

SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

STUTSMAN COUNTY WATER RESOURCE BOARD

May 14, 2021

The special meeting of the Stutsman County Water Resource Board was called to order by Chairman Joel Lees on May 14, 2021 at approximately 10:00 a.m., which was held by telephone conference only. Members present were Joel Lees, Anthony Roorda, John Schock, Dennis Clark, and Arlyn Schmidt. Additionally, present was Abbagail Geroux, secretary of the Board.

W-631- TEN MILE LAKE OUTLET PROJECT

The first order of business was to discuss the Mill Levy request from the Upper Sheyenne River Water Resource Board. Ms. Geroux provided background on the specific request. She noted that the Stutsman County Water Resource Board became a member of the Upper Sheyenne River Joint Water Resource Board in 2004. As part of that process, the Stutsman County Water Resource Board had been paying dues based on a proportion of the property found within the Upper Sheyenne Basin. Approximately 4.6 percent of the total amount of property is within Stutsman County. The Stutsman County Water Board was required to pay dues, which amounted to a quarter of a Mill each year. The Board's last payment was due in December of 2020, and they have no new dues thus far in 2021. The Upper Sheyenne River Joint Water Resource Board is looking at a project for erosion control, where they are seeking funding from both State and Federal Agencies. Currently, there are some costs in order to obtain that funding, and the Upper Sheyenne River Joint Water Resource Board is concerned about the amount of funds in their general account to continue to conduct business. They have requested that the Water Resource Board give approval for funding for the next four years for a quarter of a Mill for the property found within the Upper Sheyenne River Basin. It was noted that in prior years the Stutsman County Water Resource Board had paid these amounts out of its general fund. However, the Upper Sheyenne River Joint Water Resource Board would prefer that this amount be specifically assessed onto the individual properties. It was noted that there was going to be a special meeting next Tuesday, May 18, 2021, to discuss the grant funding. There was some discussion and concerns about how the Mill could be placed on these pieces of property. Ms. Geroux noted that they would be

unable to do a Special Assessment on the property, because the project is not far enough along to provide that information. The Board requested Ms. Geroux be in contact with the Interim Auditor and also reach out to Nelson County, to see how they handle their Mill Levies. It was noted by John Schock that it appeared the amount of money that our Board paid in the last calculation appeared to be higher than other counties whose properties had a higher percentage of the Basin. Questions were raised regarding if the Stutsman County Water Resource Board decided not to participate any further with the Upper Sheyenne River Joint Water Resource Board. It was noted that the Stutsman County Water Resource Board Members previously entered into this Joint Board as an act of neighborliness, so they would have a better understanding of what was happening to property adjacent to Stutsman County. It was noted the current project that the Upper Sheyenne River Joint Board is looking at does not have any projects associated with it in Stutsman County. Based on further discussion by the Board members regarding review of the Upper Sheyenne River Joint Water Resource Board, Anthony Roorda moved and Arlyn Schmidt seconded a motion to pay last year's dues, have the Secretary contact Nelson County, and research any consequences if the Board decides not to participate in the funding. Motion passed.

BARNES COUNTY JOINT POWERS AGREEMENT

Next, the Board addressed the Barnes County Joint Water Resource Board. The Board indicated that they had some initial concerns. When John Schock made contact with some of the landowners in the area, who received a letter regarding the project, the letter did not indicate that they could get assessed as part of the project. There was some discussion regarding the impact of the Board with signing onto this project. In particular, if the Board did sign onto this Joint Water Resource Board, then if the landowners in Stutsman County decided they did not want to participate, it would be rather difficult if the landowners in other counties decided to vote in favor of the project. It appeared that this project was going to minimally benefit landowners in Stutsman County, but there was a specific request that our office notify the landowners for this project and its discussion at our next regularly scheduled meeting. John Schock indicated that he would review the landowner list to determine if he is aware of any additional people who should be notified. Ms. Geroux did note that she had a conversation with Josh Hassell, indicating that Clarice Liechty was in email correspondence with him. It does appear that this notice did reach some individual landowners, but that

our office would do an additional search to try and identify any other persons who might have an interest in the property. Based on this, there was a motion by Anthony Roorda and a second by John Schock to approve sending notice to landowners potentially affected by the Stutsman County Water Resource Board entering into the Joint Board with Barnes County, and encouraging them to attend the meeting.

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

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

ABBAGAIL GEROUX
Secretary

BOARD APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The board approved the minutes this ____ day of _____,
2021.

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