

Richland-Sargent (RS1) Joint Water
Resource Board Special Meeting
Video Conference
Originating at the Sargent County Courthouse
Forman, North Dakota
April 18th, 2024 – 9:00 a.m.

In attendance: Chairman Luke Siemieniewski, Managers Todd Stein, Michael Wyum, and Roger Zetocha. Also in attendance was Wendy Willprecht Secretary/Treasurer, Nathan Trosen, engineer for Moore Engineering, Sargent County Commissioners Wade Anderson and Lyle Bopp, Sargent County State's Attorney Jayne Pfau, Tim Faber, County Highway Supervisor, Richard Ruch, Representative Mike Brandenburg, landowner Tanner Martinson. Present via video conference were Attorneys Sean Fredricks, Chris McShane and Stephen Hilfer of Ohnstad Twichell, Josh Hassell and Levi Hanson of Moore Engineering, Kathy Duttonhefner (Head of the Mountain), RS1 Vice-Chairman Tom Kubela and Managers Arv Burvee, Gary Friskop, Richland County Water Resource District Administrator Alison Zajac, Richland County Water Resource District Office Manager, Justin Johnson, landowners Paul Mathews, Leon Mallberg, Emeric Erickson, Terry Wehlander, Scott Mund and Paul Mund.

At 9:20 Vice-Chairman Tom Kubela called the meeting to order.

A motion was made by Manager Burvee and seconded by Manager Wyum to approve the agenda. Upon roll call, the motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Manager Siemieniewski and seconded by Manager Wyum to approve the 1/18/24 meeting minutes. Upon roll call, the motion carried unanimously.

BILLS:

The following bills were presented for approval and payment:

Ohnstad Twichell- Correspondence/letters to landowners Total: \$ 504.00

Moore Engineering- General Maintenance \$285; Phase III Project Final Design

\$1,011.25; Econ Analysis \$2,618.75; ROW \$816.54 Total: \$ 4,731.54

A motion was made by Manager Siemieniewski and seconded by Manager Wyum to approve the bills. Upon roll call, the motion carried unanimously.

PROJECT UPDATE:

Nathan Trosen of Moore Engineering gave a project update. The current phase of this project propose construction in Section 28 and would extend to the county road (about 4 ½ miles). The December Supreme Court ruling has significantly impacted this project. The original project, which included the upstream mile in Section 35, had a 2.0 benefit to cost ration (BC) under State Water Commission cost-share policies. With funding now being a concern, and exclusion of the upstream mile, the BC has dropped to 0.5, and the project would have to meet a BC of 1.0 to qualify for full cost-share. The upstream section is where most of the benefit was going to come from, which made the BC more favorable.

The Board can no longer include Section 35 in the project and possibly Section 34; those portions of the proposed project would be outside the Board's financial capacity. The Board could consider proceeding in Section 28 and the short segment in Section 33. Trosen reiterated that if the Board could fund the local share for the entire project, the BC would go back to 2.0 and the project would qualify for full cost-share.

The Board agreed the project should go to a landowner vote. Manager Siemieniowski suggested approaching the landowners to discuss project options; all of the owners he has talked to say they want the entire project complete. If the project included Section 35, that would provide significant benefits. The Board also discussed the possibility of including the lateral into Richland County and expanding south as project components to include in any assessment vote.

After discussion the Managers decided to hold a public information meeting regarding this project on June 26, 2024, at the Cayuga Hall, at 1:00 pm. Administrator Willprecht will handle the scheduling details.

Levi Hanson of Moore Engineering said he has talked with landowners in the Northeast Quarter of Section 2 and they have indicated support for their inclusion in this project.

Alison Zajac, Richland County Water Resource District Secretary-Treasurer, said that there was a cost-share allocation error of \$95,184.39, incorrectly placed into the RS1 account, when it should have been allocated to an RCWRD drain. She added that there was another cost-share allocation error where \$21,501.68 in RS1 dollars were apportioned to the RCWRD. Those dollars will be added to the RS1 account.

The next RS1 meeting is scheduled for July 18, 2024.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

Account balances as of March 31, 2024: \$ 67,334.04

APPROVED:

Tom Kubela- Vice Chairman

ATTEST:

Wendy Willprecht Secretary-Treasurer

The meeting adjourned at 9:50 a.m.

