

Proceedings of the Walsh County Water Resource District Board Meeting
Tuesday, June 4th, 2024
Walsh County Courthouse, Grafton, ND

Chairman Daryl Campbell called the meeting of the Walsh County Water Resource District Board to order. Roll call was taken. All Present: Chairman Daryl Campbell, Vice Chairman Larry Tanke, Manager Albin Jallo, and Admin. Assistant Sarah Johnston. Other attendees included: Rita Sveen, NRCS; and Zach Herrmann, HEI and Christi Fischer, NRCS (both *via Zoom*).

Agenda: The agenda was reviewed. ***Vice Chairman Tanke motioned to approve the agenda, 2nd by Manager Jallo. Motion carried.***

Minutes & Bills: The minutes from the May 28th Board Meeting were reviewed. The bills were presented. ***Vice Chairman Tanke moved to approve the minutes and bills as presented, 2nd by Manager Jallo. Motion carried.*** There was no correspondence.

Highway Department Drainage Permits for Myrdal Bros. & Kevin Zikmund: Jason Johnston presented information regarding Myrdal Bros. request for county drainage along County Rd 1 in Lampton Township, in NE ¼ S4. Myrdal wants to install a new approach, and Jason is not in favor of the idea, due to the fact it will affect drainage. The Board advised Jason to have them resubmit a new plan that doesn't impede flow. Jason presented information regarding Kevin Zikmund's request to clean out the ditch on the north side of NW ¼ of S27. Kevin was permitted in the past for this work. Jason looked at the site, which was permitted last year. He said it doesn't need to be done again based on his inspection. Both landowner permits were denied by the board.

Matejcek Dam Rehab alternatives discussion:

Christi Fischer of NRCS and Zach Herrmann of Houston Engineering joined the meeting to discuss the selection of the preferred alternative. At the last board meeting, the Board chose Alternative #2. Alternative #3 was not chosen due to the fact the Board felt public safety, including slower response times could be an issue. Additional snow removal costs were projected for Alternative #3, which would include adding additional snow removal equipment to the local shop. Christi noted that NRCS will cost share based on the alternative with the highest cost-benefit ratio (Alternative #3). The Board would have to find another source of funding to cover the difference in the cost share amounts for construction of Alternative 2 and Alternative #3, which equates to \$8 Million total project costs. Concerns the Board has with Alternative #3 would need to be included with the project proposal, and supported by local information that would hopefully allow Alternative #2 to be considered the top selection. Letters are needed from county departments and commissioners by the end of June. NRCS pays 100% of the design and 65% of the construction costs of the best alternative. Local costs will not be incurred until 2027. The County Commission and the WRD boards would need a 2/3 majority vote of their members to assess the project up to \$4/acre/year to landowners in the watershed.

Rita Sveen of NRCS was also in attendance and noted that about 400 acres of farmland along the N. Branch of the Park River is under water due to flooding. Planning efforts for retention could be picked up again with other landowners if the board wanted to pursue it.

Jacob Wognum, Houston Engineering:

Jacob presented his monthly report with updates to the following projects: Drain 28, Drain 4A, Drain 87, Drain 50, and Drain 25. Additional small updates were provided on PRSC and Drain 31. Report attached.

Drain 31-1 Cleanout:

Section 22 of Harriston Township needs cleaning out to prevent drainage issues. Jay Gudajtes will be contacted to see if he will do the work.

Blair Farm & Seed's surface drainage application #6342:

The surface drainage application involves draining SW ¼ of S34 into the SE ¼ of S34, in Forest River Township. The Board wants to be sure that Luke Blair has obtained easements from the owners of SE ¼ of S34 prior to approving the permit. The permit was tabled and a letter requesting additional information will be sent to the applicant.

Polar Communications – Line Repair, Drain 30-1:

John Praska contacted the office with a request to work within the ROW of Drain 30-1 on the southwest corner of S27, in the SW ¼. There is an existing line there that was chewed by gophers. The replacement line will be placed in the field instead of the road ditch bank. The approved of the work to be done on the condition that any line must be bored at least 8 ft in depth under the surface of the drain, slopes, or field.

Miscellaneous:

- **Drain 29:** Terry LaFreniere contacted the office with a request for a replacement culvert to be installed on SE ¼ S5 in Oakwood Township between the LaFreniere/Gourde fields in cropland. After some discussion, the culvert was thought to be outside of the scope of the drain's responsibility due to location/function. Furthermore, the drain fund budget will be exhausted by work committed for 2024, so regardless of eligibility, no funds are available.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned. The board will meet next Tuesday, June 11th at 8:00 am.

Attest: 
Sarah B. Johnston, Administrative Asst.


Daryl Campbell, Chairman