

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE SARGENT COUNTY WATER RESOURCE BOARD HELD ON THURSDAY, MARCH 18, 2021 AT 8:25 A.M. IN THE WATER BOARD CONFERENCE ROOM AT THE SARGENT COUNTY COURTHOUSE, FORMAN NORTH DAKOTA

Managers present: Lucas Siemieniewski, Todd Stein, Roger Zetocha and Michael Wyum. Manager Bruce Speich was present via video conference. Absent: None. Commissioner Richard Ruch and Sherry Hosford were also present at the courthouse. Others present via video conference were Sean Fredricks, the Board's Attorney; Chris McShane, OT; Lucas Andrud, OT; Chris Gross, the Board's engineer, Pat Downs, MEI, Gerry Bosse, Bob Banderet, Leon Mallberg and Paul Mathews.

The meeting was called to order by Lucas Siemieniewski and the Board proceeded to organize for 2021.

Bruce Speich was reappointed by the county commission to another 3-year term.

Nominations for Chairman: Motion for Lucas Siemieniewski. No other nominations. Motion to cast a unanimous ballot for Manager Siemieniewski. Wyum/Stein. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

Nominations for Vice-Chairman: Motion for Michael Wyum. No other nominations. Motion to cast a unanimous ballot for Manager Wyum. Zetocha/Stein. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

The following appointments were made: Re-appoint Wendy Willprecht as Secretary-Treasurer. **DICKEY-SARGENT JOINT BOARD:** Members – Stein, Siemieniewski and Zetocha. Alternates – Wyum and Speich; **RED RIVER JOINT BOARD:** Member – Wyum and Alternate Siemieniewski; **RICHLAND/SARGENT #1** - Members -all; **TRI-COUNTY BOARD** – Member – Speich and Alternate Siemieniewski. Appoint Sean Fredricks, Ohnstad Twichell Law Office as the Board Attorney. Wyum/Stein. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

Motion to approve February 18, 2021 meeting minutes and February Financial report. (Wyum, Zetocha, motion carried)

A motion was made by Manager Stein to approve the following bills:

81724	Farmers National Company	Dr#11 Appraisals – James Hayen-\$2,200.00; Gerry Bosse-\$3,300.00	\$5,500.00
81725	Wm Kurschat Trust	Dr#11 Permanent R-O-W fee correction	\$2,835.00
81726	Ohnstad Twichell	Meetings-\$783.00; Eng. Selection-\$252.00; Dr#11 meetings, R-O-W And Purchase Agreements \$7738.85	= \$8,773.85
81727	SC Abstract & Title Co.	Dr# 11 Abstract updates – James Hayen-\$1503.25; Carpenter-\$233.25; Deb Bosse Trust-\$956.50; John Hayen-\$783.25; Diane Dahl-\$1,083.25; Huffman-\$288.25; Geoffrey Bosse-\$213.25; Beck-\$1,138.25	TOTAL \$6,199.25
81728	Lucas Siemieniewski	Travel	32.20
81729	Todd Stein	Travel	9.20
81730	Michael Wyum	Travel	11.50
81731	Roger Zetocha	Travel	28.75
DD	Lucas Siemieniewski	PD Salary less taxes	\$19.16 231.34
DD	Todd Stein	PD Salary less taxes	\$9.98 130.50
DD	Michael Wyum	PD Salary less taxes	\$10.52 137.50
DD	Roger Zetocha	PD Salary less taxes	\$9.18 120.00
DD	Wendy Willprecht	Sec-Treas -Salary less taxes	\$275.23 1349.77
DD	Stock Grower's Bank	Withholding Taxes	485.22
DD	ND State Tax Commission	State Tax	12.00
DD	Job Service ND	Unemployment Comp.	1.63

The motion was seconded by Manager Wyum. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

The bill submitted by Zirnhelts regarding trapping of beavers on Drain No. 4 was denied because the beavers were not trapped from the legal drain but surrounding areas.

DRAIN NO. 11: Chris reported that the Corps of Engineers' public comment period has ended and MEI is working with the COE on the comments for the Board to review. COE will decide if a public hearing is necessary.

APPRAISAL REPORTS: Chris McShane reviewed the findings of the Appraisal Report for Gerald and Diana Bosse for the SW1/4-16 – Sargent Township. According to the new appraisal, the value is slightly lower than the recommended amount by this Board. Motion by Wyum to leave the offer price to Gerald and Diana Bosse at the original amount as just compensation. Manager Zetocha seconded the motion. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously. Sean also suggested a possible special meeting to discuss the appraisals for the Beck and Hayen property when they become available. The Board agreed they should conduct a special meeting once those additional appraisals are ready.

REAL ESTATE TAX DUE ON WILLIAM KURSCHAT 8.94 ACRES ACQUIRED BY THE WATER BOARD:

Attorney Andrud updated the Board on his findings for the unpaid real estate taxes due on 8.94 Kurschat Land acres acquired by the water board for Drain No. 11 Improvement project. He spoke to the Tax Director and was told that the water board owes the taxes on parcel 18-5374-001 based on the date of the Board’s acquisition. After some discussion Sherry agreed to visit with the county auditor to get a clearer picture of why this amount is due from this board.

DRAIN NO. 11 REASSESSMENT: A lengthy discussion was held from board members to review potential benefit types that should be utilized in the reassessment process. Areas included are: Buffer, Crop Assessment, Productivity, Hydrologic and Easement. Board members would also like to include Tile Drains as a benefit type. Chris asked the board to make their recommendation today and that Sherry get him the information so a draft assessment map and draft assessment list could be prepared and presented at the April meeting or at a special meeting. The Board agreed to prepare this information before adjournment today.

DRAIN NO. 9 EXTENSION: At this time, drain improvement projects are unlikely to be funded by the State Water Commission due to SWC Staff’s interpretation of a recent AG Opinion, however, the Legislature is currently considering legislation this session that could change that. Chris suggested that Commissioner Richard Ruch continue with landowner dialogue to see what options they want to pursue. Richard commented that landowners would like to see the extension to the west but there is also interest in managing the water in the Wild Rice River to the east of the Drain No. 11 outlet. Chris will prepare an engineering cost proposal and Cost Share Application to the SWC for the next meeting. The eligible cost share amount for preliminary engineering of rural flood control projects is currently 45% so the additional 55% would have to come from bond monies from the landowners. Richard would procure the additional bond money and a petition from the landowners to proceed with the extension.

CROOKED CREEK WATERSHED PLAN: According to Chris, the state has provided verbal approval after reducing the study cost by \$150,000 and are waiting for final approval and a contract from the federal government.

RYAN BOSSE – APPLICATION FOR A SUBSURFACE PERMIT IN THE SE1/4-6-129-56 (SARGENT TOWNSHIP) WYUM/ZETOCHA - SEAN

DICKEY-SARGENT JOINT BOARD: The following Dickey-Sargent Joint WRD bills were presented for approval by Wendy Willprecht, Secretary-Treasurer:

DVEC	Electricity	239.00
Ohnstad Twichell	Review and revise draft minutes	166.00

Manager Stein moved to approve. Manager Zetocha seconded the motion. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

Board members proceeded to review the potential benefits for reassessment of Drain No 11. Upon completion of their determinations, the listing was emailed to Chris Gross.

Meeting adjourned at 10:58 a.m.

LUCAS SIEMIENIEWSKI, CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

SHERRY HOSFORD, ACTING SECRETARY-TREASURER