

**TRAILL COUNTY WATER RESOURCE DISTRICT
RECURRENT MEETING
MARCH 17, 2020 ~ HILLSBORO, ND**

The District Board convened on this date and came to order at 8:00am at the office of the Traill County Water Resource District in Hillsboro, ND. Managers present were Gary Thompson, Andy Neset, and Jason Lovas with Jason Siegert presiding as Chairman. Joel Halvorson was absent. Also present was Chris Gross, Moore Engineering, Inc.

AGENDA

Manager Lovas moved to approve the order of the agenda. Manager Neset seconded the motion. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

MINUTES

Manager Lovas moved to approve the March 3, 2020 recurrent meeting minutes as presented. Manager Thompson seconded the motion. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

SECRETARY-TREASURER'S REPORT

It was moved by Manager Neset and seconded by Manager Lovas to approve payment of March 4 - 17, 2020 bills and the electronic funds transfers, as presented. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

It was moved by Manager Neset and seconded by Manager Lovas to approve the February 2020 checking and saving account statements. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

GRAND FORKS-TRAILL JOINT WATER RESOURCE DISTRICT

(Update) The assessment hearing for the Thompson Drain No. 72 Improvement Project was held on February 24, 2020. Chris Gross told the Board that they have summarized all the comments from the hearing and are now ready to hold a special meeting with the joint board to approve and finalize them. This meeting will be held here on April 7th at 9:00am.

SNAGGING AND CLEARING

(Update) Jason Siegert and Andy Neset along with several landowners met with the county commissioners today to express their concern and the importance of snagging and clearing projects for the purpose of protecting infrastructure and land. Jason stated that the commissioners appeared to be in favor of possibly resuming funding for these projects. Jason asked that Chris coordinate with Brady Woodard to have American Enterprises fly the rivers, take pictures and note the problem areas. Once this is done preliminary planning will take place as in scheduling public hearings, submitting cost-share applications to the SWC, etc.

DRAIN BUSINESS

Proposed Hong Drain No. 81

(No new updates) Chris Gross said that Chris Hong continues to speak to landowners and attempts to collect the bond and signatures for this proposed project.

Camrud Drain No. 79

(Update) Chris Gross reiterated that the cost-share application has been submitted to the State Water Commission (SWC) Regulatory Division and will be on their April 9th agenda to review/approve. Chris Gross told the Board that he has been dealing with the State Water Commission staff on economic analysis issues. He added that the survey crew has been on site.

Jason Siegert told the managers that the county commissioners were asking questions this morning about the Joint Powers Agreement between the WRD and the County for the Camrud No. 79 and Thompson Drain No. 72 projects and their obligation to provide legal drain crossing cost-share on township road/drain crossings as well as county roads. The WRD attorney and the County attorney will be working together on legality issues.

Murray Drain No. 17

(Update) A request for reimbursement for overrun project costs was submitted to the SWC in September of 2019 to cover construction costs not included in original project itinerary. Our office received a letter from the SWC recently which indicated that they will not be providing funding assistance for these overrun costs due to them not having prior approval. Today Chairman Siegert asked Chris Gross to work with SWC staff and to also draft a letter to the SWC to ask for an appeal to their decision. He will have this prepared for our review at our next meeting.

McCoy Drain No. 14

(No new updates) Chris told the Board that Comstock Construction has requested an extension for the project due to inclement weather. Manager Halvorson moved to approve Change Order No. 1 for the request to extend the completion date of the contract which will most likely transpire in 2020. Manager Neset seconded the motion. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

Stavanger-Belmont Drain No. 52

(No new updates) \$5,000.00 is being retained until the seeding can be established this year.

Mayville Airport (S. Mayville Drain No. 9)

(No new updates) Lance Fugleberg, President of the Airport Authority, was here this morning to speak with the Board about the difficulty they are having with signing the easement agreement. The WRD is proposing to acquire a 25' easement. The Airport Authority feels that the agreement benefits the water board and excludes any for the Airport Authority. Mr. Fugleberg added that they are unwilling to give up any land as they have little to build on already but are willing to work with the water board and allow them to work there when necessary. Sean Fredricks said that he will revise the agreement to make it more palatable for all parties involved and will also work with their legal counsel on agreement matters. (Update) Chris Gross said that the survey crew has placed stakes in the ground which will give the Airport Authority an

opportunity to visualize on the ground what the easement boundary is. Hopefully this will lead them to granting an easement once they see the impacts are non-existent.

Paulson Drain No. 7

(No new updates) Jason Siegert said that most of the berm-spoil has been levelled on this drain with only a mile and a half mile left to clean, spoil, and place a culvert.

(No new updates) Discussion was revisited on the possibility of putting in some approaches in Section 5. (This was a request made by Neil Pulskamp). Jason Siegert said he will provide an estimate to have the work done.

Hillsboro Drain No. 26

(No new updates) Chris Gross stated that a cost-share application was submitted to the SWC on February 4th for the purpose of requesting assistance to cover costs in the amount of \$72,041.05 for the box culvert and channel work that is not included in the bond.

Viking-Lindaas Drain No. 44

(No new updates) Spencer Endrud has requested a culvert be installed in Section 30 of Lindaas Township. Chris Gross provided a map of contours for the Board to review.

Red Owl Drain No. 55

(No new updates) Chris Gross specified that he has sent Harlan Erickson maps, preliminary drawings, and a cost estimate for the possible reconstruction of this drain. Mr. Erickson will be speaking to landowners to gage their interest in moving forward with this project.

Carson Drain No. 10

(Update) The Board directed Chris to put together a proper profile on the entire drain to correctly size all culverts.

Roseville Drain No. 19

(No new updates) Discussion was revisited on Pete Haugen's request to find a solution to drainage problems that are occurring on his land due to the condition of this drain. Chris Gross provided a quad map of the area of the drain that was proposed to be reconstructed in 2007 but failed. The Board suggests having Mr. Haugen visit with landowners who are assessed into this drain and gauge the interest in reconstructing it. Chris will work with Pete Haugen on these issues and report back to the Board.

TRAILL COUNTY HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

Nothing to report.

COMPLAINTS

(No new updates) Discussion was revisited on the Reimer vs. Koenig complaint and the status of recovering attorney fees and engineering costs incurred due to this complaint. The District is entitled to assess the Koenig property to recover its costs under Section 61-16.1-51.

At our meeting on January 7th, The Board and attorney Fredricks discussed the Koenig-Reimer expenses. Mr. Fredricks was planning on directing Traill County to levy assessments against the Koenig property to collect the Board's costs. However, in the meantime, Dan Gaustad (appointed by NDIRF to defend the Board in Koenig's attempted appeal of the Board's cost decision) filed a Motion to Dismiss Koenig's attempted appeal for failure to properly and timely serve the Board.

This matter will be re-addressed when we know the Court's decision on the motion before directing the County to levy.

PERMITS

None.

OTHER BUSINESS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

Having no further topics to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 10:20am without objection.



Jason Siegert, Chairman



Nettie Johnson, Secretary