

Steele County Water Resource District

General Meeting –March 5th, 2019
Minutes

The Steele County Water Resource Board met on Tuesday, March 5th, 2019 at 9:04 AM at the Steele County Courthouse, Finley, North Dakota.

Steele County Board members present –Josh Ihry, Tor Bergstrom, and Greg Thykeson

Others present -Lyndon Pease- Moore Engineering, Cassie Tostenson-Brudvik Law, Tasha Krueger-Steele County WRD Secretary, Don Huso, Curt Hong, Chris Hong

Steele County Chairman Ihry called the meeting to order.

Approve Agenda

A motion was made by Manager Bergstrom to approve the agenda with the addition of legislative updates, seconded by Manager Thykeson, motion carried.

Approve Minutes

A motion was made by Manager Thykeson to approve the minutes from General Meeting on February 5th, 2019 with the correction of a slough name change, seconded by Manager Bergstrom, motion carried.

Lake Tobiason

Engineer Pease is waiting to do surveying when the weather gets better.

A letter will be sent to Karen Bergstrom-JDA Coordinator, Curtis Ness & Jim Holweger thanking them for helping with the Lake Tobiason project & donations.

The North Dakota State Water Commission puts together a water plan every two years. It has different categories in it, Lake Tobiason was in the water plan. The plan starts July 2019-June 2021. This project may qualify for potential cost share. If the project is under a \$100,000 the State Engineer can approve it within 30 days. The project would be put on hold until July if the board chooses to seek additional cost share. The cost share would cover 60% of the local funding source, by applying for the grant will not affect the project.

A motion was made by Manager Bergstrom to seek cost share for the Lake Tobiason project, seconded by Manager Thykeson, motion carried.

Engineer Pease noticed our legal drains weren't added to the project list with the North Dakota State Water Commission. Moore Engineering will be in contact with the State Water Commission to see why those drains weren't added to the list.

Nelson County-Middle of the Goose River Draining Update

Nelson County Water Resource District Manager Varnson didn't bring up anything about the complaint received.

Scott Huso would like a surface drainage application. This permit needs to be sent right to the state water commission. The state will determine if the project is statewide or inter district significance.

Nelson County- Goose River Legal Drain Project

The landowners need to post bond to start the process of the legal drain. Manager Bergstrom will continue speaking with the landowners.

Joe Larson-Drain Project-Drain 1 Lateral A

Curtis & Chris Hong attended the meeting to discuss the project costs. Engineer Pease presented the project cost from Moore Engineer for roughly \$260,000. The Hong's would like to do most of the construction themselves. An engineer will be helping instruct with the construction and the project will be signed off by an engineer. The Hong's will put together a bid for the project & can sub contract out any work if they desire. The assessment district is roughly 951 acres. This project wouldn't qualify for cost share since it wasn't on the physical plans "wish list" to the state water commission. There was discussion on the project being applied for cost share despite being on the list. Engineer Pease said it could be applied for to see if the state water commission would approve it. The project might be on hold for up to a year.

Legislative Update

There was discussion on the legislative bills.

HB 2139 relating to cost-sharing and duties of the state water commission, passed Senate floor.

HB 1514 relating to an exemption from permitting requirements for subsurface water management systems, failed.

HB 2174 relating to the election, appointment, terms and number of water resource district managers, failed.

HB1184 relating to the general use of quick take eminent domain and to provide a penalty, failed.

Upper Sheyenne Joint WRD

Manager Bergstrom discussed the upcoming meeting in Valley City on March 20th, 2019.

Candy Hess is the new secretary/treasurer for the Upper Sheyenne WRD. Charlene Varnson has retired.

Devils Lake is currently 1448 feet.

There is an educational drain tile seminar for all water board members.

There was discussion on rotating the chairman position each year. Each county will be rotating chairman and vice chairman alphabetically, by county.

Steve Best from the NDSWC gave a presentation on drones.

Red River Joint WRD

The Executive Board meeting will meet March 13th, 2019.

Manager Ihry attended the Elm River Dam meeting. There was discussion on NRCS offering to do a study on the Dams in the Elm River watershed for potential grant money. One of the landowners didn't want NRCS on their land.

Other Business

There was discussion on updating our electronics and working towards a paperless system.

Office Manager Krueger will get some quotes on the merchandise.

A motion was made by Manager Thykeson to purchase two computer screens and move towards a paperless system, seconded by Manager Bergstrom, motion carried.

There was discussion on Chad Hanson cleaning out snow from the drains.

Drain 1-whole drain from highway to outlet.

Drain 3- east/west stretch by the church

Drain 6- final 2 miles, east of the county road

Drain 11- Near Bergs

Manager Thykeson will contact Chad Hanson after March 15th.

A motion was made by Manager Thykeson to authorize any board member the authority for snow removal, Seconded by Manager Bergstrom, motion carried.

Treasures Report

A motion was made by Manager Thykeson to approve treasurer's report, pay all bills due & approve all financial reports, seconded by Manager Bergstrom, motion carried.

Next General Monthly Meeting will be held Tuesday, April 2nd, 2019 @ 9:00 a.m. in Finley, North Dakota.

Adjournment

There was no further business to be considered by the Board, the meeting adjourned without objection @ 11:11 a.m.

APPROVED:

Josh Ihry, Chairman

ATTEST:

Tasha Krueger, Secretary-Office Manager