

**BOIS DE SIOUX WATERSHED DISTRICT
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
February 27, 2023**

- CALL TO ORDER** The meeting was called to order by President Vavra at 9:00 a.m. The regular board meeting scheduled February 23, 2023 was cancelled due to inclement weather. Present in the District Office: Linda Vavra, Jason Beyer, Doug Dahlen, Jerome Deal, Scott Gillespie, John Kapphahn, Steven Schmidt, and Allen Wold. Absent: Ben Brutlag. Also present: District Engineer Chad Engels, Engineer James Guler, Attorney Sarah Wear, Engineer Technician Troy Fridgen, and Administrator Jamie Beyer.
- AGENDA** Upon motion by Schmidt, seconded by Dahlen and carried unanimously, the agenda was approved with the following additions: MPCA Doran Creek Request, Fivemile Creek Update and Landowner Meeting, HSEM 2022 Flood Disaster Claim.
- CONFLICT OF INTEREST** No conflict of interest was declared.
- CONSENT AGENDA** Upon motion by Deal, seconded by Dahlen and carried unanimously, the Consent Agenda was approved.
- Upon motion by Deal, seconded by Dahlen and carried unanimously, Engineer Technician Troy Fridgen is authorized to inspect the first cycle of District drainage systems (which is located in the northern region of the District).
- WCD #SUB-1 AMENDMENT** Board managers reviewed corrections to the WCD #Sub-1 Viewers' Report. Upon motion by Beyer, seconded by Dahlen and carried unanimously, Amendment No. 1 to the Findings and Order Establishing the Project was approved. Board managers reviewed price quotes to move utilities outside of the project construction footprint. Board Manager Kapphahn stated that electric utilities do receive benefits when power lines are buried. Engineer Technician Troy Fridgen suggested that utility 5-year capital improvement plans be collected, to see if there are planned improvements planned in areas of drainage systems – the District may be able to compel utility service to be placed out of the potential project right-of-way. Upon motion by Deal, seconded by Dahlen and carried unanimously, the Traverse Electric utility price quotes of \$17,981.55, \$63,383.11, \$17,441.36, and \$32,280.25 for utility relocation were approved. Upon motion by Beyer, seconded by Dahlen and carried unanimously, the Arvig utility price quote of \$20,298.30 for utility relocation was approved.
- TCD #1 MEETING AUTHORIZED** Engineering staff presented current and recommended culvert sizes proposed in coordination with a MN-DOT Hwy 27 project affecting TCD #1. The project will not be constructed this year. Upon motion by Beyer, seconded by Deal and carried unanimously, the District authorized a landowner meeting to gauge interest in a petitioned repair or improvement project.
- TCD #16 MEETING AUTHORIZED** Engineer Technician Troy Fridgen stated that a landowner has expressed interest in a project in the TCD #16 drainage system. Upon motion by Beyer, seconded by Deal and carried unanimously, staff are authorized to hold an informal landowner meeting.
- BDSWD DITCH NO. 5 MEETING** Engineering staff relayed the results of a meeting with landowners who would be directly affected by a proposed legal drainage system in Section 24 of Dollymount Township and Sections 19, 20, and 21 of Eldorado Township. Board managers discussed the requirement that the 640th road raise project be constructed first. Upon motion by Beyer, seconded by Deal and carried unanimously, the District authorized an informal meeting with landowners in the watershed that would potentially be assessed to a future benefit area if the ditch were to be established.
- VIEWERS** Board managers discussed the need for additional drainage system viewers and the desire to find individuals from the area who are familiar with land conditions in the District. Board managers are asked to provide contact information for individuals who may be interested in viewing. Upon motion by Gillespie, seconded by Dahlen and carried unanimously, staff are authorized to contact individuals from the statewide viewer list.
- LAKE TRAVERSE-MUD LAKE** Representatives from the United States Army Corps of Engineers have held two in-person listening sessions and one virtual listening session to collect initial comments on the update to the Lake Traverse-Mud Lake operations manual. Staff and board managers participated in the meetings, and put District

comments in a proposed draft comment letter. Upon motion by Gillespie, seconded by Kapphahn and carried unanimously, staff are authorized to send the comment letter to the United States Army Corps of Engineers, which includes a request for the US Army Corps to perform maintenance to restore the channel to its original design standard.

MDA WEED GRANT APPLICATION Upon motion by Kapphahn, seconded by Schmidt and carried unanimously, staff are authorized to submit a Minnesota Department of Agriculture Noxious Weed Treatment grant application in the amount of \$5,000.

