

MINUTES

STUTSMAN COUNTY WATER RESOURCE BOARD

February 26, 2020

The regular meeting of the Stutsman County Water Resource Board was called to order by Vice-Chairman Arlyn Schmidt on February 26, 2020, at 9:00 a.m. in the Lower Level Conference Room of the Law Enforcement Center. Members present were Arlyn Schmidt, Anthony Roorda, John Schock, and Dennis Clark. Joel Lees appeared by phone. Additionally present was Abbigail Geroux, Secretary for the Board. The following members of the public were also present: Michael Schlecht of City of Spiritwood Lake, Bret Fehr of the Griggs-Barnes-Stutsman Joint Board, Christopher Korkowski of the North Dakota State Water Commission, BJ Kratz of the North Dakota Game and Fish (NDGF), Dustin Krueger of the Stutsman County Soil Conservation District, Keith Norman of the Jamestown Sun, Dave Mutschler, Tom Dahl of the Griggs-Barnes-Stutsman Joint Board, Jerry Hieb of Barnes County Water Resource District and David Erickson of Deer Lake Township.

The first order of business was to review the minutes of the January 29, 2020, regular meeting. Upon review, John Schock moved and Dennis Clark seconded a motion to approve the minutes. Motion passed.

REVIEW AND APPROVE SPIRITWOOD LAKE INVESTIGATION AGREEMENT

The second order of business was to review and approve the Investigation Agreement with the State Water Commission. Ms. Geroux provided an initial explanation of the Investigation Agreement. Chris Korkowski from the State Water Commission explained the Board requirements and the cost to the Board, which would be \$2,305.00. This cost would be one half of the site survey cost. Mr. Korkowski explained he would be the primary engineer for the project.

He explained that the focus of his work would be to determine the volume of water on Spiritwood Lake and look at the effects downstream on Alkali Lake and seven mile coulee. This would be a complicated study because of the Zander concern and making sure any proposed project would also meet with any work done for water quality purposes.

John Schock questioned whether Mr. Korkowski would be able to take into consideration water coming into Spiritwood Lake.

Mr. Korkowski explained he anticipates installing real time water surface gauges on both Alkali Lake and Spiritwood Lake which would allow them to take measurements. He plans on determining if the basin size of Spiritwood Lake is correct and then conduct a Hydrologic Study regarding how much water the lake receives. Mr. Korkowski explained it was important to keep the elevation of Spiritwood Lake uniform across the lake. BJ Kratz acknowledged that water is currently flowing out of both lakes.

Aryln Schmidt questioned if lowering the water level of Spiritwood Lake would have a one time impact through the process of drawing down the lakes and then after that the flow of water would then remain consistent. Mr. Korkowski acknowledged that is one particular method to lower the water levels of the lake.

Mr. Korkowski indicated that any proposed project would likely be very expensive and they would also have to consider potential maintenance costs or ongoing costs. For example, installing a pump on Spiritwood Lake could become quite expensive. Mr. Korkowski indicated that he was currently leaning towards a spillway, either a drop structure or a control structure. Again, Mr. Korkowski reiterated that he will not propose anything that would go against the Zander issue or the water quality project.

BJ Kratz stated that, NDGF will have to deal with Zanders at Alkali Lake and would likely be looking at something below Audubon Society land. He explained that in the summer time seven mile coulee acts as a natural barrier because of the low oxygen in the water. NDGF desires to limit the number of Zanders that make it into the James River Water System. Mr. Korkowski acknowledged that one of the benefits of doing this hydrologic model would be to inform the North Dakota Game and Fish on how it can appropriately control the Zander population.

Dave Mutschler inquired how the survey data was going to be collected. Mr. Korkowski explained that a lot of the survey will be done by looking at lidar data and then also driving around and going onto public right-of-ways.

At this point there was a discussion about a slough straight north of Spiritwood which is currently spilling into Spiritwood Lake. John Schock indicated that Gray Township would be interested in seeing a project that will help protect township roads in that area since they have experienced a number of roads under water.

There was also some discussion about Mr. Korkowski working with John Schock to ride along when he is doing some of his survey data in the summer and also to ride along with Jim Collins who has done a significant amount of work in the Spiritwood Lake area for the water quality project.

At this point there was some discussion about what would the next steps be. Anthony Roorda moved and Dennis Clark seconded a motion to approve the Agreement including the Water Resource Board's portion of the Investigation site survey costs. Motion passed. Anthony Roorda moved and John Schock seconded a motion to authorize Arlyn Schmidt to sign the Investigation Agreement. Motion passed.

JOINT BOARD - OVERVIEW OF PROGRESS

Next, some of the members of the Joint Board appeared at the Stutsman County Water Resource Board meeting to provide an overview of where they are in the process. The Joint Board indicated that recently they had a landowner meeting and 25 landowners were present. The Joint Board indicated that they would need \$50,000.00 to start putting together plans and specifications for the project and that they were seeking these funds from the landowners. Board members indicated that they were expecting the project to be able to move forward.

There was also some discussion regarding the authority of the Joint Board to engage in certain activities. In particular, when it comes to signing agreements and moving the project forward. Ms. Geroux explained that from the perspective of the Stutsman County Water Resource Board that the members from Stutsman County have full authority to act on that Board just as they would on the Stutsman County Water Resource Board except when there would be a potential financial impact above and beyond the regular course of their Board meetings.

There was some inquiry from the Board whether Stutsman County could be responsible for any of the engineering fees as it appeared that the engineer for this project, Dahl Engineering, had done a significant amount of work already and that there was an agreement signed with Dahl Engineering to do some of the preliminary engineering work. Jerry Hieb explained the work that the engineer has been doing so far is free and will not cost Stutsman County anything. He stated that there is no cost to Stutsman County with regards to the preliminary engineering done by Dahl Engineering even if there are insufficient funds raised by landowners.

He did explain that landowners may seek reimbursement if the project does go through as part of the drain assessment and likely the creation of a drainage board.

BILLS AND FINANCIALS

Next, the Board moved onto its regular business. After review of the bills, Anthony Roorda moved and John Schock seconded a motion to approve the bills. Upon review of the financials Dennis Clark moved and Anthony Roorda seconded a motion to approve the financials. Motion passed.

CHECK NUMBERS

- | | |
|---|-------|
| 1. Forum Communication Company - \$291.50 | #2729 |
| 2. Dalsted & Ryan, P.C. - \$1,323.15 | #2730 |
| 3. Barnes County Water Resource District - \$108.50 | #2731 |
| 4. Barnes County Water Resource District - \$498.33 | #2732 |

MISC.

Next, David Erickson from Deer Lake Township addressed the Board regarding Deer Lake which is currently threatening a county road. He explained that the county might be looking at cutting a channel to move water towards Pipestem. He indicated that currently Interstate Engineering had been working on it and that this was a County project. At this point, the Board had not received any official word regarding this project.

The Board also discussed some of the correspondence it had received. Most notably, the North Dakota State Water Commission is looking to obtain potential projects that may develop that would seek out cost share with the State Water Commission and the Board was interested in placing Spiritwood Lake as one of those items. Ms. Geroux indicated that she would put together some paperwork and that they may be able to put in the request and that she would present it at the next Water Resource Board meeting.

There being no further business before the Board, John Schock moved and Anthony Roorda seconded a motion to adjourn. Motion passed.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

ABBAGAIL GEROUX
Secretary

BOARD APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The board approved the minutes this ____ day of _____,
2020.

JOEL LEES, Chairman, or
ARLYN SCHMIDT, Vice-Chairman