

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE SARGENT COUNTY WATER RESOURCE BOARD HELD ON THURSDAY MARCH 1, 2001 AT 10:00 A.M. IN THE COMMISSIONERS ROOM, SARGENT COUNTY COURTHOUSE, FORMAN ND

The meeting was called to order with the following present: Dan Jacobson, John Totenhagen, Randy Ptacek, Richard Engst and Mark Breker. Absent none. Also present Jeff Volk.

Jeff Volk explained an assessment area creating maintenance for federally funded projects. The Water Board may levy \$.50 per benefited acre if the county commissioners approve the levy. This limits the funding but it is a simple process. SCS signed an agreement with the Water Board before the dams were built stating they would build the structure but the Water Board agreed to maintain. The Water Board must decide how to create a district. Jeff has prepared a map with boundaries of existing drains and plotted the project area, which would include Frenier, Nelson and Brummond-Lubke dams. It appears that Drain 3 & 12 would create the boundary on the east, Drain 9 on the west, state line on the south and refuge land and the Wild Rice Rive on the north. This is a starting point for the Water Board. Jeff is not certain whether all dams can be included in one district. He presented a preliminary assessment district analysis. This area includes 50 sections of land and 32,000 acres. The Board discussed several options as well as the life of the dams. A large portion of the watershed is in South Dakota but the benefited acres are in the north end. This Board must decide on a benefited area before presenting to the commissioners. If they are in favor of the project, a property owner's map could be published or notice in the paper with a description of the area before the public meeting is conducted.

Discussed an easement on the E1/2 of NW1/4 and NE1/4 of SW1/4-11-129-55 less GN right-of-way. Darren Hoistad has agreed to give the Board an easement for this area of the watershed, which is part of the Brummond-Lubke Dam. The Board will talk to an attorney about preparing the easement.

Mark asked Jeff about cleaning some hot spots between Drain # 3 and the Wild Rice River. The Board cannot use drain funds and if they would decide to use general fund monies, where would they start and stop. There is new legislation that has not passed at this time that would allow for the Board to create a new district but only use the funds for natural waterways. Jeff was uncertain of the text of the bill and limitations on funding and whether federal permits are necessary.

The Board recessed for lunch.

Dave Rice, NDDEM and Sandra Hanson, SCEM met with the Board and Jeff Volk to discuss Drain No. 11. Dan and Jeff attended meetings to prepare a new policy to FEMA with maintenance criteria. Two PW's were prepared for Dr. # 11 and one approved and the other denied. The file was reviewed and several areas addressed. Jeff agreed to prepare a letter of appeal to FEMA. The Board will review and send documents with the letter to substantiate the appeal.

Discussed briefly the Paul Mathews area, which is the outlet to the old Drain No. 16 tile, and several processes available to proceed with the project.

Drain No. 8 assessment area was reviewed. The original assessment area benefited Ag land 13.17%, residential land 76.06% and townships 10.50%. There are 2 options available for assessing. The Ag land would generate \$850, Rutland City \$6100 and the township \$84. The other option is to use \$1.00 per \$500 of taxable value within the City of Rutland which would generate \$230 plus the amounts from the Ag land and the townships. The Board will review the data and decide what assessment process would be most beneficial.

The Board asked Jeff to define an area from Ransom County that drains into Sargent County. He agreed to prepare a map showing the sections of land. Discussed creating a joint board.

The meeting adjourned at 3:10 p.m.

DAN JACOBSON - CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

SHERRY HOSFORD - SECRETARY