

MINUTES

STUTSMAN COUNTY WATER RESOURCE BOARD

October 28, 2020

The regular meeting of the Stutsman County Water Resource Board was called to order by Chairman Joel Lees on October 28, 2020, at 9:00 a.m. in the Commissioner's Room of the Stutsman County Courthouse. Members present were Joel Lees, Arlyn Schmidt, Dennis Clark, and John Schock. Additionally, present was Chris Korkowski by telephone and Abbagail Geroux, Secretary of the Board.

MINUTES

The first order of business was to review the minutes of the September 30, 2020, regular meeting. Upon review, Dennis Clark moved and Arlyn Schmidt seconded a motion to approve the minutes. Motion passed.

UPDATE- CHRIS KORKOWSKI, SPIRITWOOD APPLICATION TO DRAIN

Next, the Board addressed an update by Chris Korkowski of the Office of the State Engineer for North Dakota regarding the Feasibility Study for Spiritwood and Alkali Lake. Mr. Korkowski indicated that through the Feasibility Study, they were able to place gauges to provide real-time water levels of both Alkali and Spiritwood Lakes. He has compiled a history of the lake since 1903. Throughout the history of the lake, there have been ongoing issues of downstream impact, water quality, and invasive species. Mr. Korkowski indicated that this summer, he went out with a survey crew to survey crossings and culverts in the area. He was able to create a model which ends at I-94 without error. However, in preparing the hydrology model to account for rain and snow melt, Mr. Korkowski will need to do further modeling. This current Hydrology model does not appear to properly predict the hydrology of the area in high water events. Therefore, Mr. Korkowski is working on a more sophisticated model and is currently testing various scenarios to ensure the accuracy of the model. Once he completes testing on the model, he will be able to look at various options to alleviate some of the concerns in the area. He again indicated to the Board that any proposed projects will be expensive or potentially impact downstream landowners.

Mr. Korkowski also indicated that there is a dam downstream of Alkali Lake. Currently, simulations to determine if that dam will have any affect on the downstream owners shows that it does not. The simulations he reviewed thus far did not indicate there was any affect on the flow of the water. He expects that once the more sophisticated hydrology model is completed, this will be the same result. Mr. Korkowski did note that there are approximately 6 houses which appear to consistently flood in high water events. He also noted there are a few options that can be considered to alleviate various water concerns on the roads but he is unable to provide concrete options until modeling is complete.

John Schock inquired whether Mr. Korkowski had looked into putting in a trench around the County road and then a culvert through the road to pass through to Alkali Lake. Mr. Korkowski indicated that on the West side, with the grade of the road it might be difficult to do this because of how much cutting would need to be done but he indicated that he would look into that as a possibility. Mr. Korkowski also noted that they were able to fly a drone over the outlet around Alkali Lake and noted that there is a significant grade change, which appears to be more controlling of the water leaving the outlet than the dam structure downstream.

Mr. Korkowski then addressed the gauge reading, which Ms. Geroux provided a copy of those documents she received from Alexis Faber from the State Water Commission. Mr. Korkowski indicated that you will notice that the lake level continues to go down all year long. He also indicated that there has been a lot of discussion about the level of the lake. According to the gauge, the lake level started at 1446 feet and at the end of the year, the lake level was at 1444.7 feet North American Data 88. He noted that this should have a quarter foot tolerance in one direction or the other, as sometimes it is difficult to get the exact depth of the lake. He did note that the water does appear to still be flowing through the system. Mr. Korkowski indicated that he anticipated having a Feasibility Study complete by the end of this year or early next year and would desire to present some modeling to the Board, either in person or by use of video conferencing. With that, the Board thanked Mr. Korkowski for all of his work and indicated they looked forward to seeing the final result.

BILLS

Next, the Board addressed the bills and financials. Ms. Geroux explained to the Board that Joel Lees and Abby Geroux were able to exchange one of the CD's to place additional funds in the Board's checking account. She noted that from the last statement received from Unison Bank and the money that was deposited into the Water Resource Board's checking account were slightly different; approximately \$5.00 worth. She anticipates that this discrepancy will get rectified when they receive their next bank statement. After review, Arlyn Schmidt moved and Dennis Clark seconded a motion to approve the bills and financials. Motion passed.

Ms. Geroux also brought to the Board's attention, that when her staff were calculating the mileage rate that the Board members receive for driving to the meetings, that it appeared that the mileage rate had not been adjusted in many years. Ms. Geroux noted that the current mileage rate for the Board was \$0.31 per mile and that the current State rate for mileage reimbursement is at \$0.57 per mile. Therefore, she inquired if the Board wanted to make any adjustments to their mileage rate. John Schock moved and Arlyn Schmidt seconded a motion to increase the mileage rate to \$0.50 per mile. Upon vote, motion passed.

MISC.

Ms. Geroux then presented a number of correspondences that she received and provided a quick update to the Board regarding the process for the hearing for the application for Spiritwood Lake. She indicated that Mr. Peterka had recently completed the survey data for the area and is currently reviewing that information. Ms. Geroux also indicated that she was mostly complete with identifying the landowners in the area, she just had a few items that needed to get determined. She indicated that particularly at the last Water Resource Board meeting Mr. Collins indicated that he had not explicitly identified the location of the drawdown structure for the project, which further information would be needed to know who would need to be notified of the hearing that the Water Resource Board must hold. So, there is a few items that would need to get worked through prior to setting the meeting date, but they hope to do so once those items are in place. Next, the Board had a discussion on their December meeting. This year, the regular date for the meeting would fall on a Wednesday, which would be December 30, 2020, and therefore the Board determined they would hold their regular December meeting on that date.

CHECK NUMBERS

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| 1. IRS - \$498.78 | #2778 |
| 2. Dalsted and Ryan, P.C. - \$2,811.97 | #2779 |

Seeing no further business before the Board, Dennis Clark moved and Arlyn Schmidt 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