

Proceedings of the Walsh County Water Resource District Board Meeting
Tuesday, September 24th, 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: Minutes from the September 17th meeting were reviewed. The bills were distributed for review. *Manager Jallo motioned to approve the minutes of the September 17th meeting and the bills as presented, 2nd by Chairman Campbell. Motion carried.* Vice Chairman Tanke joined the meeting.

Government Drain Assessment Hearings:

- **Drain 25:** At 8:15 a.m. Chairman Campbell called for the review of the proposed assessment of Drain 25, located just west of Park River. There were no attendees for this drain's assessment hearing. The drain experienced damage in 2023 and is undergoing redesign work with FEMA. A \$4 per acre assessment was proposed. *Vice Chairman Tanke motioned to approve a \$4/acre/yr maintenance assessment on Drain 25 for tax year 2024, and to be assessed at this rate for the duration of three years, 2nd by Manager Jallo. Motion carried.*
- **Drain 48:** At 8:30 a.m. Chairman Campbell called for the review of the proposed assessment of Drain 48, located near Cashel. There were no attendees for this drain. The bridge on County Road 9 is being repaired. A \$4 per acre assessment was proposed. *Vice Chairman Tanke motioned to approve a \$4/acre/yr maintenance assessment on Drain 48 for tax year 2024, and to be assessed at this rate for the duration of three years, 2nd by Manager Jallo. Motion carried.*
- **Drain 50/67:** At 8:40 a.m. Chairman Campbell called for the review of the proposed assessment of Drain 50/67. Houston Engineering continues to work through options for the drain, and their review is being cost shared with DWR. There are plans to replace the crossing on 74th St NE yet this fall. *Vice Chairman Tanke motioned to approve a \$4/acre/yr maintenance assessment on Drain 50/67 for tax year 2024, and to be assessed at this rate for the duration of three years, 2nd by Manager Jallo. Motion carried.*
- **Drain 97:** at 8:50 a.m. Chairman Campbell called for the review of the proposed assessment of Drain 97. It was noted that Darryl Borgeson requested a survey for the purpose of increasing the berm on S1/2 S9 in Vernon Township.
-Jim Kjelland and Aaron Kjelland attended and brought forth concerns regarding spring sheetwater flows near their farmsteads. The issue was described to the Board last year, and engineer Dan Fischer reviewed the situation near Jim's place. In a recent memo issued to the

Board, Dan made the recommendation for the birdcage to be removed from the stand pipe on the west side of 128th Ave NE, across the road from Jim's farmstead, to allow for better flow of water thru the pipe. Dan opined that removing the cage will help alleviate water from backing up. Aaron offered to remove the cage. **Manager Jallo motioned to allow Aaron Kjelland to remove the cage on the stand pipe on 128th Ave NE, 2nd by Vice Chairman Tanke. Motion carried.** There was also discussion on possibly raising the road west of Jim's to help keep the water from flowing over to the road, and to potentially help redirect the water southeast. *The Board will request Fischer to look into raising the road.*

-Jim Kjelland requested that his pastureland be relieved of the maintenance assessment because water usually sits on the field for a few days. He also stated that his land does not produce high value crops, and disagrees with being assessed. Vice Chairman Tanke discussed spring runoff and the relatively short duration of flooding western producers experience. There was no motion to reduce Jim Kjelland's assessment. **Manager Jallo moved to approve a \$4/acre/yr maintenance assessment on Drain 50/67 for tax year 2024, and to be assessed at this rate for the duration of three years, 2nd by Vice Chairman Tanke. Motion carried.**

- **Drain 98:** At 9:50 a.m. Chairman Campbell called for the review of the proposed assessment of Drain 98. Jason Johnston of the Walsh County Highway Department attended the hearing. He provided the Board with a list of bridges on drains in the County that are in need of maintenance, including those on Drain 98 and 200. A bridge leading to a farmstead on NW ¼ S21 in Walsh Centre Township on Drain 98 needs work and the County does not pay for private bridges across drains. There have been a lot of signs going down on bridges on the drain, and Jason presented job ticket info on the costs of sign replacements. The Board did not act on whether to share the costs of bridge signs with the County on legal drains.
- **Drain 200:** The review of this drain took place concurrently with the discussion on Drain 98 with Jason Johnston. A bridge one mile south of Fairdale on County Road 22 has a crushed beam, and discussion was had on how to best fix it.
Vice Chairman Tanke moved to approve a \$4/acre/yr maintenance assessment on Drain 98 for three years, and to also approve a \$2/acre/year maintenance assessment on Drain 200 for tax year 2024, and to be assessed accordingly at these rates for the duration of three years, 2nd by Manager Jallo. Motion carried.

Walsh Co. Highway Department Drainage Permits:

Jason Johnston presented the following drainage permit applications for board approval:

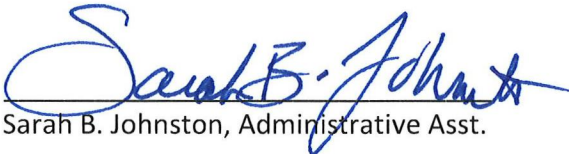
- **Russell Pastir**- County Road 19, NE ¼ S3, Ops Township, to clean out two traps through the county road. He would also like to construct an approach west of the farmstead on the SW corner of S3 on County Road 8.
- **Mark A. Novak**- County Road 15 west of Lankin and NE ¼ Section 26, Norton Twp. to clean trees out of ditch, and reshape the ditch and backslope.

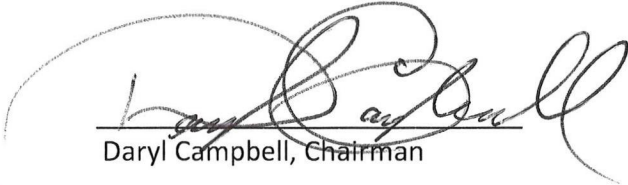
The Board signed off on each permit upon review.

Drain Work Updates:

Sarah presented info provided by Jacob Wognum regarding the anticipated costs of establishing an agreement with BNSF so that work can be completed within the BNSF ROW on Drain 87. It is not known why the agreement was not established when the drain was constructed. There is FEMA work needing to be completed this fall yet, and it cannot be accomplished without the agreement. Total costs for the agreement are expected to be between \$7,500 and \$10,000. The Board advised to keep pursuing the agreement after acknowledging the updated costs.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned. The board will meet next Tuesday, October 1st at 8:00 am.

Attest: 
Sarah B. Johnston, Administrative Asst.


Daryl Campbell, Chairman