

MINUTES

STUTSMAN COUNTY WATER RESOURCE BOARD

March 31, 2021

The regular meeting of the Stutsman County Water Resource Board was called to order by Vice Chairman Anthony Roorda on March 31, 2021 at approximately 9:00 a.m. in the Commissioner's Room of the Stutsman County Courthouse. Members present were Anthony Roorda, Dennis Clark and John Schock. Present by phone was Joel Lees and Arlyn Schmidt. Abbagail Geroux, Secretary of the Board, was also present.

**MINUTES**

The first order of business was to review and approve the minutes of the February 24, 2021 regular meeting. Upon review, a motion was made by John Schock and seconded by Dennis Clark to approve the minutes as read. Motion passed.

**VAST CONFERENCE AND LEGISLATIVE CHANGES**

Next on the Agenda was to address the request of a hydrology study by Craig Barnes. Mr. Barnes was not present, and so the Board continued on with its agenda. At this point the Board members discussed and reviewed the upcoming renewal of the Vast Conference System. It was noted that the renewal would be up in the beginning of May, and Ms. Geroux inquired with the Board if they would like to continue using Vast Conference, or if they wanted to look into another telephone conferencing system. The Board indicated that they preferred this conferencing system. Upon a motion by John Schock and seconded by Joel Lees, the Board approved of an expenditure for an additional year's renewal of the Vast Conference system.

Next, the Board discussed a number of legislative changes that may affect the Board. First were modifications to the Water Resource Board Members compensation rates and reimbursement for expenses. The Board decided to leave its payment for meetings as is, and will address any additional work by Members on a case-by-case basis. It was noted however, that the legislative changes adjusted the mileage, meal, and lodging rates to conform with the State reimbursement amounts and therefore, the Board will anticipate applying those amounts from this meeting forward. It was also discussed that the Board members will note

on their voucher forms when they are appearing at meetings by phone, so staff can appropriately identify when mileage is owed to a Board Member. There was also some discussion on the proposed changes to the hydrology study request. The proposed changes did not obtain approval by the legislature. There were also some proposed changes to the approval process for tiling projects. Ms. Geroux noted that the proposed changes significantly changed the process, streamlining and removing some requirements, but also tightening up the deadline for when applications must be reviewed and received. Ms. Geroux noted that a final form of the bill has not been signed yet, and there are likely going to be additional changes, but that the Board should be aware of the potential changes. Ms. Geroux also noted some correspondence received from the Office of the State Engineer regarding a Complaint by Joseph Schmitt. This Complaint was not forwarded to the Water Resource Board, but was presented to the Board for informational purposes. Ms. Geroux also noted that at the April meeting, the Water Resource Board will review two Applications for Drainage that are not of statewide significance, and she wanted the Board to be aware of those.

**W-626 - CRAIG BARNES - REQUEST TO CONDUCT A HYDROLOGY STUDY IN THE SOUTHEAST QUARTER OF SECTION 4, TOWNSHIP 144, RANGE 62, STUTSMAN COUNTY, NORTH DAKOTA UPON 7<sup>TH</sup> STREET SE AND 93<sup>RD</sup> AVE SE**

Next, the Board decided they would contact Craig Barnes who made the request for the hydrology study at the last meeting. Mr. Barnes was contacted, and he indicated that he still desires to have the hydrology study conducted. After further conversation clarifying the location of the area he would like the hydrology study done, it was determined that the Board would conduct a site visit when Joel Lees has returned. The Board will be looking at a date of April 26<sup>th</sup> or April 27<sup>th</sup>, 2021, preferably in the morning. It was confirmed that the area of the hydrology study would be on 93<sup>rd</sup> avenue, located between the Southeast quarter of section 9 and the southwest quarter of section 3. Ms. Geroux indicated that based on this additional information, she will need to identify the landowners in the area so that they also have notice of the request by Mr. Barnes.

**BILLS AND FINANCIALS**

Next, Ms. Geroux addressed the Board regarding the bills and financials. Upon review of the bills and financials, John Schock moved and Joel Lees seconded a motion to approve the bills and financials as presented. All voted in favor. Motion passed.

**CHECK NUMBERS**

1. Forum Communications Company - \$197.50 #2797
2. Griggs County Water Resource District - \$2,444.51 #2798
3. Dalsted & Ryan, P.C. - \$1,031.50 #2799

Seeing no further business before the Board, John Schock moved and Joel Lees seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

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ABBAGAIL GEROUX  
Secretary

**BOARD APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The board approved the minutes this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_,  
2021.

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JOEL LEES, Chairman, or  
ANTHONY ROORDA, Vice-Chairman