

**BOIS DE SIOUX WATERSHED DISTRICT
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
February 17, 2022**

- CALL TO ORDER** The meeting was called to order by President Vavra at 9:00 a.m. Present in the District Office: Linda Vavra, Jason Beyer, Doug Dahlen, Jerome Deal, Scott Gillespie, Steven Schmidt, Allen Wold. Arrived later: John Kapphahn. Absent: Ben Brutlag. Also present in the District Office: District Engineer Chad Engels, Engineer Technician Troy Fridgen, Attorney Lukas Croaker, and Administrator Jamie Beyer.
- AGENDA** Upon motion by Deal, seconded by Wold and carried unanimously, the agenda was approved with the following changes: Permit Application #22-005, Aastad Township, was removed; Permit Application #22-004, Steven Blume, was added; authorize \$500,000 District Redpath commitment; authorize Conservation Partners Legacy Grant application; discussion regarding the March meeting.
- CONSENT AGENDA** Upon motion by Gillespie, seconded by Dahlen and carried unanimously, the consent agenda was approved.
- PUBLIC COMMENT** No public comment was presented.
- WILKIN SWCD COVER CROP PROGRAM** Kim Melton, Wilkin SWCD, provided an update of the Wilkin Cover Crop Program. The \$5,000 provided by the District contributed to funding the 21 contracts implemented in the watershed, at a total cost of \$31,633. Upon motion by Dahlen, seconded by Gillespie and carried unanimously, the third annual payment of \$5,000 was approved.
- P.A. #22-044 N. BLUME** Mr. Neil Blume presented Permit Application #22-004 on behalf of his son Steven. One surface inlet was denied by the District, as it would divert flow across a subwatershed boundary. Mr. Neil Blume stated that Wulff Tiling designed the project, which ties into an existing tile and inlet that crosses subwatershed boundaries. District Engineer Chad Engels noted that this project is controlled by a lift station, and that the inlet meets the drainage coefficient; however, the project is not included in the benefitted area for Grant County Ditch #8.
- KAPPAHNN ARRIVES** Board Manager John Kapphahn arrived at the meeting.
- Upon motion by Beyer, seconded by Gillespie and carried unanimously, the inlet was approved contingent upon written permission from the drainage authority, Grant County.
- TCD #10** Engineer Technician Troy Fridgen stated that TCD #10 needs a complete clean-out, and that the work will likely exceed his spending cap. Upon motion by Beyer, seconded by Dahlen and carried unanimously, Engineer Technician Troy Fridgen is authorized to proceed with the clean-out.
- TCD #35/ REDPATH PHASE I** Advertisements for the bid for TCD #35 Improvement/Redpath Phase 1 Project is happening this week; bids will be due March 15th. District Engineer Chad Engels stated that this ditch system will require a number of large concrete box culverts, and that the contractor may not be able to secure the culverts until later this year. The winning contractor will be asked to use a sequencing plan for construction, so that the drainage ditch work can be completed, and the crossing crew can return to the construction site once culverts are delivered.
- TARA TOWNSHIP PRIVATE PROJECT** Engineer Technician Troy Fridgen met with Tara Township landowners about a coordinated effort to clean out a system of private and township ditches. Board managers supported these efforts, and requested that Engineer Technician Troy Fridgen continue to work on mediating a landowner agreement for construction.
- ZONE 3 DITCH INSPECTIONS** Upon motion by Gillespie, seconded by Deal and carried unanimously, Engineer Technician Troy Fridgen is authorized to inspect the third cycle of District drainage systems (which is located in the mid- to southern region of the District.
- JD #6 BOND** Upon motion by Gillespie, seconded by Beyer and carried unanimously, the board approved the application of \$16,373.53 in project expenses to the JD #6 bond.

WCD #SUB-1 Board Manager Jason Beyer gave an update on landowner support for an improvement of WCD #Sub-1. There is currently support for the petition, but it is unknown if there is support to provide a bond. Upon motion by Gillespie, seconded by Kapphahn and carried unanimously, a landowner meeting was authorized.

**SNOWPACK/
FLOOD
PROJECTIONS** District Engineer Chad Engels presented graphics comparing current snowpack estimates vs. 2019 snowpack estimates; at this time, current snowpack amounts are less than those measured at the same date in 2019.
Board Manager Doug Dahlen asked staff why the Niemackl Lakes chain has been draining. Engineer Technician Troy Fridgen has plans for a drone flight.

**STORAGE GRANT
APPLICATION** Upon motion by Dahlen, seconded by Gillespie and carried unanimously, authorization was approved to submit the Redpath Project on a grant application for water storage through BWSR.

