

# **Steele County Water Resource District**

General Meeting –July 2nd, 2019  
Minutes

The Steele County Water Resource Board met on Tuesday, July 2nd, 2019 at 8:13 AM at the Steele County Courthouse, Finley, North Dakota.

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

Others present -Cassie Tostenson-Brudvik Law, Lyndon Pease-Moore Engineering, Tasha Krueger-Steele County WRD Secretary

Steele County Chairman Ihry called the meeting to order.

## **Approve Agenda**

A motion was made by Manager Thykeson to approve the agenda with the additions of Drain 1 and John Ihry drain tile, seconded by Manager Bergstrom, motion carried.

## **Approve Minutes**

A motion was made by Manager Thykeson to approve the minutes from General Meeting on June 4th, 2019, seconded by Manager Bergstrom, motion carried.

## **Lake Tobiason**

Engineer Pease presented a timeline for the Lake Tobiason project. A construction and 404 permit will need to be submitted to the Corps of Engineers and the North Dakota State Water Commission. The project construction work will be done by Lake Side Construction. The construction should start in September & be done within a 4 to 6 weeks. There was discussion on the pipes.

A motion was made by Manager Bergstrom to submit the corps of engineer permit, North Dakota State Water Commission permit, & approve the final plans and specs, Seconded by Manager Thykeson, motion carried.

## **Drain 8- Additional Funding**

The Drain 8 request got resubmitted for the cost overrun for the amount of \$63,107 to the North Dakota State Water Commission. The cost requested is under \$75,000 so it will be approved by the State Engineer's Office. The new biennium started July 1<sup>st</sup>. We haven't heard anything on the status of the request. There has been some changes with the North Dakota State Water Commission regarding funding. An update on the reimbursement status will be given in August.

## **Goose River Potential Legal Drain**

Manager Bergstrom discussed landowners draining into the Goose River. Klosters land is full of water and the land is now going to be turned into CRP. The Goose River is full of beaver dams.

There was discussion on the landowners coming forward with the legal drain petition. This project made the “wish list” when filed with the State Water Commission. At this time, there is 45% cost share available through the NDSWC.

### **Joe Larson- Drain 1 Lateral A**

Engineer Pease submitted a cost share application to the NDSWC.

This project is a low priority project which means it will likely not qualify for cost share reimbursement unless funding is available at the end of the July 2020 biennium.

Attorney Tostenson will contact the Hongs with an update.

### **Paul Hanson- Drain Tile Permit**

There were no objections filed for the drain tile permit. Attorney Tostenson discussed the findings and conditions were reviewed.

A motion was made by Manager Thykeson to approved Paul Hanson’s drain tile application for section 14-146-54 NE1/4, Seconded by Manager Bergstrom, motion carried.

### **North Dakota Disaster Declaration**

On June 12<sup>th</sup>, 2019 the State of North Dakota received Presidential approval for a major disaster declaration due to damage caused by the 2019 spring flooding. On July 17<sup>th</sup>, 2019 a kickoff meeting will be held in Grand Forks. Office Manager Tasha Krueger will be attending this meeting.

### **Elm River Dam Joint Meeting**

The board met June 25<sup>th</sup>, 2019 in West Fargo. Manager Ihry, Manager Bergstrom, Robert Thompson, and Joel Halvorson attended the meeting. There are 2 problems with the Dam.

1- There is a culvert with no flap gate. The water is pushing up threw the drain and flowing backwards. The culvert is 3 feet lower than the spillway.

2- The Dam was built for 40 square miles. Currently, 63 square miles are being drained.

If the Elm River Dam is breeched, the Augustine Dam will need also need to be breeched.

There will be a public meeting to discuss the options of the Dam.

### **Steele County Commissioners**

The Steele County WRD met with the Steele County Commission & gave an update on the Lake Tobiason project- culverts will be replaced & construction should start in September & should be completed by October.

Elm River Dam in section 15-144-54 has a man-made dam with a culvert that is 3ft lower than the top of the spill way & there is no flap gate on it. The water isn’t getting through the dam fast enough so it’s backing up. The dam isn’t made to hold the number of square miles its currently holding. The Dam should be breeched or there should be an assessment district formed to maintain the Dam. Moore Engineering is going to do a study to determine what the downstream impact is. The Elm River Dam may qualify for FEMA reimbursement.

The appeal filed by Steele County against the Nelson County WRD was discussed.

The Steele/Nelson County WRD Joint board is still working on the legal drain in the middle branch of the Goose River. There is now state funding available.

Commissioner Ted Johnson said the gates on the east side of the Maple River Dam were recently closed. The board thought the wind may have blew it shut. The gates on the west end need to be replaced.

### **Upper Sheyenne Joint WRD**

Manager Bergstrom attended the Devils Lake Tour June 19<sup>th</sup>, 2019.  
There is no July meeting.

### **Red River Joint WRD**

Manager Ihry attended the Red River Joint WRD June 12<sup>th</sup>, 2019 in Grafton. There was discussion on authorizing funding to the Turtle River 9 & Walsh County Dam  
Manager Ihry was moved from an alternate board member to a full board member.  
An Executive meeting will be held July 17<sup>th</sup>, 2019 in Hillsboro.

### **Drain 1 Crossing**

In the east ½ of section 12-147-55 of Golden Lake township, 2 miles off the Golden Lake highway the concrete drop structure eroded and the culvert is exposed on the crossing site.  
Engineer Pease will go take a look. This site will qualify for FEMA funding reimbursement.  
A motion was made by Manager Thykeson authorize Engineer Pease go check on the Drain 1 crossing site, Seconded by Manager Bergstrom, motion carried.

### **John Ihry -Drain Tile**

John Ihry is planning to install 25 acres of drain tile on section 28-145-56. It will be draining into the west side of the Maple River. No permit is needed. Attorney Tostenson recommended getting easements from the downstream landowners.

### **Other Business**

A motion was made by Manager Bergstrom to authorize Chad Hanson to remove beaver dams in Drain 12, Seconded by Manager Thykeson, motion carried.  
Moore and friends golf tournament will be held in Valley City on July 17<sup>th</sup>, 2019 at 1:30. All board members plan to attend.  
GIS-The board discussed having the assessment district & drains on the GIS website. At this time, they would like more information regarding the annual cost.

### **Treasures Report**

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

A motion was made by Manager Bergstrom for the approval of Pledge of Securities from Citizens State Bank of Finley, seconded by Manager Thykeson, motion carried.

A motion was made by Manager Bergstrom for Citizens State Bank of Finley to be designated for Depositories for the Steele County Water Resource District, seconded by Manager Thykeson, motion carried.

Next General Monthly Meeting will be held Tuesday, August 6th, 2019 @ 8:00 a.m. in Finley.

**Adjournment**

There was no further business to be considered by the Board, the meeting adjourned without objection at 10:58 A.M.

APPROVED:

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Josh Ihry, Chairman

ATTEST:

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Tasha Krueger, Secretary-Office Manager