

SARGENT COUNTY WATER RESOURCE DISTRICT

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, April 17th, 2025 at 8:39 a.m.

The Sargent County Water Resource District met on Thursday, April 17th, 2025 at 8:39 a.m., in the water resource district board room at the Sargent County Courthouse in Forman, North Dakota. The following Board members were present: Chairman Luke Siemieniewski, Todd Stein, Roger Zetocha, Bruce Speich and Michael Wyum. Also present were Wendy Willprecht Secretary/Treasurer, Nathan Trosen, Moore Engineering, and landowner Dave Lunneborg. The following were also present: Sean Fredricks, Katie Schmidt, and Stephen Hilfer, Ohnstad Twichell, appeared virtually; Leon Mallberg and an unverified caller appeared virtually.

Minutes

Manager Stein moved to approve the March 20th, 2025, regular meeting minutes, and the March 27th, 2025 Public Information meeting minutes. Manager Zetocha seconded the motion. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

Financial Statement

Assessment dollars designated to Drain No. 11 after the 2022 reassessment were mistakenly put into the Dickey-Sargent drain. The correction has been made and all designated funds from the Dickey-Sargent Drain (that were designated for Drain No. 11) were moved to the Drain No. 11 drain account fund in March. The transfer will be shown in the March financial statement.

A motion was made by Manager Zetocha and seconded by Manager Speich to approve the February 28th, 2025 financial statement. Upon roll call, the motion carried.

Bills

The Board considered the following bills:

Ohnstad Twichell- Meetings/correspondence \$514.64/Bobby Beckstrom Tile Permit \$651.00

Total: \$1,165.64

Moore Engineering-

Total:

Crandall Construction, Inc.-Drain No. 7 rip rap

Total: \$1,640.00

Sargent County- Drain No. 7-labor to do rip rap

Total: \$3,600.00

Dan Bishoff-(2) Beavers along Drain No. 9 @ \$50/Beaver **Total: \$100.00**

Manager Wyum moved to approve the bills as presented. Manager Speich seconded the motion. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Drain No. 11:

1. Jerry Meide & Miles Thompson south lateral: There has been no communication from Meide or Thompson. It was suggested to remove this item from future agendas.
2. Crossing Reimbursement-Sargent County: No update.

A utility permit request was presented to the board by Intermountain Infrastructure for installation of a fiber

optic line to cross Drain 11. Attorney Fredricks prepared a utility permit that included Special Conditions prepared by Trosen. The permit includes indemnity protection for the board, requires Intermountain Infrastructure to re-locate if necessary to accommodate the Drain in the future, includes a duty to repair for Intermountain, and several other protections for the Board and the Drain. Manager Stein moved to approve the utility permit. Manager Speich seconded the motion. Upon roll call, the motion carried unanimously. Chairman Siemieniewski and Secretary-Treasurer Willprecht will sign the Utility Permit.

Drain No. 4: No update.

Drain No. 2:

Chairman Siemieniewski said that the drain has sloughing issues and indicated that if the Board does not do some kind of rip rap improvement, there could be issues with erosion encroaching upon a nearby well. There is sloughing at the site of the well in addition to sloughing in two spots west of the well. The well being discussed is less than 10 ft. from the drain. Siemieniewski said he will reach out to the owner of the well to see if he will cost-share the expense of the rip rap. The well was drilled over 50 years ago.

Siemieniewski said that County Road Supervisor Tim Faber will do the rip rap project. The project is assumed to cost around \$5,000. Faber will do the repair. A motion was made by Manager Zetocha and seconded by Manager Wyum to hire Faber to do the rip rap repair with the cost to not exceed \$6,000. Upon roll call, the motion carried unanimously.

In 2023, Drain No. 2 borrowed \$70,000 from the general fund. The board will start reimbursing the general funds as dollars in the drain account become available. Willprecht will keep a log of this reimbursement.

Drain No. 7 - Hall Township (Maintenance District Petition): No update.

Drain No. 9 Extension:

Trosen said that Moore Engineering's certified wetland specialist conducted preliminary wetland determinations and found a water surface elevation for the slough that may be acceptable by the NRCS. Moore also updated the grading upstream of the slough to accommodate the estimated wetland determination elevation.

It was suggested to hold another public information meeting sometime after spring work to give the landowners an update. Willprecht will see what dates are available at the Cogswell Hall at the end of June.

