

Proceedings of the Walsh County Water Resource District Board Meeting
Tuesday, September 10th, 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 Secretary/Treasurer Sarah Johnston.

Agenda:

The agenda was reviewed. ***Manager Jallo motioned to approve the agenda, 2nd by Chairman Campbell. Motion carried.***

Minutes & Bills:

The minutes from the September 3rd meeting were reviewed. The bills were distributed for review. ***Manager Jallo motioned to approve the minutes of the September 3rd meeting and the bills as presented, 2nd by Chairman Campbell. Motion carried.***

Soukup Dam Complaint:

William Pic contacted the office to notify the Board that Soukup Dam is causing water to back up and inundating crops. He believes it is due to the outlet pipe needing to be cleaned out. The dam is located in S33 in Norton Township. Manager Jallo will look into the issue.

County Road 19- Matejcek Dam Rehab Plan Alternative #3:

Christi Fischer of NRCS, Zach Herrmann and Adam Ruud of HEI, County Commissioner Ernie Barta and Jason Johnston of the Walsh Co. Highway Department met with the Board to continue discussion on the option to rebuild the portion of County Rd 19 from County 14 to Highway 32 as part of the Matejcek Dam rehabilitation project. Zach provided an update on the road costs and Adam answered several questions the group had on his road design. A gravel road would cost \$2-4 million designed with 6" of gravel and 4:1 slopes. The road cost estimate took into account drainage and road bed improvements, grading, etc. A paved road with 6" asphalt/ 9" base and 4:1 slopes and would cost \$6 million. To accomplish the road project means possibly expanding beyond the existing ROW, which will require an environmental review. In addition, a small amount of land would need to be acquisitioned in a couple of spots for ROW. Zach said there are adjustments that could be made to Adam's design to tighten up the footprint to shorten the overall permitting process. Jason pointed out that road safety needs to remain a top priority, and not to change Adam's design to fit solely within ROW to avoid extra steps permitting. In addition, the road needs to be built to a higher load rating than it is right now.

Chairman Campbell inquired as to how much different in cost the dam rehab work is in Alternative #3 compared to Alternative #2 which the Board preferred. Christi said there is \$15 million dollars difference between alternatives now that concrete block quantities had to be increased in the initial design that was proposed to the Board in May. By adding a \$6 million dollar road project to Alternative #3 to help mitigate route access, means that there is a \$9 million dollars difference between Alternatives #2 and #3. Alternative #3 is the least cost alternative selected by NRCS. Manager Jallo expressed wanting to make the road a paved road. Commissioner Ernie Barta who was also in attendance, and Jason Johnston, said gravel would be the easiest and most cost effective for the County in the long run.

Commissioner Barta asked if NRCS would be providing funds for a snow plow to help maintain the road. Christi Fisher responded that they will not be. Rather, the cost of road plowing were factored into the economic analysis. Commissioner Barta also inquired about whether inflation was figured into the costs. Zach responded that inflation was not built into the costs, but rather was built into the contingency, and that the contingency will be adjusted again later on. Christi stated that contingencies are not included in the PL566 process, so his contingency is not going to be factored into the amount of cost share that is provided by NRCS. *After much discussion, the Board decided to proceed with a gravel road in the Alternative #3 Matejcek Dam Rehabilitation Plan that is being proposed to NRCS.* A final public comment hearing for the Matejcek Dam Rehabilitation Plan will take place this winter in Grafton.

Snag & Clear Project, Lawton Coulee- Ramsey County WRD:


The Ramsey County WRD contacted Manager Jallo to inform the Board of a snag and clear project their water board is lining up for the Lawton Coulee. Ramsey County has the ability to levy an assessment on Walsh County landowners who benefit from the project. The Board acknowledged the project, not voting for or against it.

Preliminary Drain Budget:

Drainage assessments were reviewed and set for non-government drains. Hearings for government drains (25, 48, 50/67, 97, 98, 200) are set for September 24th starting at 8:15 a.m.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned. The board will meet next Tuesday, September 17th at 8:00 am.

Attest:


Sarah B. Johnston, Administrative Asst.


Daryl Campbell, Chairman