

MINUTES
OF THE STUTSMAN COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
AND THE
STUTSMAN COUNTY WATER RESOURCE BOARD
JOINT SPECIAL MEETING OF JULY 23, 2024

A special meeting of the Stutsman County Board of County Commissioners and the Stutsman County Water Resource Board was called to order by Chairman, Mark Klose, at 8:30 a.m. in the NDSU Extension Office for Stutsman County Bison Room, 502 10th Avenue Southeast, Jamestown, North Dakota 58401. County Commissioners present were Mark Klose, Jerry Bergquist, Chad Wolsky, Joan Morris, and Levi Taylor. Members present for the Stutsman County Water Resource Board were Chairman, Joel Lees, John Schock and Dennis Clark. Additionally present were Greg Spenningsby, Board Alternate, and Abbagail Geroux, secretary of the board.

There were a number of individuals in attendance at the meeting, including representatives from the North Dakota Water Commission, Reule Lake Development, Kidder County Water Resource Board, Crystal Springs Lake Campground, Interstate Engineering, Mike Gunsch, Houston Engineering, Josh Loosmore, and various landowners. Said list is attached to the minutes.

Chairman, Mark Klose, provided opening remarks. Chairman Klose indicated that there is a desire to conduct an investigation of the area of Crystal Springs Lake and Stink Lake through use of a feasibility study. Chairman Klose indicated that there is a deadline to provide an application to be placed on the priority list for funding with the Department of Water Resources by July 31, 2024, and the purpose of this meeting is to determine if there is support by both entities to request funding and file the application with the Department of Water Resources. Jerry Bergquist explained how this meeting came about. He indicated he participated in a meeting for water resources on June 17, 2024, and he conveyed his concerns to the Department of Water Resources regarding the lidar maps not accurately showing how the water sits in Stutsman County. He expressed concerns that most of the ground water does not flow through the system out of Stutsman County, but typically remains

there until it reaches a critical point, which is not accurately reflected.

It was through these discussions and a meeting with Mike Gunsch of Houston Engineering that Mr. Bergquist was made aware of research they have done in the area of Crystal Springs, particularly, with their ties to the railroad and to the DOT, who recently conducted a grade raise of I-94. They noted a study shows that the water levels would continue to rise 7"-8" per year. It was noted that there are currently county roads, located to the north of Crystal Springs which have gone under water and reports of water in basements in Medina. There were concerns regarding the railroad crossing and the potential need to continue to raise that crossing in the future.

Jerry Bergquist indicated he and Joan Morris met with representatives from Kidder County and sought their support for moving forward toward with a feasibility study. It may be necessary to move the water into the Crystal Springs Lake and Stink Lake area through Kidder County. The feasibility study could look at the various ways that the water could be drained including east and meet up with the James and Pipestem River Basin or west into Long Lake. Commissioner Joan Morris particularly noted that the goal of the feasibility study is not to drain Stink Lake, but it is intended to manage the level of the lake due to winter and spring melt.

Next, Mark Gunsch from Houston Engineering was invited to make a presentation.

After the presentation, Joel Lees requested Mr. Gunsch to provide a proposed timeline regarding how long the project might take from beginning to completion. Mr. Gunsch indicated that the project could be completed within a period of 3-5 years. Mr. Gunsch also explained the initial cost share to the Department of Water Resources for the feasibility study. It could be either 45% or 60% cost share, a decision could be made at the State Water Commission's October 10, 2024, meeting. Also, he indicated that any applications would have to be provided by August 26, 2024. Mr. Gunsch indicated that with the support of the Commission and the Water Resource Board, they would put in the request for an application to the Department of Water Resources and prepare a scope and budget for the feasibility study at no cost to either entity. At this time, Mr. Gunsch estimated that the feasibility study cost was \$200,000.00.

There was then significant discussion between Mr. Gunsch, Josh Loosmore, Commissioners, board members, and members of the

public regarding the project and concerns that various entities had with the project itself.

There was also discussion regarding how this project would be funded. It was noted that depending on the direction of water flow, it could impact the different entities that should be involved with the project and Commissioner Morris indicated that they were looking at various partners who would be willing to put in funding just for the feasibility study. It was noted that if any person or entity wanted to participate in the feasibility study, their participation would only be limited to the feasibility study and they would not have any further obligations for payment to fund the entirety of the project.

There was also discussion regarding the impact of this project on county roads. Daren Peterka from Interstate Engineering, works with the county on their county roads. He indicated there would not be an immediate benefit to the county roads. A number of roads that have overtopped this season. Depending on the scope of the area that Houston Engineering includes in its feasibility study, it may or may not be able to determine what impact, if any, on roads in the outlying areas.

Mr. Peterka indicated that any study that would include a survey of all the roads in the county would likely be at a cost of closer to \$300,000.00 just for a survey of the roads.

Mr. Klose then turned the discussion back to the application that will need to be filed with the Department of Water Resources. Mr. Klose indicated that it would be best to have both the County and the Stutsman County Water Resource Board jointly sponsor the application and request Houston Engineering to submit the application on behalf of both entities.

A motion was made by Joan Morris and seconded by Jerry Bergquist authorizing Houston Engineering to file the application for the feasibility study. A roll call vote was taken. All members voted in favor of the motion. Motion passed.

Next, Dennis Clark moved and John Schock seconded a motion to approve of authorizing Houston Engineering to file the application for the feasibility study and the Stutsman County Water Resource Board to co-sponsor the application. A roll call vote was taken. All members voted in favor of the motion. Motion passed.

Seeing no further business before the Commissioners, Levi Taylor moved and Commissioner Chad Wolsky seconded a motion to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 10:41 a.m.

John Schock moved and Dennis Clark seconded a motion to adjourn the Stutsman County Water Resource Board meeting. Motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 10:42 a.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

ABBAGAIL GEROUX
Secretary

BOARD APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The board approved the minutes this ____ day of _____,
2024.

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