

Steele County Water Resource District

General Meeting –May 2nd, 2023
Minutes

The Steele County Water Resource Board met on Tuesday, May 2nd, 2023 at 8:03 AM at the Steele County Courthouse, Finley, North Dakota.

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

Others present -Cassie Tostenson-Nilson Brand Law, Lyndon Pease-Moore Engineering, Andrew Smith-Moore Engineering, Tasha Krueger-Steele County WRD Secretary, Ben Gates- Emergency Manager

Steele County Chairman Ihry called the meeting to order.

Approve Agenda

A motion was made by Manager Thykeson to approve the agenda with the addition of Upper Maple River Dam, seconded by Manager, motion carried.

Approve Minutes

A motion was made by Manager Bergstrom to approve the minutes from General Meeting on April 18th, 2023, seconded by Manager Thykeson, motion carried.

A motion was made by Manager Bergstrom to approve the minutes from Emergency Meeting on April 18th, 2023, seconded by Manager Thykeson, motion carried.

Commission Meeting

The Steele County Water Resource District met with the Commission regarding flood issues on the drains.

On April 18th, 2023 the Steele County Water Resource declared an emergency.

Chairman Ihry spoke. The Elm River Dam has been using the emergency spill way since April 19th, 2023 as of April 30th, 2023 it continues to go over the spillway. The spillway has been being monitored. There is a small spot that is starting to eroded. The gate is closed on County Road 5 to protect the control structure for Drain 2. The reason for being closed is to keep water from drain from the Elm River watershed out of the Goose River watershed. It is two separate watersheds. The original plans show the road is to act as a Dam. Discussion was held on communicating on upsizing culverts. A report was giving to the public at the Elm River Dam meeting showing the survey for that was done on the Elm River Dam. The survey shows state stream crossing standards. There are 4-locations in Cass County that didn't meet state stream crossing standards. Those culverts could potentially be upsized at some point. There has been no communication confirming that is going to happen at this moment. The landowners in Cass County are able to install those culverts. They are getting up the state stream crossing standards. On County Road 1, near the location the culverts were lost, will need to be prepared to handle the water.

The Elm River Dam landowners were paid storage easements when the dam was installed. The EAP was implemented on April 19th, 2023. The county road and township blew out.

Manager Thykeson spoke. On April 12th, 2023 the minimum maintenance road west of Dr. Berg's driveway on Drain 11. Lakeside Construction cut the road to prevent any more water to go over the driveway. The water was flowing to the south to eliminate it flowing over the driveway. The berm has to be cut to move more water south. This prevented minimal water to flow into the old washout. The roads have not been fixed yet.

Engineer Pease spoke. He explained the hand out show the 4 locations in Cass County that didn't meet with state standard stream crossings. It shows the minimum culvert size on those sites.

FEMA Update

The 2019 & 2020 FEMA large project closeout PW 26 DR4444 and PW19 DR4553 has been submitted. A close out specialist has not been assigned. It could take another year for the project to be completely closed. The latest timeline estimate has FEMA starting review by the end of the summer.

Russell Kroshus is the new contact for the 2022 FEMA sites.

NDDES is in the process of completing site inspections for all the remaining work to be completed on the 2022 FEMA small sites.

Drain 1: Only one site completed by Lakeside Construction.

Drain 1 Outlet: All project documents have been submitted to NDDES to continue funding process.

Drain 2: three of five sites completed by KRB Gravel.

- Blake plans on waiting until this week and watching conditions. Load restrictions may delay progress on some sites where hauling is required.
- He was concerned about timing with having to close the crossing on County Road 11. The board felt mid-June would be the best time to close the road.

Drain 3: no work completed by Lakeside Construction. The outlet repair has been completed.

Drain 4: construction completed by Naastad Brothers. The cost-share has been obligated and dispersed.

Drain 6: All documents were submitted to NDDES to continue the funding process.

Scope: repair all 5 FEMA damage sites to pre-disaster condition.

Cost Summary: \$428.00 Total Project

Mitigation Option 3:

Scope: Lower upstream culvert 1', re-grade channel, install permanent erosion protection and grade stabilization measures, replace concrete headwall, replace existing drop structure, and replace the two additional culvert crossings.

