

**Proceedings of the Walsh County Water Resource District Board Meeting**  
**Tuesday, March 19<sup>th</sup>, 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, and Admin. Assistant Sarah Johnston. Chairman Daryl Campbell attended via Zoom. Vice Chairman Tanke led the meeting.

Agenda: The agenda was reviewed. ***Manager Jallo moved to approve the agenda; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Chairman Campbell. Motion carried.***

Minutes & Bills: ***Manager Jallo moved to approve the minutes from the March 12th meeting and the bills as presented; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Chairman Campbell. Motion carried.***

Complaints: Correspondence was received from Vogel Law on behalf of Mark A. Novak pertaining to complaints filed last fall by John Miller Farms and Walsh Centre Township, regarding dikes along County Road 15 in Sections 35 and 36 in Prairie Centre Township. These three parties will be a part of a broader discussion this afternoon on how to best address water issues in the County Road 15 corridor.

Solicitation of Views- Kevin Mudder Dike Application: The Department of Water Resources (DWR) is soliciting the Board's comments on Kevin Mudder's ring dike application #2734. The application outlines Kevin's plans to construct a ring dike to protect his residence from flooding on Forest River. The project is located just east of the City of Forest River, in S28 of Forest River Township. The proposed earthen dike would protect 2 acres of property and include riprap. The DWR has classified the project as "low risk... involving only local water management implications." After reviewing the information provided by the DWR, the Board concluded that the completeness of Kevin Mudder's plan is satisfactory, and that the project should be allowed to proceed as written. The board continues to support residents who want to ring dikes so that they may protect their property from spring flooding, and encourages residents to apply to our office for cost share.

**Polar Communications Fiber Optic Installs Thru Legal Drains:**

Stacey Loftsgard of Polar Communications and Troy Huseby of CNE are managing fiber optic installations that will take place this summer on the following drains: 22, 22A, 22B, 28, 31, and 31-1. The Board reviewed the installation plans, and acknowledged the planned route and how it affects each drain. There was discussion on the installation process. Boring is done 10ft in depth and there is a plastic duct used in each bore, including through roadways. An engineer will be onsite as MasTec completes the installations. Drain 31 is one example where they will need to bore under a bridge. Landowners have been contacted and the board is welcome to get in touch with Stacey if there are any questions during the installation process.

**Drain 28 Projects:** At the request of the Board, Craig Jones and Kameron Slominski appeared to discuss maintenance work on Drain 28. Lee Czapiewski, Kyle Moe, Craig Nice, Kyle Nice, Gary Slominski and Commissioner Ernie Barta also joined the meeting. Jacob Wognum of Houston Engineering attended via Zoom. Vice Chairman Larry Tanke presented the drain's financials as it

related to pending projects, including FEMA work from 2022 and 2023. Landowners agreed that the drain needs cleanout in the area Chairman Tanke noted on the north lateral, and that it also needs culvert maintenance and spraying. Also discussed was the proposed driveway culvert maintenance on Section 33 of Walshville Township along County Road 19. Vice Chairman Tanke explained how the maintenance budget cannot support all of the work without further assessment to landowners. He added that those who are assessed in this drain would need to vote on additional assessments, which is currently maxed out at \$4/acre for maintenance. The consensus of the group in attendance was to proceed with the petition process. If a petition is submitted by landowners, public meetings would be held with assessed landowners to discuss any further assessments that may be needed, with a vote thereafter. Jacob Wognum of Houston Engineering will present at a later date for the group, a summary of pending maintenance work.

*The board adjourned at 12:00 pm and reconvened at approximately 12:35 pm, with discussion on upcoming meetings.*

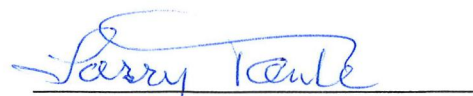
**Drainage Issues along County Road 15 Corridor, West of Voss:**

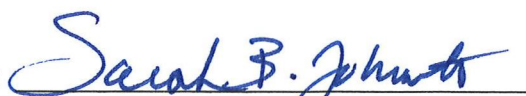
The Board met with the following landowners to discuss water issues along County Road 15 west of Voss: Mark & Lara Novak, Don Suda, John Miller Jr., and Brian Schuster. Also in attendance were County Commissioner, Ernie Barta; Highway Superintendent, Jason Johnston; Bennett Johnson of Vogel Law, and Jacob Wognum of Houston Engineering. The discussion focused on finding solutions for the ongoing water issues that are affecting property and roads starting west of the curve on County Road 8/ County Road 15 leading to County Rd 6. Several complaints have been filed by landowners because there is no place for the water to go. After much discussion by landowners in attendance, all agreed that a legal drain would allow for better water management to alleviate drainage issues and flooding. The group identified areas of the greatest need for future drainage project work. Areas identified start along 61<sup>st</sup> St near Section 33 of Prairie Centre Township, including the area leading to County Road 8, then east onwards to the area along the County Road 15 corridor reaching east to County Road 6. The landowners inquired about the process for forming a legal drain. After much discussion, those landowners in attendance indicated that they wish to initiate a new legal drain project, and will submit a signed petition to the Board.

**Miscellaneous:**

- The Forest River Joint Water Resource Board will meet at 9:30 am on April 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- The Oslo Joint Powers Agreement will be reviewed at the next meeting with Attorney Dan Gaustad.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned. The board will meet again on Tuesday, March 26th, 2024.

  
Larry Tanke, Vice Chairman

Attest:   
Sarah B. Johnston, Administrative Asst.

**Notice of Meeting and Agenda**  
**Walsh County Water Resource District**  
**Tuesday, March 19th, 2024**  
**Walsh County Courthouse Lower Level Office #3**  
**8:00 am**

- 8:00 a.m.** Call to Order  
Roll Call  
Agenda Approval  
Consent/Approval
- Minutes –March 12th Meeting
  - Bills
  - Correspondence
- 8:15 a.m.** Complaints: update J. Miller- M. Novak complaint S35/36 P.C. Twp
- 8:30 a.m.** Solicitation of Views on Kevin Mudder Dike Application
- 9:00 a.m.** Polar Communications Fiber Optic Installs thru Legal Drains
- Stacey Loftsgard, Polar Communications
  - Troy Huseby, CNE
- 10:30 a.m.** Drain 28 Projects
- Craig Jones, Kameron Slominski
- 12:00 p.m.** Break (may reconvene as soon as 12:30 pm)
- 1:00 p.m.** Drainage Issues Co. Rd. 15 Corridor West of Voss

**Other items:** Miscellaneous Correspondence

**Reminders:**

In accordance with North Dakota law, Water Resource Districts may, if necessary, depart from or add to the agenda at meetings.

People with disabilities who plan to participate in the meeting and need special arrangements should contact the Water Resource District office at 701-352-0081.