners.

Adjournment

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

APPROVED:

Jurgen Suhr
Chairman

ATTEST:

Carol Harbeke Lewis
Secretary-Treasurer