GRANT SWCD WATER DAY Upon motion by Wold, seconded by Beyer and carried unanimously, staff are authorized to participate in the programming for the Grant SWCD Water Day, to be held from 4 – 7 pm on April 4th, 2023.

MOONSHINE IMPOUNDMENT A historic lakebed in Moonshine Township is currently providing impromptu spring snowmelt runoff storage for the City of Graceville when a downstream channel is frozen and East Toqua is full. Engineering staff have looked at the natural features of the site and have determined there is potential for significant gated storage that could be achieved with minimal berming. A potential project would include a modest dam embankment and a spillway; spring flood conditions and summer operations would be detailed in a formal operations plan. Because of the proximity of the site to the Red River, the project would likely score low with RRWMB funding criteria. No engineer's report (and no cost estimate) has been authorized. Board managers and engineering staff discussed project features that would provide local landowner benefits, including consideration of the downstream channel. Board Manager Gillespie will speak with the three affected landowners directly.

REDPATH PHASE 2 MUSTINKA RIVER REHABILITATION Engineering staff held a pre-bid meeting to answer questions on Redpath Phase 2 bid documents. Bid amounts will determine the length of the Mustinka River restoration and Redpath levy that can be built. Construction will likely be restricted to Redpath Township, Sections 15 and 16.

DORAN CREEK RESTORATION Moore Engineering staff, Garrett Monson and Tara Ostendorf, provided a presentation on the Restoration of Doran Creek, which aims to restore 19.25 miles of channel, remove up to 3' of sediment, reshape the floodplain, and use side inlet culverts to reduce sediment contributions to the channel in the future. The total cost of the project is estimated to be \$8.4 million. One of the potential funding programs available is the RIM easement program, administered by the Board of Water and Soil Resources. Upon motion by Kapphahn, seconded by Gillespie and carried unanimously, staff are authorized to prepare the Minn. Stat. Sec. 103D.605, Subd. 2 project plan, and RIM application documents (Doran Creek Restoration Project partner letter and joint cooperative agreement) were approved. Upon motion by Beyer, seconded by Deal and carried unanimously, staff are authorized to apply for an NRCS National Water Quality Initiative Planning Grant to cover a portion of the project development costs.

Board managers reviewed a draft letter on behalf of the District in response to an informal notification that MPCA representatives are considering a reclassification of Doran Creek. Kapphahn motioned to approve the letter. No second. Upon motion by Kapphahn, seconded by Dahlen and carried unanimously, the letter was approved with a correction from "Doran Slough" to "Doran Creek."

NORTH OTTAWA The North Ottawa Project Team will be meeting in March to discuss operator crops and bathroom facilities.

FIVEMILE CREEK Grant County Zoning Employee Greg Lillemon requested a Fivemile Creek landowners meeting. Board managers discussed possible impacts to the area in the future, including the Redpath Flood Impoundment, Mustinka River Rehabilitation, Grant County Ditch #8, and a possible future diversion channel. Board managers recently approved a modeling study, so there is little to report at this time. Board Manager Gillespie requested that a potential timeline be identified. Upon motion by Kapphahn, seconded by Dahlen and carried unanimously, staff are authorized to create and present a draft Fivemile landowner letter at the next board manager meeting.

FLOOD 2022 Upon motion by Beyer, seconded by Deal and carried unanimously, the District will accept the 75% reimbursement offered by the Homeland Security Emergency Management office for Flood 2022 damages, in the amount of \$59,756.85.

WBIF DISBURSEMENTS Two Watershed Based Implementation Fund grant disbursements were included in the February 27, 2023 payable: \$5,042.99 was paid to Traverse SWCD and \$103,354.73 was paid to Wilkin SWCD.

JUNE 19TH

The State of Minnesota recently added Juneteenth, June 19th, to Minn. Stat. Section 645.44, subdivision 5 as a public holiday, effective August 2023. As a result, the District is required to add this holiday to its list of employee holidays.

COVER CROP PROGRAM

Stevens SWCD provided a report and reimbursement in the amount of \$3,700 for the unused portion of a cover crop program provided to Stevens SWCD on behalf of the District in 2020.

INTEREST RATES

Board managers discussed interest rates and requested that staff verify that the District's funds are being placed in high-interest bearing accounts.

Upon motion by Dahlen, seconded by Gillespie and carried unanimously, the meeting was adjourned.