

Steele County Water Resource District

General Meeting Minutes
April 2nd, 2024

The Steele County Water Resource Board met on Tuesday, April 2nd, 2024 at 8:00 A.M. at the Steele County Courthouse, Finley, North Dakota

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

Others present -Cassie Tostenson & Alivia Olson-Nilson Brand Law, Lyndon Pease-Moore Engineering, Tasha Krueger-Steele County WRD Secretary.

Steele County Chairman Ihry called the meeting to order.

Approve Agenda

Motion was made by Manager Bergstrom to amend the agenda with the addition of MLGC & Polar Communication Utility Permit, seconded by Manager Thykeson, motion carried.

Approve Minutes

Motion was made by Manager Thykeson to approve the minutes from General Meeting on March 5th, 2024, seconded by Manager Bergstrom, motion carried.

Motion was made by Manager Thykeson to approve the minutes from Drain 2 Re-Assessment Hearing on March 5th, 2024, seconded by Manager Bergstrom, motion carried.

Drain 11-Reassessment

Drain 11 re-assessment list and maps were reviewed by the board. The hearing is held for May 7th, 2024 at 9:00 a.m. The publication will be submitted to the newspaper and published twice. The landowner information will be mailed out.

Motion was made by Manager Bergstrom to adopt the first resolution, Seconded by Manager Thykeson, Roll Call Vote: Ihry-Aye, Bergstrom- Aye, Thykeson-Aye, motion carried.

Motion was made by Manager Thykeson to adopt the second resolution, Seconded by Manager Bergstrom, Roll Call Vote: Ihry-Aye, Bergstrom- Aye, Thykeson-Aye, motion carried.

The landowner ballots will be mailed out. The ballots are due back by June 6th, 2024 at noon. If ballots are late, it will not be counted or considered.

If the vote passes the final design and specs will be started.

If the vote doesn't pass, the board will need to be discussed with other options moving forward.

FEMA Update

- 2022 FEMA Sites
 - o 2022 Sites
 - Drain 1 Outlet – Under FEMA review.
 - Pre-disaster: \$969,900
 - Mitigation: \$1,810,750

- The State has indicated the FEMA will be submitting a Request for Information (RFI) this week regarding ownership and improved property. They will more likely be asking for maintenance records for the undeveloped areas, if they exist.
 - The Water Board will be extending the legal drain further downstream and additional Right-of-Way (ROW) will be needed.

The coulee is eroding and is head cutting all the way to the rip rap.

It is not owned by the WRD which could impact the repair of the mitigation proposal.

The outlet could still be repaired. The additional repair may not be covered by FEMA. The additional repair to the coulee could be submitted for cos-share with the State Water Commission.

- Once FEMA obligates the Project, the following will be needed:
 - Positive vote of the project with the assessment district
 - Obtaining a state drainage permit
 - ROW acquisition
 - Completing final design, public advertisement for construction bids, and awarding a construction contract
 - These steps will take approximately five months. If we receive FEMA obligation by May 1, construction wouldn't start until the beginning of October, which is really pushing the limit on completing construction this year in 2024.
- Drain 6 – Under FEMA review.
 - Pre-disaster: \$476,030
 - Mitigation: \$921,910
 - Planned repairs with submitted total cost of approximately \$556,485:
 - Site 01 - Pre-Disaster Eligible
 - Site 07 - Mitigation Eligible
 - Site 09 - Pre-Disaster Eligible
 - Site 10 - Mitigation Eligible
 - Site 13 - Mitigation Eligible
 - FEMA sent Tasha "Applicant Project Review" on April 1.
 - Total approved amount is \$542,454.25

Motion by Manager Bergstrom to approve the first resolution for Drain 6, Seconded by Manager Thykeson- Roll Call Vote: Ihry-Aye, Bergstrom- Aye, Thykeson-Aye, motion carried.

- Once FEMA obligates the Project, the following will be needed:
 - Positive vote of the project with the assessment district
 - Completing final design, public advertisement for construction bids, and awarding a construction contract
 - These steps will take approximately four months. If we received FEMA obligation by April 1 (what we requested from the State), construction could have started at the beginning of August.
- Drain 11 Permanent Outlet Project – FEMA approved obligation for Mitigation Option 2.
 - Pre-disaster - \$1,168,900
 - Mitigation Option 2 - \$679,660
 - Approve First and Second Resolutions
 - Schedule:
 - Vote ballots to be mailed Friday, April 5
 - Public Hearing on Tuesday, May 7 at 9 AM

- Vote ballots due on Thursday, June 6 at 12 PM (noon)
- Construction could start at the beginning of August (if vote passes)
- Right-of-way on Johnson (former Christopherson) parcel.

2025-2027 Water Development Plan

The water development plan was discussed. The previous biennium water development plan sites will be submitted as it was in the previous biennium.

Elm River Dam

- Permits
 - USACE Section 404 permits
 - Approved
 - DWR construction permits
 - Approved on October 23, 2023 and are valid for two years (October 23, 2025)
- Costs
 - Total Project Cost = \$5.6 Million
 - SWC = 60% of eligible costs (most items) = \$3,292,741
 - RRJWRD = 90% of non-state share = \$2,076,533
 - Cass County Flood Sales Tax = 2/3 (67%) of remaining share = \$145,733
 - Local = \$84,993
- Cost-share status:
 - SWC
 - Cost-share has been approved up to \$3,292,741.
 - Pre-construction agreement = \$213,000
 - Construction agreement = \$3,079,741
 - RRJWRD
 - Cost-share has been approved up to \$2,076,533.
 - Cass County Flood Sales Tax
 - Cost-share has been approved up to \$145,733.
 - Additional cost-share to be requested when construction is complete and final costs are known; Cass County amount would be \$153,817 (additional \$8,084 needed based on current costs).
- Construction status
 - Contractor to mobilize equipment and start construction this week.
 - Submittal reviews are ongoing.
 - Completion Dates (for all three dams)
 - Substantial Completion – November 30, 2024
 - Final Completion – June 30, 2025

Upper Sheyenne Joint WRD

The Upper Sheyenne Joint WRD met in Valley City on March 20th, 2024.
The next meeting will be held April 17th, 2024 in Carrington.

Site #3-Eddy County is on hold due to landowner issues.

Red River Joint WRD

The Red River Joint meeting was held March 13th, 2024.
The next meeting will be held on April 10th, 2024.

Other Business

Utility Permit

Motion was made by Manager Thykeson, to conditionally approve the utility permits from MLGC & Polar Communications upon the approval of Attorney Tostenson, Seconded by Manager Bergstrom, motion carried.

The Township officers meeting will be held at the Hope Legion on April 9th, 2024 starting a 11:30 a.m.

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 Ihry, motion carried.

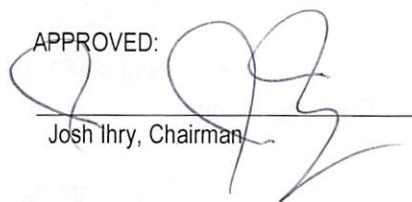
Checks 8744-8754 were approved.

The next General Monthly Meeting will be held Tuesday, May 7th, 2024 @ 8:00 a.m. in Finley.

Adjournment

There was no further business to be considered by the Board, the meeting adjourned at 11:20 a.m. without objection.

APPROVED:



Josh Ihry, Chairman

ATTEST:



Tasha Krueger, Secretary-Office Manager