

Richland-Sargent Joint Water
Resource District Special Meeting
Sargent County Courthouse
Forman, North Dakota
April 17th, 2025 – 8:00 a.m.

In attendance: Chairman Bruce Speich, Managers Todd Stein, Luke Siemieniewski, Michael Wyum, Roger Zetocha; Managers Arv Burvee and Brandon Ward were present via Teams. Also in attendance were Wendy Willprecht Secretary/Treasurer; Nathan Trosen, Moore Engineering; landowners Kyle Bessler, Bill Gaukler and Dave Lunneborg. Present via video conference were Attorneys Sean Fredricks, Katie Schmidt and Stephen Hilfer of Ohnstad Twichell; Leon Mallberg and an unverified caller.

At 8:00 a.m. Chairman Bruce Speich called the meeting to order.

A motion was made by Manager Luke Siemieniewski, and seconded by Manager Roger Zetocha, to approve the 7/18/24 meeting minutes. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

BILLS:

The following bills were presented for approval and payment:

*Ohnstad Twichell, P.C.-Revise petition/revise options	\$287.00
*Carlson Family Insurance Agency-Renewal	\$528.00

A motion was made by Manager Todd Stein and seconded by Manager Zetocha to approve the bills. Upon roll call, the motion carried unanimously.

PROJECT/PETITION UPDATE:

Manager Siemieniewski has been talking with landowners along the drain about different improvement options to gage interest in a potential project. One option discussed was an improvement project that would include realigning a portion of the lateral in Richland County.

Trosen of Moore Engineering noted the State Water Commission has approved an increase of drainage cost-share to 60%. With this increase in cost-share available, Manager Siemieniewski suggested the possibility of pursuing a project without any re-alignment, as opposed to pursuing an excess levy vote regarding a project to get through Section 35. Manager Siemieniewski said that the Richland County landowners have adequate water flow, so he does not believe they would be in favor of the excess levy. Siemieniewski added that the landowners he has talked to along the drain in Sargent County support the concept of an improvement project, but the landowners to the east already get drainage.

Trosen suggested taking the current petition, along with a petition that would go back to the original proposed improvement project to landowners to see what direction they would like to take.

Landowner Bill Gaukler said that the bridges in the proposed improvement area are over 100 years old and their maintenance and structural improvement should be a number one concern because of safety.

A motion was made by Manager Michael Wyum and seconded by Manager Arv Burvee to direct Ohnstad Twichell and Moore Engineering to prepare an updated petition document for Phase III of the RS1 drain project through Section 34 with the potential to extend into Section 35. Upon roll call, the motion carried unanimously.

UTILITY PERMIT-INTERMOUNTAIN INFRASTRUCTURE:

A utility permit request was presented to the joint board by Intermountain Infrastructure for installation of a fiber optic line to cross Richland-Sargent Drain No. 1, that would run on the north side of Highway 11. The line would be dug 6 feet below the channel. 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. Upon roll call vote, Mangers Speich, Wyum, Stein, Burvee and Ward all voted in favor. Managers Siemieniewski and Zetocha voted no. The motion carried. Chairman Speich and Secretary-Treasurer Willprecht will sign the Utility Permit.

Trosen of Moore Engineering said that Read-Tech will provide additional information if requested.

The next RS1 joint board meeting will be May 15th at 8:00 a.m.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

Account balances as of February 28th, 2025: \$ 478,562.85

APPROVED:

Bruce Speich- Chairman

ATTEST:

Wendy Willprecht Secretary-Treasurer

The meeting adjourned at 8:37 a.m.