Cost Estimate: \$822,000 Total Project Cost

Drain 8: three of the fourteen sites completed by KRB Gravel.

- KRB could start finishing site as early as the next couple weeks depending on conditions.

Drain 11 Permanent Outlet Project: All project documents have been submitted to NDDDES to continue the funding process.

- Geotechnical analysis is required by FEMA for the mitigation project. Braun Intertech has been engaging to evaluate the geotechnical requirements and provide a quote to complete the work.

Drain 12: five of six sites completed by KRB Gravel.

- KRB could start finishing site as early as the next couple weeks depending on conditions.

Drain 13: no work completed by Lakeside Construction.

Elm River Dam No 1 Steele County: Construction of spillway repairs completed by Pro Landscapers.

Elm River Dam

State construction permits are in review by Department of Water Resources. No timeline on approval.

- Submitted permit on November 23rd, 2022 for Elm River Dam No. 1 (Steele), which included signed plans, specifications, and design documentation report.
- Anticipate 2023-2024 construction.
- Cost Estimate:
 - Total-\$3,650,000
 - SWC- \$ 2,124,000
 - RRJWRD-\$1,373,000
 - Cass County-\$101,733
 - Local-\$50,867
- Cost-Share status:
 - SWC-cost-share has been approved by up to \$2,124,000
 - RRJWRD-cost-share agreement will need to be updated. -- Previous approved amount was up to \$1,286,000
 - Cass County Flood Sales Tax- previous amount was \$95,267

Drain 1 Lateral A

- Project closeout
 - Inspection, Certification of Substantial Completion, Final Punch List, Final Walkthrough, Payment, and Notice of Acceptability of Work.
 - \$10,370.89 retainage to be paid at closeout.

2023 Flooding Concerns

Discussion was had on who is responsible for claiming the Drain 11 site at Dr. Bergs. It would be best for the water board include it. The water board plans to submit for snow removal and Drain 11 for 2023 flooding concerns.

Beaver Dam Application

A beaver dam application was submitted by Easton Township on Section 5-146-56 SW ¼. Motion made by Manager Thykeson to approve the application, Seconded by Manager Ihry, motion carried. Manager Bergstrom abstained from the vote due to conflict of interest.

Upper Sheyenne Joint WRD

Manager Bergstrom attending the meeting on April 19th, 2023 in Carrington, ND. The next meeting will be held June 21st, 2023 in Devils Lake, ND.

Red River Joint WRD

Manager Ihry attended the Red River Joint WRD meeting on April 10th, 2023. Daryl Richardson spoke at the meeting. There are 15 new Endon-sites that will be installed in all the counties in the Red River Joint WRD. The information will provide wind speeds, temperatures, humidity, and snow fall.

The Red River Joint WRD are interviewing an Executive Director. Keith Weston will be retiring in the upcoming months.

Upper Maple River Dam

Manager Ihry was contacted regarding the cash-rent contract not being issued until June for the land on the Upper Maple River Dam.

There were trees removed on the Upper Maple River Dam. The landowner had concerns about the trees being planted too quickly. He thought it should have been held off on re-planting for a year or two.

Other Business

Manager Bergstrom asked Engineer Pease about how the billing is done. Manager Thykeson will contact Lakeside Construction to fill in the sink hole and laying gravel on the road near the Drain 11 site.

Treasures Report

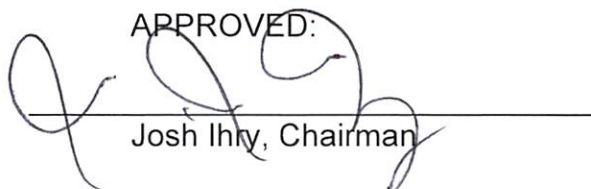
A motion was made by Manager Bergstrom to approve treasurer's report, pay all bills due & approve all financial reports, seconded by Manager Thykeson, motion carried.

Next General Monthly Meeting will be held Tuesday, June 6th, 2023 @ 8:00 a.m. in Finley.

Adjournment

There was no further business to be considered by the Board, the meeting adjourned without objection at 10:32 A.M.

APPROVED:



Josh Ihry, Chairman

ATTEST:



Tasha Krueger, Secretary-Office Manager