Proceedings of the Walsh County Water Resource District Board Meeting Tuesday, December 31st, 2024 8:00 am Walsh County Courthouse, Grafton, ND

Vice Chairman Larry Tanke called the meeting of the Walsh County Water Resource District Board to order. Present: Chairman Daryl Campbell (via Zoom), Vice Chairman Larry Tanke, Manager Albin Jallo and Secretary/Treasurer Sarah Johnston. Commissioner Ernie Barta was also in attendance.

<u>Agenda</u>: The agenda was reviewed. *Manager Jallo motioned to approve the agenda, 2nd by Chairman Daryl Campbell. Motion carried.*

<u>Minutes & Bills</u>: The minutes of the December 17th 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.*

<u>Assessment Inquiries</u>: The office has been busy with drainage assessment inquiries lately. The Board talked with Commissioner Barta about getting the county's tax statement to reflect the assessment amounts per drain on the statements. Commissioner Barta will talk with the county Auditor.

Luke Blair Surface Drainage Application # 6342 follow-up:

The surface drainage application Luke submitted last spring (Forest River Twp, SW ¼ S34) is in a pending status. Upon further review of his application last summer, the Board indicated that they do not completely support draining the water according to his proposed plan, and proposed a change to the direction of the drainage. Luke recently indicated that the Board's idea is not feasible for him. At today's meeting, the Board confirmed the need to find alternative outlet from what was proposed originally.

Randall Olson Ring Dike Application:

Randall recently submitted a DWR application to construct a ring dike on his property located on NE ¼ NE ¼ S10 in Grafton Township. There are already two sides of the dike constructed, from a past project completed in 2022. The Board signed off on the application and will forward it to DWR for consideration for permitting.

Chris Bjorneby/Lone Wolf Farms assessment inquiry:

Chris and Keith Bjorneby attended the meeting to discuss maintenance assessments on Drain 7 and 98. Chris indicated that they are opposed to the current assessments. They do not agree with having a few of their parcels double assessed and also question the benefits of the assessments on their parcels. Chairman Campbell emphasized that the Board is currently looking into future assessments on these drains and is working with Houston Engineering to study the assessment drainage areas. The Board will arrange for a future meeting with the Bjornebys to discuss their concerns further.

Miscellaneous:

- Dwight Johnson stopped by during the meeting to inquire about Drain 97 assessments. They discussed maintenance along the drain, including a bird cage on an intake on the west side of the drain, and herbicides for spraying.
- Beavers have moved back into Chyle Dam. Sarah will contact the USDA wildlife specialist.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned. The Board will meet again on January 7th at 8:00 am.

Attest: Sarah B. Johnston, Administrative Asst.