

**DRAFT**

**RICHLAND-SARGENT JOINT  
WATER RESOURCE DISTRICT**

**Special Meeting  
Public Informational Meeting  
Cayuga Community Center  
Cayuga, North Dakota  
June 26, 2024 -- 1:00 p.m.**

The Richland-Sargent Joint Water Resource District conducted a public informational meeting at the Cayuga Community Center in Cogswell, North Dakota. The Board also allowed members of the public to attend the meeting via Teams. In attendance at the meeting were Sargent County Water Resource District Board Members Luke Siemieniewski, Todd Stein, and Michael Wyum; Richland County Water Resource District Board Members Clint Arndt and Arv Burvee; Nathan Trosen and Levi Hanson, Moore Engineering; and Sean Fredricks, the Board's attorney (Teams). With regard to members of the public in attendance, see the attached list of attendees.

Nathan Trosen opened the meeting on the Board's behalf and explained that the purpose of the meeting was to discuss options for additional improvements to Richland-Sargent Drain No. 1. The Joint Board has completed two previous phases to improve the Drain and was in the process of developing a third phase, a 4.5-mile stretch of the Drain. However, a 2023 Supreme Court decision prompted the Board to pause the project and to re-evaluate project and financing options. The Supreme Court decision mandates that water resource districts now count Drain funds on-hand against their six-year borrowing capacity under N.D. Cent. Code § 61-16.1-45. With that in mind, the 4.5-mile project the Board was contemplating will now require a landowner excess levy vote before proceeding.

With that in mind, and before proceeding with any landowner vote, the Joint Board wanted to engage the public to determine what type of project the landowners in the Richland-Sargent Drain No. 1 assessment district would like to see the Joint Board develop.

The Board's engineer, Nathan Trosen, presented a power point presentation regarding the history of the RS#1 project improvements, the project the Board was previously developing, and options for this next improvement project; Trosen's power point slides are on file with the Board's Secretary-Treasurer.

The majority of landowners in attendance supported the proposed 4.5-mile project. Several landowners in attendance also inquired into the prospect of a future project to extend the Drain to the South Dakota state line. The Board noted that including that type of extension would likely render the current project cost prohibitive, the Board agreed that type of extension would be beneficial and the Board will likely proceed with development of that type of project in the future.

The Board will discuss the project at their next meeting and will generate new Petition document for landowners to sign to demonstrate support for the project.

APPROVED:

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Bruce Speich, Chair

ATTEST:

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Wendy Willprecht  
Secretary-Treasurer