

**Meeting Minutes**  
**Bois de Sioux Watershed**  
**Advisory Committee Meeting**  
**January 9, 2020 at 12:30 pm**

**Committee Members**

Jay Backer [**Absent**]  
Scott Bauer  
Duane Duin [**Absent**]  
Dean Frisch [**Absent**]  
Doug Jahnke  
Eric Klindt  
Tom Monson

Joe Montonye [**Jared House present as sub**]  
Doyle Sperr [**Absent**]  
Ron Staples  
Mark Summer  
Vernell Wagner  
John Walkup

**Also Present:**

Engineer Jim Guler  
Technician Troy Fridgen  
Bois de Sioux Watershed President Linda Vavra  
Administrator Jamie Beyer

1. **Call to order**
2. **Introductions**
3. **Policies**

New Policy: Board Manager Pay Increase. State law was changed, to allow an increase in watershed board manager pay per diem. As of July 1, 2019, board managers increased their per diem from \$75.00 to \$125.00.

4. **Permitting**

The District saw an increase in permit applications for the year: 2019 - 138 Permits; 2018 - 111 Permits; 2017 - 88 Permits; 2016 - 98 Permits; 2015 - 150 Permits.

Summers inquired as to how long it takes to acquire a permit; Fridgen indicated that an uncontroversial permit may take 13 – 15 days. Permits that are approved with a condition to petition into a ditch will take longer – the petition is received at a board meeting, and a hearing is ordered for the next board meeting, due to notice and publishing requirements. Jahnke stated that he has received two tile pump text alerts this fall/winter – once for freezing culvert conditions and once for flooding.

5. **Spring Flood**

Troy and Jamie are still working through the work on FEMA claims. Currently, the District has put together a \$73,000 FEMA Claim for snow removal and \$78,000 FEMA Claim for repairs and damages, for a total \$151,000 FEMA Claim Total for 2019. Jahnke expressed concern that the

oversaturated fall ground conditions are going to result in increased soil erosion for Spring Flood 2020; he has also seen concerning channels being cut, for water draining around grassed waterways and thick CRP. High water has been reported coming out of the Niemackl Chain of Lakes, about two weeks ahead of where we were last year at this time.

## **6. Ditch Projects**

Wilkin County Ditch #8 was completed, and the final hearing for the contractor was held. The Improvement of Wilkin County Ditch #9/#10 will continue into 2020. Redetermination and repair hearings are currently being held for Judicial Ditch #11; construction could begin Spring 2020. The Advisory Committee discussed limits on repairs. Summers stated that he has noticed better District ditch maintenance, and appreciates seeing ditches being cleaned.

## **7. Watershed Projects**

The District is moving forward with management of 2020 North Ottawa land use decisions, without the DNR, as it took eight months to get a response to the last meeting in February 2019. Redpath land acquisition attempts continue, and there have been some design changes; permitting cannot be finalized until all of Impoundment land has been acquired. The District approved a \$40,000 - \$50,000 EAW for the Big Lake Project. The District's first watershed management district is being proposed (Lake Traverse Water Quality Improvement Project No. 1); BWSR will be holding a required hearing on Jan. 16, 2020. There has been renewed interest in providing a high-water outlet for Samantha Lake, near Elbow Lake.

## **8. Buffers**

Grant County has submitted reports of potential non-compliance for 54 parcels; Traverse County, 11 parcels; Wilkin County, 3 parcels. Grant County's reports are based on 2017 pictometry, and updated pictometry won't be available until 2021. Each county soil and water office has its own rules on alternative practices, which makes enforcement at the District-level more complicated. The District's Buffer Committee is exploring with legal counsel additional alternative practices that could reduce soil erosion.

## **9. 1W1Plan**

The Policy Committee recently listened to a work session describing the options available to the 13 entities under funding implementation – unfortunately, the forming a new, separate joint powers board appears to be the most viable option.

## **10. Adjourn**

**THE NEXT MEETING IS TENATIVELY SCHEDULED FOR JUNE 24TH, 2020 AT 9:00 AM**