

MINUTES

STUTSMAN COUNTY WATER RESOURCE BOARD

August 28, 2024

The regular meeting of the Stutsman County Water Resource Board was called to order by Chairman, Joel Lees, on August 28, 2024, at approximately 10:00 a.m. in the County Commissioner's Room of the Stutsman County Courthouse. Members present were Joel Lees, Dennis Clark, Anthony Roorda, and John Schock. Arlyn Schmidt arrived at the meeting at 10:08 a.m. Additionally present were a number of members from the public and various entities identified on the attached sign-in sheet. Additionally, Tim Brenner representing Crystal Springs Lake Campground and Les Ressler representing the Reule Lake Home Owners Association were present by phone. Also present was Greg Spenningsby, board alternate, and Abbagail Geroux, secretary of the Board.

MINUTES

The first order of business was to review and approve the minutes of the July 31, 2024, regular meeting minutes. Anthony Roorda moved and John Schock seconded a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Motion passed.

CRYSTAL SPRINGS LAKE FEASIBILITY STUDY

The board addressed the first item on the agenda regarding the Crystal Springs Lake feasibility study and the agreement with Houston Engineering. Joel Lees made initial remarks regarding the meeting that he had attended last week. Jerry Bergquist also was in attendance with the Commission regarding the feasibility study. Mike Gunsch then provided additional background on the project and its current status. It was noted that the Stutsman County Water Resource Board was not going to be financially responsible under the feasibility study. It was noted that Ms. Geroux had provided a number of proposed revisions to the feasibility study which Houston Engineering expressed they had no concerns with. It was noted that they would be applying for a 45% cost share with the Department of Water Resources and from there seek out additional funding from individual stakeholders who would benefit by the development of the feasibility study. Mr. Gunsch explained the various phases of the feasibility study and the estimated cost for each phase. It was noted that the total cost included only building out one options of the feasibility study.

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John Schock expressed some concerns that the feasibility study was not going to be bid out. He expressed concerns that it appeared that the Crystal Springs Lake Campground was conducting a lot of pumping in the area and expressed that it was unclear to him if the pumping done displaced surface water or because of a rise in lake levels. Tim Brenner of Crystal Lake Springs Campground indicated that the lake level has gone up 10-12 feet in the 13-14 years. He explained that the land on the campground is dry because of continued pumping and trenching that has been done in the area. Mr. Brenner also noted that the water level on the lake increased 9" since May.

BJ Kratz from the North Dakota Game & Fish was also present and indicated that historically Crystal Springs Lake had an elevation of 12 feet. It is currently at 14 feet and therefore it is up approximately 2-3 feet from its prior elevation. He noted that because of the back pressure from Crystal Springs Lake, the extra water is backing up into Stink Lake increasing the elevation of Stink Lake. Greg Spenningsby inquired if the feasibility study would include tracking the ground water levels. Mr. Gunsch explained that it did not, but that the available data he had would attempt to take this into account as part of the overall review to determine what is contributing to the high watershed.

Charles Ricketts, a resident of Kidder County, also spoke to the board and indicated he is a fifth generation landowner and has watched the water levels rise 1-2 feet in the last two years at Crystal Springs Lake and wants a feasibility study to see if it is possible to alleviate any of the concerns.

Anthony Roorda moved to approve the Feasibility Agreement and appoint a steering committee consisting of Jerry Bergquest and the County Commission, Joel Lees from the Stutsman County Water Resource Board, Dan Mittleider of Kidder County, Jim Wentland of Stutsman County Highway Department, Jay Praska of the North Dakota Department of Transportation, Paul Peltier, Managing Engineer for Burlington Northern Santa Fe, Tim Brenner of the Crystal Springs Bible Camp, Les Ressler of Reule Lake Association, and Brian Knetter.

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Lastly, the motion provided for Joel Lees to sign the Feasibility Agreement when it has been finalized with Houston Engineering and Ms. Geroux. Arlyn Schmidt seconded motion. A roll call vote was taken.

Anthony Roorda, Joel Lees, and Arlyn Schmidt voted in favor and John Schock and Dennis Clark voted against. Motion passed.

There was also discussion regarding the steering committee. It was noted that the feasibility study projected cost included work for managing the steering committee. Mr. Gunsch indicated that his office would be preparing all the necessary documents, notices, and agendas for the steering committee and also provide minutes at the conclusion of the steering committee. It was noted that the steering committee would need to be considered open to the public.

It was further noted that Joel Lees was willing to participate as a member of the steering committee, but that in the winter months he would be residing in Arizona and asked that Anthony Roorda step in his place as needed. The board expressed no concern. The board also indicated Ms. Geroux was not required to organize or participate in the steering committee.

MISCELLANEOUS

BARRY HAZER APPEAL

Next, Ms. Geroux provided an updated regarding the administrative hearing for the Barry Hazer appeal.

Joel Lees and Anthony Roorda indicated they received correspondence regarding bridge work on Highway 281 by SRF Engineering. The board had no comments.

Ms. Geroux also provided correspondence she received from Interstate Engineering regarding the expansion of a building on the Jamestown Regional Airport. Again, the board had no comments.

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FINANCIALS

The board then reviewed the bills and financials. Anthony Roorda moved and Dennis Clark seconded a motion to approve the bills and financials. Motion passed.

CHECK NUMBERS

1. Dalsted & Ryan, P.C. - \$3,145.00 #2948

UPPER SHEYENNE JOINT BOARD

Next, Dennis Clark reported on the Upper Sheyenne Board. They reviewed the proposed amendment to the Joint Board, but one of the county's attorneys discussed some concerns with the proposed amendment and desired to conduct an additional review.

There being no further business before the board, Arlyn Schmidt moved and John Schock seconded a motion to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 12:20 p.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