**640TH AVE ROAD
RAISE** District Engineer Chad Engels and District Technician Troy Fridgen have been in contact with Dollymount Township officials and landowners, advising them to hire a separate engineering firm and attorney, to complete the 640th Road Raise project. Staff anticipate that changes may be proposed to both the permitted application and agreement.

**LIGHTNING LAKE
PROJECT** Attorney Lukas Croaker presented a number of statutory procedures that could be used to establish the Lightning Lake Improvement Project No. 1. Upon motion by Kapphahn, seconded by Dahlen and carried unanimously, Attorney Lukas Croaker is authorized to pursue project establishment by using Minn. Stat. § 103D.605.

**SOUTHERN
BOUNDARY** BWSR approved the Southern Boundary petition. Changes to individual parcels will take effect for taxes payable in 2023.

**WETLAND CREDIT
BANKING** Wes Boll, of Moore Engineering, provided a wetland credit banking presentation, with the Mustinka River Rehabilitation Project as a possible site. District Engineer Chad Engels stated that any created wetland credits would not immediately be needed by the District itself, but he did ask if board managers knew if there is pressure from landowners to provide wetland credits in our region. Board managers supported a more in-depth analysis to be provided by Moore Engineering at a later date. President Vavra stated concerns that a wetland credit banking program would add obligations to the project.

**FM DIVERSION
REDPATH
FUNDING** Legal and engineering staff reviewed the 2015 grant agreement between the District and the Fargo-Moorhead Diversion Authority. Upon motion by Beyer, seconded by Deal and carried unanimously, staff are authorized to negotiate a new grant agreement with the Fargo-Moorhead Diversion Authority, to be brought back to the board for consideration.

**REDPATH
RRWMB
FUNDING** Engineering staff presented the Redpath Impoundment Project at both the Red River Watershed Management Board and Flood Damage Reduction Workgroup meetings. The District has asked RRWMB to update the project's eligibility for additional cost share funding, through an amendment to the Step 2 process and an updated cost estimate.

**REDPATH
PHASE 1** Upon motion by Gillespie, seconded by Dahlen and carried unanimously, the District approved a \$500,000 contribution to Phase 1 from the Construction Fund.

**SAMANTHA &
ELBOW LAKE** Engineering staff and Board Manager John Kapphahn continue to work with Grant County over increasing control of Samantha and Elbow Lakes. Landowners are also meeting.

**DORAN CREEK
LANDOWNER
MEETING** Preparations have been made for a landowner meeting on February 23, 2022 with Doran Creek landowners.

**LTWQIP NO. 1
PHASE #3** Engineering staff are presenting to the DNR two designs for Phase 3 of the Lake Traverse Water Quality Improvement Project. Both designs must prevent channel erosion under high velocity conditions. One design features sheet pile weirs in a series; the other design will be recommended by Moore Engineering and it utilizes strategic riprap armaments. Upon motion by Kapphahn, seconded by Deal and carried unanimously, staff are authorized to submit a Conservation Partners Legacy Grant application on behalf of the project.

MAWD MEMBERSHIP

Board managers discussed MAWD membership at length – dues must be submitted by April 30th. Wold motioned not to pay MAWD annual dues. No second was presented. Dahlen motioned, seconded by Kapphahn, to send a letter to MAWD detailing the District’s complaints. Dahlen motioned to amend the motion to change from mailing the letter to review of the letter at the District’s next meeting. Kapphahn seconded. Motion carried. Gillespie suggested that the resolution process be utilized to provide MAWD membership feedback.

DEAL LEAVES

Board Manager Jerome Deal left the meeting.

HILL VISITS

MAWD scheduled St. Paul visits the same day as the District’s March board meeting. Because the District is pursuing dedicated funding for Redpath, it was decided to move the meeting to March 24th at 9:00 am.

END OF YEAR JOURNAL ENTRIES

Upon motion by Beyer, seconded by Dahlen and carried unanimously, revisions to the End of Year Journal Entry for Interest were approved.

FARMLAND LEASES

Administrator Beyer stated that the District’s farmland leases contain a provision that rent is due March 1st. Upon motion by Gillespie, seconded by Dahlen and carried unanimously, any rent unpaid by this date will trigger the termination clause, and the land will be rebid.

BEYER LEAVES

Board Manager Jason Beyer left the meeting.

Upon motion by Dahlen, seconded by Gillespie and carried unanimously, the meeting was adjourned at 12:44 pm.