

Proceedings of the Walsh County Water Resource District Board Meeting
Tuesday, September 3rd, 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 Josh Hefta was added. ***Vice Chairman Tanke motioned to approve the agenda with the proposed addition, 2nd by Manager Jallo. Motion carried.***

Minutes & Bills: The minutes from the August 27th meeting were reviewed. The bills were distributed for review. ***Manager Jallo motioned to approve the minutes of the August 27th meeting and the bills as presented, 2nd by Vice Chairman Tanke. Motion carried.***

Highway Drainage Permit, Jason Johnston:

Jason presented the following permit for approval:

- 1) **Josh Hefta:** County Road 19, S27 of Ardoch Township, to construct approach on north side of road to access yard. The permit was approved by the Board upon review.

Preliminary Drain Budget: Drains 4 and 4A budgets were reviewed. The remaining budget was tabled.

Jacob Wognum, Houston Engineering (HEI):

- **Monthly Report:** Regarding the petition on file for Drain 4A, Jacob Wognum of HEI will develop cost estimate for work on the drain for the vote. Permitting with BNSF is ongoing for crossing on 76th St NE. Waiting on quote for cleanout downstream of crossing.
- **Drain 28:** Follow up petition info will be send out by WRD to landowners who attended the July meeting.
- **Drain 31:** Work is 100% complete and the project was closed out.
- **Drain 50:** Two 81" culverts are going in on 74th St NE and some cleanout is necessary downstream.
- **Drain 87:** Jacob is working with BNSF for required permit for us to complete FEMA repairs on drain in ROW.
- **Drain 7 & 98:** Hearings will be scheduled this fall for each of these drains for reassessments.
- **Park River Snagging & Clearing:** The Board has proposed projects on the N. Branch Park River and the Middle Branch Park River. Only a few river miles can be completed with the given budget.

- FEMA repair work is complete on Drain 4A site 5. Repairs on Drains 22B and 28 will be implemented soon. We will meet with FEMA this morning to discuss the Drain 25 project.

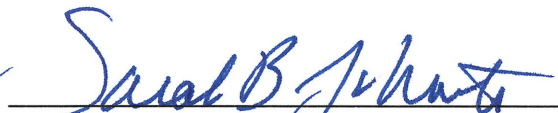
FEMA Meeting with NDDDES, Drain 25:

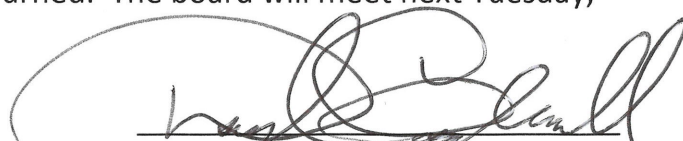
FEMA staff Kevin Helland and Jackson Massey, along with Jacob Wognum of HEI, Dan Fischer of Fischer Land Surveying and Engineering, and Brent Kahl of ND Department of Emergency Services met with the Board to discuss the 2023 disaster damages to Drain 25. The purpose of the introductory meeting was to establish what the process is from this point to work on fixing the damages, possibly with a redesign. Currently, the WRD's engineers have preliminary design alternatives. Chairman Campbell asked the FEMA and DES officials what would happen if it wasn't feasible to restore the structure and pipe due to the number of times it has failed. FEMA will allow for a new design but will cap its funding at a pre-disaster level, with a percentage for mitigation up to 100% of the pre-disaster amount. The FEMA site inspector wrote for a total pipe replacement in the damage scope, however, Kevin questioned if the pipe was completely damaged or if only a portion of it was. Brent Kahl from NDDDES stated he felt FEMA should go with numbers from the site inspection FEMA staff conducted last year, which called for a complete pipe replacement. The Board will see if the pipe can be further inspected.

Because the process is moving slowly, the Board asked FEMA what would happen if additional erosional damages occurred prior to the repair. FEMA responded that they will not allow for subsequent damages to be claimed unless they are part of an official disaster declaration. It was agreed that \$516k would be the jumping off point for the project and that the next time the group meets, design alternatives will be discussed. Dan Fischer will report back the status of the pipe to the Board.

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