Official Proceedings of the Stutsman County Commission

April 1, 2009

At 3:30 p.m., Chairman Klose called the special meeting of the Stutsman County Commission to order. Dennis Ova, Dale Marks, Doug Kaiser and Mark T. Klose answered roll call. Also present were: Dennis Lorenz, County Park Superintendent; Bob Woodward, County Park Board Member; Jim Michael, Environmental Health Practitioner, Jerry Bergquist, 9-1-1 Coordinator/ Emergency Manager, Fritz Fremgen, State's Attorney and Mike Zimmerman, County Highway Superintendent.

The meeting was called to review issues at the Reservoir.

Noel Johnson, County COO, reviewed what had been done. A letter had been sent to every cabin owner informing them about what impact the impending high water may have on their property. At the County's expense, engineers were hired to survey the high water marks on improved properties. The County had provided sand and bags, found and provided volunteers, so that these property owners could sandbag around their properties.

Dennis Lorenz, County Park Superintendent, stated that the mover who was lined up was snowed in and would get the marina moved as soon as possible. The road to the marina had been cleared so that it had more chance to dry before the mover got there. The marina building was ready to be moved. Lorenz had permission from Todd Krebsbach to move the building near the Sunset Memorial Gardens. At Pelican Point Landing, snow had been moved and the little cabins had been moved. The steel building was being checked to see if it could be moved. The building was insulated so they would like to get it moved. The fishing piers had been moved. The weight of the snow had bent some of the piers. Curtis Electric had removed all the electrical wiring out of the pedestals at Pelican Point Landing. Power had been cut to the campsites.

The elevation of the marina sidewalk was 1444' and the water level was 1435.45' today – there were still a few days left to get the marina moved.

Marks asked what the highest water level was in 1997. Bergquist reported that it was 1445.7'. They were predicting a high end forecast of 1453'.

Marks questioned if there were cabins in danger now. Lorenz stated that cabins should be built above 1454'. Sand, sandbags and volunteers were provided to Dewalds and Schlagers. Degen and another cabin owner would be sandbagging. County would help provide sand, sandbags and volunteers for the cabin owners. Johnson stated that the County would be taking elevations for four cabins on the west side that topography maps showed had improvements that might be in danger.

Johnson stated that the above services were being provided at no charge to the people. He stated that people had issues with their septic systems and he wanted to know from the Park Board - had the County done enough, were they comfortable with what had been done. The letter stated that the cabin owners should contact professionals in regard to their septic systems.

Klose said that he feels that Johnson and his staff had done a very good job and that we need to keep in mind that this was private property - it's their property. The County would be working with the general flooding issues within the City. The County does not have the resources or the time to dike private property.

Cabin owners needed to contact professionals in regard to their septic systems. The County was not responsible for doing any individual sandbagging or responsible for any damages caused by the flooding.

Lorenz asked that since there were holding tanks with a drain field at Pelican Point Landing, if that gets flooded does that drain field fail. Jim Michael said that it would be failed and would take 1 to 1 ½ years before it would dry out enough to reclaim its ability to treat sewage again. The holding tanks would need to be pumped more often.

Michael stated that the drain fields are required by state law to be 100' above the high water mark. The drain fields that are inundated would be red flagged and the information sent to the Bureau to uphold their lease. The drain field would need to be abandoned.

Lorenz stated that everything of the County's had been pumped. Michael stated that the holding tanks should be filled with clean water, if not filled the tank could float right to the surface.

Johnson stated that the meeting had been advertised as a joint Commission and Park Board meeting. He stated that if other issues arise, it would be appropriate to hear the issue.

Woodward stated that he feels that the letter that was sent out to cabin owners was sufficient.

Bergquist stated that the auditor's staff had contacted all of the townships and small cities to have them help identify pending issues that were pending in their townships. Township people were requested to go through their Township Board and City Board to request assistance. Currently there were no issues.

Kaiser asked what was happening with the Beaver Creek. The water had not reached the creek yet. Bergquist stated that Wibstad's, that live right where the Beaver and the James meet, had sandbagged their residence.

Bergquist reported that the culvert that was plugged north of the Anne Carlsen Center had been blocked by garbage – tires, appliances, etc.

Johnson stated that on Friday, April 3, 2009, sand and sandbags would be sent to cabins on the eastside.

Lorenz stated that the roads thru the reservoir had been shut down. The piers that were pulled out were placed on the roads.

Bergquist reported that the interagency meetings that were being held every day at 2:00 p.m. had really helped in keeping everyone on the same page. Media had been invited to the meetings. Since the meetings had started, with the increased media coverage, it appears that phone calls had subsided somewhat.

Zimmerman stated that he would like to stress to the public that his department would try to get to the issues as soon as possible. His department is stretched to the max. Reed Schwartzkopf, Jamestown City Engineer, iterated the same message, that all departments had pretty much maxed out their personnel resources.

Bergquist and Schwartzkopf stressed that the National Guard could only be called out if there has been a mission for them identified. The Guard's assistance was not free or charge, the bills do have to be paid.

Bergquist stated that the public just wanted to be kept informed.

Schwartzkopf said that the sandbagging operation would start up at 8:00 a.m., Thursday, April 2, 2009 at the Jamestown Civic Center. Plans are to run from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00a.m., with the laying of the sandbags to start on Saturday with efforts being finished by Monday the 6th. The Corps would hold off increasing water levels until the bagging is in place.

Klose asked if the Guard could be requested for clearing ice jams from bridges. A mission could be written to incorporate the Guard. Schwartzkopf stated that the equipment that the road department would mostly likely need would be a drag line. The rural areas are having issues with overland flooding which limits the possibility of getting the equipment to the site and also the load ratings of the bridges had to be considered.

A motion was made by Kaiser to allow County personnel at their discretion to access any and all resources and make them available to benefit the City of Jamestown's flood prevention efforts. Ova seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Bergquist stated that there would be an individual from the Omaha Corps of Engineers, who would be here for the sole purpose of checking bridges.

Zimmerman stated that according to the Corps the bridge west of Buchanan would be under water.

Neys made a motion that was seconded by Kaiser to adjourn. At 4:21 p.m. the special meeting of the Stutsman County Commission was adjourned.

ATTEST:

Noel A. Johnson	Mark Klose
County COO (Auditor)	Commission Chairman