

**Proceedings of the Walsh County Water Resource District Board Meeting**  
**Tuesday, March 12th 2024**  
**Walsh County Courthouse, Grafton, ND**

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: The agenda was reviewed. Dan Gaustad was added at 9:45 am and Pete Brown was added for 10:30 am. **Manager Jallo moved to approve the agenda; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Chairman Campbell. Motion carried.**

Minutes & Bills: **Chairman Campbell moved to approve the minutes from the March 5th meeting and the bills as presented; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Manager Jallo. Motion carried.**

**Farmington Township Board – Drain 70:**

Nick DeSautel and Barry Kingsbury appeared to discuss Drain 70 maintenance costs and drain maintenance assessments. There is a shortfall in the drain for the time being due to FEMA repairs that had to be made in 2022, primarily located along 147<sup>th</sup> Ave NE. There will be more discussion on how to pay it down because there is additional work that could be done. Given recent discussions on assessments across the state, the board will seek an opinion on the maximum assessments allowed for maintenance. Water issues on the North Branch of the Park River were mentioned by Nick.

**Fordville Dam Access:**

Tom Purdue from the Grand Forks County WRD (GFWRD) appeared via Zoom to discuss hunting access and motorized vehicle use at Fordville Dam. GFWRD received a complaint from someone wanting hunting access that the property was closed to hunting. GFWRD has been posting the dam as “No Hunting”, though it is the WCWRD that has the authority to decide. There is a concern by the GFWRD that motorized vehicles are creating erosion issues on the property. Motorized vehicles have created issues in some counties to the point where the dam integrity has been significantly affected. After much discussion on hunting and recreation, the Board decided that the GFWRD will continue to post the dam as “No Hunting” to allow for non-hunters to recreate at the dam during hunting season. The dam will also be posted as “No Motorized Vehicles” in an effort to stop further damages. The posting includes all of the WCWRD’s property at Fordville Dam.

**The Forest River Joint Water Resource District will meet at a later date- TBD.**

**Drain Assessments/ DWR Cost Share Contract:**

Dan Gaustad appeared via Zoom to answer questions on drain maintenance assessments. The Drain 50 DWR Cost Share contract was also discussed. The funding would allow for planning work to continue on the drain, and was submitted to the State at the request of landowners in that assessment area. Questions will be submitted to DWR. Dan Gaustad will attend the March 26<sup>th</sup> Board meeting.

**Complaints:**

A letter was drafted to Mark A. Novak to close the complaint he filed against Russel Grabanski. There was not sufficient evidence to support the complaint. **Chairman Campbell moved to approve the letter to Novak, closing the complaint with no action; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Vice Chairman Tanke. Motion carried.** Several new complaints were filed by Mark Novak against several landowners near or along County Highway 15. The board will look closer at these complaints at a later date.

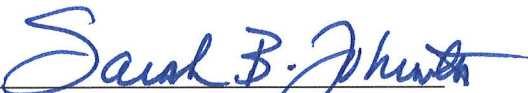
**Drain 4A- 76<sup>th</sup> St NE- Culvert:**

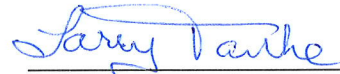
Pete and Nathaniel Brown appeared to discuss the Board’s progress on the planning work with the railroad crossing culvert in Drain 4A. The new culvert would be placed next to the existing railroad culvert across from Pete Brown’s farmstead on 76<sup>th</sup> St NE in the north ditch. The expense of the project is greater than what the drain can afford. The Browns have been affected by lack of drainage in SE ¼ of S8 and SW ¼ S9. Alternatives were discussed. The board asked them to weigh the options and return at a later date.

**Miscellaneous:**

- Dam Emergency Action Plans were discussed with Jacob Wognum (HEI). There is cost share funding available for these plans. ***Chairman Campbell moved to have Houston Engineering prepare estimates for the Emergency Action Plans; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Manager Jallo. Motion carried.***
- Chris Bjerneby joined the meeting to request a letter of support from the Board regarding the rail bridge outside of the Lone Wolf potato warehouse in Minto, which is over Drain 7 (Harriet Drain). The drain will not be paying on the project. The Board will write a letter of support for the grant he is applying for.
- KLJ is soliciting comments on the Hagen Bridge project on Drain 97, and the removal of a bridge between S1/ S2 in Ops township. The board is familiar with the projects, and has no comments to submit. Sarah will respond to KLJ.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned. The board will meet again on Tuesday, March 19th, 2024.

Attest:   
Sarah B. Johnston, Administrative Asst.

  
Larry Tanke, Vice Chairman