

Elm River Joint Water Resource District
Tuesday, August 16, 2022 - 9:30 a.m.

The Elm River Joint Water Resource District met on Tuesday, August 16, at 9:30 a.m., in Hillsboro, North Dakota, and via WebEx. Present were Chairman Robert Thompson (virtual) and Water Managers Josh Ihry and Andy Neset. Lyndon Pease (virtual), Joshua Hassell, and Ben Kugler (virtual), the Board's engineers were also present. Sean Fredricks, the Board's attorney; Tasha Krueger, Secretary-Treasurer for the Steele County Water Resource District; Jessica Spaeth, Secretary-Treasurer; and Gary Thompson and Jason Siegert, Water Managers for Traill County WRD were also present.

Approval of July 6 Meeting Minutes

Manager Ihry moved to approve the minutes of the July 6 meeting. Manager Neset seconded the motion. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

- a. Manager Neset moved to approve the bills as presented. Manager Ihry seconded the motion. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.
- b. Manager Ihry moved to accept the treasurer's report as presented. Manager Neset seconded the motion. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

Elm River Dam No. 1 and No. 2 Improvement Project No. 2022-01 Update

Lyndon Pease provided an update on Elm River Dam No. 1 (Steele Dam) and Dam No. 2 (Augustadt Dam). The topographic survey has been completed. Moore is developing an updated schedule for design, funding, permitting, and construction. Construction is anticipated to begin and end in 2023. An updated schedule will be available at the September/October meetings.

The State Water Commission has approved pre-construction cost-share. Construction cost-share will be submitted upon receipt of a construction permit from the State.

The Board reviewed the engineer's preliminary drawing/design of Elm River Dam No. 1.

The Board reviewed a preliminary engineer drawing/design of Elm River Dam No. 2.

Elm River Dam No. 3 Update

Lyndon Pease provided an update on Elm River Dam No. 3 (Cass Dam). 2022 construction will be challenging due to design, permitting, bidding and pipe material availability. The Board agreed that a quality project completed in 2023 is more feasible; uncertainty due to weather could make a 2022 project difficult and could impact the quality of the work. Soil borings and topographic survey are scheduled for August 18. The State Water Commission approved cost-share for design and construction last week, in the amount of \$213,000. The Cass County Flood Sales Tax Committee considered and approved the Board's request to increase cost-share from that Committee's standard 75% cost-share up to 90%, in the amount of \$16,830. The Red River Joint WRD previously approved 90% cost-share in the amount of \$168,300. With an estimated total project cost of \$400K, the approved cost-share from the various entities leaves a local share of only \$1,870.

Manager Neset moved to approve the RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ELM RIVER DAM NO. 3 IMPROVEMENT PROJECT NO. 2022-01. Manager Ihry seconded. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously. Sean Fredricks has arranged for publication of the RESOLUTION in the *Traill County Tribune*, the *Forum*, and the *Steele County Press*.

Attorney Fredricks discussed the need for a bond issue. For now, the Board felt they could fund the costs of design work and could wait on a bond issue until the spring. Fredricks indicated the Board should authorize Secretary-Treasurer Spaeth to sign a DECLARATION OF OFFICIAL INTENT to permit the Board to reimburse itself out of bond proceeds.

Manager Neset moved to authorize Moore to proceed with final plans and specifications, permitting and advertisement of construction bids. Manager Ihry seconded the motion. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

Manager Ihry moved to authorize Ms. Spaeth to sign the DECLARATION OF OFFICIAL INTENT. Manager Neset seconded the motion. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

The next meeting for Elm River Joint WRD will be Tuesday, September 6, at 10:00 a.m.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:29 a.m.

APPROVED:

Robert Thompson, Chair

ATTEST:

Jessica Spaeth, Secretary