

MINUTES

STUTSMAN COUNTY WATER RESOURCE BOARD

July 29, 2020

The regular meeting of the Stutsman County Water Resource Board was called to order by Vice Chairman Arlyn Schmidt on July 29, 2020, at 9:00 a.m. Members present were Arlyn Schmidt, Anthony Roorda, and Dennis Clark. John Schock appeared about ten minutes into the meeting. Additionally, present by phone was Joel Lees, Jeff Liechty, and John Fiebiger. Abbagail Geroux, Secretary for the Board, was also present.

MINUTES

The first order of business was to review the minutes of the June 24, 2020, regular meeting. Upon review, Dennis Clark moved and Anthony Roorda seconded a motion to approve the minutes. Motion passed.

W-622 COMPLAINT FOR WATER-RELATED ISSUES— Alan Albrecht

The next item on the agenda was to discuss the Complaint for Water-Related Issues by Alan Albrecht. Ms. Geroux explained that it was her understanding that Joel Lees was contacted by Alan Albrecht, and he was able to visit with his neighbor with whom he made the complaint, to resolve the issue. Mr. Lees indicated that he requested Mr. Albrecht prepare a written request to withdraw his complaint, and provide it to the Secretary of the Board for purposes of their file. Therefore, this matter was not to be addressed by the Board.

W-623 APPLICATION FOR SURFACE DRAINAGE ON SECTION 20, TOWNSHIP 137N, RANGE 63W, STUTSMAN COUNTY, NORTH DAKOTA— John Fiebiger

The next item on the agenda was the Application for Surface Drainage by John Fiebiger. Ms. Geroux provided a background discussion on the statewide process and discussion of the process that the Board must follow with this particular application. She also noted that she provided Notice of the application to Montpelier Township, and she also provided Notice to Jeff Liechty, who manages the section of land which is North and East of Mr. Fiebiger's land, where most of the water would flow. Mr. Fiebiger then addressed the Board. He indicated that the Application was so that he would be allowed to clean out existing drains on his property. It was noted that the existing

drains were likely done in the 1950's and 1960's prior to the creation of the local District Boards and therefore there was no approval for those. However, the State did note there was approval for a small piece of property done in the 1970's, and the reason this Application was before the Board was to approve of the existing drains there. Jeff Liechty, who represents the land owners of the property to the North and East, indicated that he had some concerns if the purpose of this Application was to add culverts which would move water from Mr. Fiebiger's property onto his property. John Fiebiger indicated that all of the culverts were existing and he was not adding any new culverts. It was noted that the culvert located in the Northeast corner of his property and the center culvert located on the East side of his property were new. He did note that there might need to be new culverts on some of the other existing culverts because the road has been dropping from the Spring melt. Based on this, Anthony Roorda moved and Dennis Clark seconded a motion to approve of the Application for Surface Drainage. Ms. Geroux then addressed the Board. She noted that there was some discussion by the State regarding two items that the State wanted the Board to address. She also noted the list of factors that would need to be reviewed as part of the approval process. It was noted that the State recommended that the Board require the applicant to obtain permission from the local road authority in order for the water to flow on its right of way. Ms. Geroux indicated that she sent correspondence to all of the members of the Montpelier Township Board on July 16, 2020. None of the Township Board members appeared, nor did they otherwise get in contact with her office or a Board member. It was noted that since it appears the work that Mr. Fiebiger was doing was to clean out existing drainage and since there did not appear to be any issues with the drainage from the time it was created until now, that there appears to be no issues with approving it. Based on that, a vote was taken, and all voted in favor of the motion; motion passed.

PROJECTS

Next, the Board members who sit on the various joint Boards provided a short update on ongoing projects. John Schock noted that the joint Board for the Silver Creek project was moving along well. They had a small owner meeting in July and they will be having another owner meeting at the Eagles Club in Valley City on August 20, 2020. Currently, the cost for conducting this project are between \$4.50 to \$5.00 per acre to be assessed on farmers property for approximately 15 years. He noted that for this process they will need several meetings. Mr. Schock

indicated that the biggest issue right now is the State's lack of funding, which could take some additional years to get the project moving as they are currently seeking to obtain 40% of funding from the State.

Dennis Clark then indicated that the latest project for the Upper Cheyenne Board was currently on hold because of State funding. They are waiting to hear what is going to be happening with that project.

John Schock also discussed the Spiritwood Lake project. Ms. Geroux noted that she had not been in contact with anyone there. He indicated that he visited with the representative from the State, locating contact information to place a gauge on a landowner's property. It was Mr. Schock's understanding that the project was moving along well.

BILLS AND FINANCIALS, WEBSITE

Next, was some discussion of bills. The Board members reviewed the bills. Ms. Geroux also noted that the website for the Stutsman County Water Resource Board was up. They have a landing page now in the Stutsman County website where they will be able to place notices for future meetings and they have agendas and minutes up on the website. Ms. Geroux noted that at the last meeting the Board members requested that they discontinue running Notice in the Newspaper. John Schock indicated that he felt that the ad should still run for the month of August to give folks additional time to locate the website. Based on this, there would be additional ads and a bill to be presented to the Board at the August and future meetings. Based on the review of the bills, Anthony Roorda moved and John Schock seconded a motion to approve the bills and financials. Motion passed. It was also noted that Dennis Clark provided his voucher for payment for the last quarter of meetings at the meeting. This was included with the bills.

CHECK NUMBERS

1. John Schock - \$900.42	#2753
2. Joel Lees - \$1,140.53	#2754
3. Arlyn Schmidt - \$623.37	#2755
4. Anthony Roorda - \$554.10	#2756
5. USDA - \$400.00	#2757
6. IRS - \$149.17	#2758
7. Forum Communication Company - \$652.00	#2759
8. US Postal Service - \$118.00	#2760
9. Dalsted & Ryan, PC - \$2,653.91	#2761

- 10. Griggs Co. Water Resource District - \$135.00 #2762
- 11. Workforce Safety and Insurance - \$250.00 #2763
- 12. Dennis Clark - \$692.63 #2764

Seeing no further business before the Board, Dennis Clark 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 _____, 2020.

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