

Proceedings of the Walsh County Water Resource District Board Meeting

Tuesday, August 27th, 2024

8:00 am

Walsh County Courthouse, Grafton, ND

Chairman Daryl Campbell called the meeting of the Walsh County Water Resource District Board to order. Present: Chairman Daryl Campbell, Vice Chairman Larry Tanke, Manager Albin Jallo, and Admin. Assistant Sarah Johnston.

Agenda: The agenda was reviewed. A highway department drainage permit for Scott LeClerc and a tile drainage permit for Kevin Zikmund, and the drain budget were proposed additions. ***Manager Jallo motioned to approve the agenda with all proposed additions, 2nd by Vice Chairman Tanke . Motion carried.***

Minutes & Bills: The minutes from the August 20th meeting were reviewed. The bills were distributed for review. ***Vice Chairman Tanke motioned to approve the minutes of the August 20th meeting and the bills as presented, 2nd by Manager Jallo. Motion carried.***

Dam Emergency Action Plan Cost Share Agreement- DWR: The cost share contract for DWR funds from the State Water Commission was presented by Sarah. The total cost share provided from the state is \$182,800 for the update of plans for 10 dams. The plans will be completed by June 2025. Chairman Daryl Campbell signed the cost share contract for submission to the State.

Review of Hunting Policy/Inquiry to hunt Dam #5:

With hunting season approaching, Sarah requested the board revisit hunting rules for WRD dam properties, as the first inquiry to hunt has been made for the season. The Board stated that hunting rules will remain the same as the ND Game and Fish's Wildlife Management Area (WMA) regulations. Regulations were reviewed from the ND Game and Fish webpage during the meeting. The Board will allow camping with the same limit of days in the regulations. All dams shall remain open to hunting with the exception of Fordville Dam, which is closed to hunting and will be posted in collaboration with the Grand Forks County WRD.

The Board adjourned at 8:30 am to allow for setup of the Bylin Dam Rehabilitation Meeting in the Farmers Room at 9:00 am. The Board reconvened its meeting at 11:30 am.

Preferred Design Alternatives for Matejcek Dam Rehabilitation:

Christi Fisher, State Engineer for NRCS and Zach Herrmann of Houston Engineering joined the board meeting to revisit ideas brought forth at the last Matejcek Dam Rehabilitation discussion. Christi said she acknowledges the issues with potential increased snow drifting on Co. Rd. 14 that would likely occur if Alternative design #3 was implemented. She asked the group if paving a route to the Dam would help mitigate the issue of response time for services in winter.

Commissioners Kristi Brintnell, Ernie Barta, and Denny Skorheim along with Highway Superintendent Jason Johnston discussed whether Christi's proposition of paving 3 miles of Co. Rd. 19A from Co. Rd. 14 to Hwy 32 was a good idea considering the condition of the road now and the future maintenance costs. The Board will need to make a decision soon as to whether the project should include the proposed road work for an added expense, and if so, if 19A should be a paved road or a gravel road that has been completely redone. The Board requested Zach to bring back an estimate in about two weeks for the different road options discussed, and they will make a decision at that time.

Highway Drainage Permits- Jason Johnston:

Jason presented the following permit for approval:

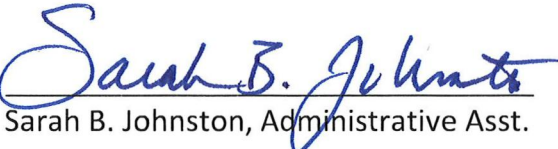
- 1) Scott LeClerc: Co. Rd. 11 and Section 9, Acton Township, Clean out blow dirt and return ditch to original grade. Upon review, the permit was approved by the Board.

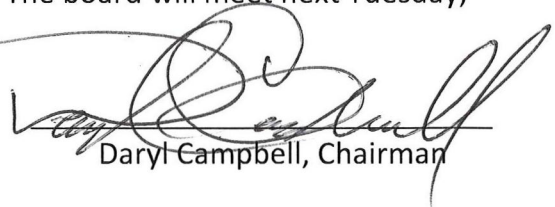
Subsurface Water Management System WC2024-020:

Kevin Zikmund submitted an application to tile 450 acres in the NW ¼ S33, NE ¼ S33 and SE ¼ S33 in Ops Township (155N – 54W). The system has a single pump, no intakes, and will discharge into the road ditch of 55th St NE. ***Vice Chairman Tanke motioned to approve permit application WC2024-020 with normal conditions, 2nd by Manager Jallo. Motion carried.***

Preliminary Drain Budget: Government drain budgets were reviewed for assessment levels for the 2024 Tax Year to be collected in 2025. The Board determined that government drains will be assessed in tax years 2024-2025-2026 for drains 25, 48, 50/67, 97,98, and 200. A public meeting for discussion on assessments for these drains be held on September 24th starting at 8:15 am, allowing 15 minutes per drain.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned. The board will meet next Tuesday, August 27th at 8:00 am.

Attest: 
Sarah B. Johnston, Administrative Asst.


Daryl Campbell, Chairman