Drain No. 9:

Manager Stein said that Section 20 has duck ponds that are causing issues. Stein suggested having Boomersbach get rid of the buck brush. Stein said he would talk to landowners and would report next meeting.

Wild Rice River Maintenance District:

Work is currently on hold; Moore is waiting for the preliminary design of the improvements to Drain 9 to be completed before proceeding.

Drain No. 8:

Trosen and Manager Wyum attended a Rutland City Council meeting to discuss the proposed study that the SCWRD received funding for through the NDDES. The City would like to bury the drain using a smaller pipe and potentially a pump. Cost-share is at 75% for this study. The City would like to know how much

water gets to the drain before a project would be started. Trosen said Moore Engineering will survey the area soon to better estimate the Drain's watershed and then recommended the District hold a public engagement meeting prior to other work being initiated.

Cogswell Tile:

The NDDES has this project on its final review list but has not yet approved cost-share. NDDES has reached out to Moore with some questions.

A utility permit request was presented to the board by Intermountain Infrastructure for installation of a fiber optic line to cross the line. Attorney Fredricks prepared a utility permit that included Special Conditions prepared by Trosen. The permit includes indemnity protection for the board, requires Intermountain Infrastructure to re-locate if necessary to accommodate the Drain in the future, includes a duty to repair for Intermountain, and several other protections for the Board and the Drain. The Board noted that boring under/around the fiber optics could prove to be very expensive in the future, when the Board proceeds with improvements to the tile line. A motion was made by Manager Stein and seconded by Manager Speich to have Trosen of Moore Engineering modify the current "Special Conditions" in the Permit to reflect a 15 ft. burial of the fiber optic line. Fredricks will provide the updated Utility Permit to ReditTech for consideration by Intermountain. Upon roll call, the motion carried unanimously. The board will review the updated utility permit at the May 15 SCWRD meeting.

Drain No. 12:

A motion was made by Manager Speich and seconded by Manager Wyum to transfer \$8,000 from the general fund into the Drain No. 12 fund to assist with the upcoming bond payment in May. Upon roll call, the motion carried.

Short Foot Creek:

The public information meeting facilitated by Moore Engineering and the NRCS on March 27th was well attended. A comment period will remain open 30 days post-meeting. Moore Engineering will update the project plan with the comments received and will then forward the plan to the NRCS for their review.

Silver Lake Dam:

The Red River Joint Water Resource District approved the Board's cost-share request in the amount of \$10,400 for design and permitting. Moore is proceeding with the design.

NEW BUSINESS:

Dam EAP's

Last year the state updated the dam safety standards. Under this system, there is a new standard that states emergency action plans (EAPs) for medium hazard dams have to include a dam breach analysis. Prior to the system update, only high hazard dams had to have the dam breach analysis. Both EAPs for the Nelson and Lubke-Brummond Dams are due to be updated. EAP updates are cost-shared with the state at 80%. Moore Engineering will meet with DWR staff to find out what specific updates to the EAPs are needed.

Drain No. 7 - City of Milnor walking trail: The City contacted Secretary-Treasurer Willprecht about the prospect of installing a walking trail along the portion of Drain No. 7 that runs through town. The Board will wait for more information from the City.

Shuman Township Culvert Cost Share Request

Dave Lunneborg of Shuman Township said that the township needs culverts replaced/installed along three

Crooked Creek crossings. The township is requesting cost-share for (5) 42” culverts and (1) 48” culvert. Shuman has completed a hydrology study on each crossing.

A motion was made by Manager Zetocha and seconded by Manager Wyum to provide cost-share in the amount of one-third of the costs of purchasing the culverts, reimbursable to the Township upon evidence of costs incurred. Upon roll call, the motion carried unanimously. The cost-share will be for the cost of the culverts only, and not the cost of installation.

Drain Tour

A date and time for the drain tour will be decided at the May 15th, 2025 SCWRD meeting.

Dickey-Sargent Joint Board

DSJTB bills for approval:

DVEC - electricity -	\$	150.00
Ohnstad Twichell-Board Meeting	\$	51.00

A motion was made by Manager Zetocha and seconded by Manager Stein to pay the bill to DVEC. Upon roll call, the motion carried unanimously.

February 2025 Financials:

Maintenance Account Balance:	\$	55,859.37
Improvement Account Balance:	\$	500,342.73

With no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 9:39 a.m.

APPROVAL:

Luke Siemieniewski, Chair

ATTEST:

Wendy Willprecht
Secretary-Treasurer