

Proceedings of the Walsh County Water Resource District Board Meeting

Wednesday, January 31st, 2024

Walsh County Courthouse, Grafton, ND

January 31st, 2024 9:00 am

Vice Chairman Larry Tanke called the meeting of the Walsh County Water Resource District Board to order. Roll call was taken. Present: Vice Chairman Tanke, Manager Albin Jallo, , Admin. Assistant Sarah Johnston. Chairman Daryl Campbell attended via Zoom. Vice Chairman Tanke led the meeting.

Agenda: Maria & Adam Carter contacted the office to be added to the agenda regarding the complaint filed by Paul Suda Farms. Randy Emanuelson would also like to be added to the meeting. The DWR Water Plan and the copier lease were added. ***Chairman Daryl Campbell moved to approve the agenda; 2nd by Manager Jallo. Motion carried.***

Minutes: ***Manager Jallo moved to approve the minutes from the January 23rd meeting; 2nd by Chairman Campbell. Motion carried.***

Bills: ***Manager Jallo moved to approve the bills as presented; 2nd by Chairman Campbell. Motion carried.***

Jason Johnston- Walsh Co. Hwy Dept:

Commissioner Ernie Barta attended with Jason to discuss possible culvert sizes to replace the bridge on County Road 9 on Drain 48, located just east of the intersection of County Road 4 and County Road 9. Preliminary hydraulic estimates from KLJ showed that two concrete box culverts 14ft x 14ft would provide a more than adequate crossing. The 10 ft x 14ft size would also be options. No decision was made by the board. Houston Engineering just wrapped up survey work and will run the full hydraulic study. Jason submitted the project for Flex Funds from NDDOT. The cost share he was expecting from Federal sources is delayed so the bid process on other bridge projects he's managing are on hold, likely thru December.

Layne Kittleson- Solicitation of View on Surface Drainage Permit Application 6271- Jay Gudajtes:

Layne is a member of the Harriston Township Board and has been solicited by the ND Department of Water Resources to provide comments on the surface drainage permit application 6271 file by Jay Gudajtes, which is in its initial stages. Layne met with the board to provide feedback on the project proposed by Gudajtes to reroute a small coulee in NW ¼ Section 29 of Harriston Township. He had general questions for the board regarding drainage ditch design and also shared his concerns about how the proposed project would impact the roadway on 156th Ave. Also, the existing drainage issues in several parcels of neighboring land were discussed. He provided photos to the board that show the water issues in 2022 near his farmstead and further south to the area that this project is being proposed. Normally he said the water is not a big issue for where he lives. The board clarified to Layne that his comments should be made

in writing to the DWR in addition to appearing to discuss the issue with them. Casey and Don Rudnik attended the meeting and added additional information pertaining to sheet water in that area. The board pointed out that there is a withstanding issue in that area that has not been dealt with, and the proposed project brings it to light again, which are the drainage issues surrounding the Minto Lagoon. Layne and the board discussed how it might be a possibility to drain some of the extra water south to help alleviate temporary ponding and allow the water a better outlet, which would be the Forest River. The board recommended that Layne reach out to the City of Minto to further the discussion as to whether the lagoon area water could be addressed by the city. Layne will be in touch with the board again soon.

Carl Unruh- Grafton Township/Luke Holt culvert & berm:

Carl met with the board to discuss his concerns about the berm and small culvert that were constructed on the outlet end of a new culvert Grafton Township installed on the SW ¼ of S3 along 147th Ave NE. Carl farms the SW ¼ of S4 and has concerns that water that would normally drain thru the road will back up, due to how the berm and culvert were installed in Luke's field. Richard and Boe Rutherford also attended the meeting, and help to describe how the water flows through that area. The board will be in contact with Luke Holt to see if the issue can be discussed further with him, possibly seeking options to resolve the issue.

Paul Suda Farms Complaint against Jonk Family Trust- Prairie Centre S32 NE ¼:

Maria and Adam Carter met with the board for initial discussion on a complaint filed by Paul Suda Farms against Jonk Family Trust, with the Carters representing the latter. Several years back the WRD handled a complaint between the parties regarding the washout of the beach ridge on Section 32. The recent complaint stated that too much water is coming from the NE ¼ of S32 through the beach ridge washout in that quarter. According to the complaint, the Sudas say the washout has been further modified, sending excess water east to their crops as it approaches County Rd. 8, instead of traveling north out of Section 32 through a coulee. Included also in the complaint is mention of a berm with culvert on the north end of Section 32 that is not allowing flows to drain to the north from the south. Maria and Adam outlined the current water situation on their family's land. Next, the board will request to meet with Don Suda to discuss his complaint.

Randy Emanuelson- Drain 50:

Randy and his brother Mike attended the meeting to discuss the possibility of the water board applying for cost share for preliminary work needed to determine options for Drain 50. There is a need for better flood control along the drain. The office will look into the opportunity.

Complaint updates:

Information statuses were provided on complaints by Mark A. Novak, Paul Suda Farms, Don and Casey Rudnik, Walsh Centre Township, and John Miller Farms.

Miscellaneous:

- The Water Development Plan is due to DWR and SWC for 2025-2027 projects on April 30th.
- The copier lease will be signed for a 5 year-term with state pricing.

The board will meet again on Tuesday, February 6th at 8:00 a.m.



Larry Tanke, Vice Chairman

Attest:



Sarah B. Johnston, Administrative Assistant