

MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING
RUSH RIVER WATER RESOURCE DISTRICT
ARGUSVILLE COMMUNITY CENTER
ARGUSVILLE, NORTH DAKOTA
FEBRUARY 23, 2011

The Rush River Water Resource District met on February 23, 2011, at 10:00 a.m. at the Argusville Community Center, Argusville, North Dakota.

Present were Raymond Wolfer, Chairman; Carol Harbeke Lewis, Secretary-Treasurer, Sean Fredricks, Attorney for the Board; Chris Gross, Engineer for the Board, and those whose names appear on the attached roster. Managers William A. Hejl and Keith Monson were absent.

Drain #13 extensions in Berlin Township

Chairman Wolfer called the meeting to order and informed those present that the purpose of the meeting was to discuss the operation and maintenance of the extensions to Drain #13 in Berlin Township.

Sean Fredricks reviewed the legal drain process. This would require a vote on the project. If the vote passes, the Water Resource District would hire a contractor to build it. Another option would be to enter into an agreement with the property owners for payment of the construction. The property owners or the Water Resource District could construct the project. Right-of-way would be donated. This process would require unanimous consent by the landowners.

Chris Gross said all of the culverts through Sections 21, 22, 23 and 24 would need to be changed, with the exception of the box culvert on the north side of Section 24, to meet a 5 or 10-year standard. Mr. Gross estimated the cost would be \$30,000 to \$60,000 per crossing. The cost would be less if the property owners constructed the project.

John Olson asked how the proposed Red River Diversion would affect Drain #13. Chairman Wolfer questioned the Corps of Engineers about that and the Corps decided not to incorporate Drain #13 into the project. Chairman Wolfer was concerned that water would not get into the diversion channel and that downstream impacts would need to be addressed. Concerns about additional drainage from the west were also expressed.

Those that benefit from the project would be assessed for the cost. If it is determined later that more properties benefit from the project, the district could be reassessed to bring those properties into the assessment district.

Mr. Gross estimated the channel is currently at a 2 - 5-year design. The project would deepen the drain approximately one foot, which would widen the channel 15-16' on each side. The side slopes are close to a 4:1 now. The channel would have a 10' bottom.

If the property owners decide to go with the legal drain option, they could request 45% cost share from the State Water Commission. Mr. Gross pointed out that the State Water Commission would not cost share on right-of-way or engineering costs. Cass County would pay 40% of the remaining cost on section line crossings. James Ueland said they should pursue State Water Commission funding.

Chairman Wolfer asked those in attendance if they would like the Board to proceed. Plans would be needed either way. Mr. Fredricks explained that the property owners would need to make a deposit. If the project proceeds, they would get that money back. The balance of any funds deposited that are not used, would be returned to the property owners. A show of hands by those present indicated they would like to proceed.

Mr. Gross will put together a proposal for the March 14, 2010, meeting. The Secretary-Treasurer will send a notice of the meeting to the property owners involved.

Adjournment

There being no further business for the Board to consider, the meeting adjourned without objection.

APPROVED:

Raymond Wolfer
Chairman

ATTEST:

Carol Harbeke Lewis
Secretary-Treasurer