

Proceedings of the Walsh County Water Resource District Board Meeting
Tuesday, December 17th, 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. Commissioner Ernie Barta attended a portion of the meeting.

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

Minutes & Bills: The minutes of the December 3rd meeting were reviewed. The bills were also reviewed. ***Manager Jallo motioned to approve the minutes and the bills as presented, 2nd by Chairman Campbell. Motioned carried.***

Jason Johnston, Walsh Co. Hwy. Dept.:

Jason presented Donald Novak's application for ditch cleanout along County Road 8 from his property at Veseleyville in Prairie Centre Township. The Board signed off on the application.

Jason presented the total costs for the bridge replacement on County Road 9 and Drain 48, with \$276,000 share being that of the WRD. ***Manager Jallo motioned for the general fund to cover any outstanding balance after drain funds are used, 2nd by Vice Chairman Tanke. Motion carried.***

Carl Unruh joined the meeting to discuss with Jason and the Board how he is affected by the river on his residence at NE1/4 NE1/4 Section 1 of Fertile Township along the Middle Branch of the Park River. His parents lived there for many years and dealt with flooding, but the most recent flood (2022) was major and the home had to be sandbagged. He proposed adding a culvert to County Road 8 to release some of the water that builds up along the County Road. The Board reviewed the idea and discussion continued regarding the spring flood issues in the general area. It is unknown how allowing more flow through road would affect downstream landowners. When Carl asked about cleaning out the ditch on the east side of the bridge on County 8 to the same elevation as Joshua Koehn's, Jason Johnston felt there would not be a benefit to doing that because the bridge is still the main restriction. Carl emphasized that there are several other houses near that location that would benefit from flood relief by way of additional drainage. Ring dikes may or may not be feasible for people depending on the proximity to the streambank. No decision was made by the Board on how to proceed at this time. Sarah will seek out additional information on what the State may have to offer to assist homeowners needing flood protection since the location is within a floodplain.

Drainage Issues – Section 6 Forest River Township/Section 1 Ops Township:

The Board met with Mark & Lara Novak, Bennett Johnson of Vogel Law, Dr. Jared Marquardt and Jason Johnston of the Walsh County Highway Department. Mark is looking for cooperation between the parties to remedy drainage issues between S6 of Forest River Township where he owns property and S1 of Ops Township, where Jared Marquardt lives. Previously, Mark proposed filling in the river and diverting it at this location, and had applied for surface drainage application #6207 with the Department of Water Resources, which has since expired. Presently, he would like to clean out the natural waterway and straighten the flow path by cutting thru the meanders so that it flows straight, providing a shorter route for water to exit his property. The members of the Board expressed to Mark their concerns about cutting

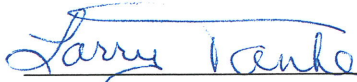
through meanders and shortening the river. Jared Marquardt expressed concerns about the effects to downstream landowners. After a lengthy discussion amongst those in attendance, Commissioner Ernie Barta and Manager Jallo both added input on the regulatory factors that would need to be considered when looking at such project. Manager Jallo stated he did not approve of altering the river and that the decision is beyond that of this Board, to which the other members of the Board agreed. In closing, the Board recommended that given the difficulty of getting a project permitted through the USACE, and the level of scrutiny that is required on the Federal level, that Mark & Laura proceed at that level. If USACE permits the project, the Board would concur with the decision made at the federal level.

FEMA Project Recap:

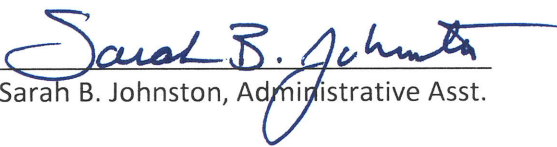
Jeff Duray of Triple D Construction met with the Board to review invoices for FEMA work he completed and to answer any questions the Board had before they paid the bills. After all questions were answered, the Board signed off on payment to Triple D Construction.

Miscellaneous:

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned. The Board will meet again on December 31st at 8:00 am.



Larry Tanke, Vice Chairman

Attest: 
Sarah B. Johnston, Administrative Asst.