

**MCHEMRY COUNTY WATER RESOURCE DISTRICT
MINUTES OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
DECEMBER 14, 2023**

Present: Dave Ashley, Jon David Olson, David P. Haman, Terry Krumwiede, Murray Pfau, Lorinda Haman. Guests present: Steven Irey, Blaine Welstad, Pratt Township Supervisor and Wesley Zurcher.

Chair Ashley called the meeting to order at 8:00 AM in the McHenry County Weed Board Office in Towner.

D. Haman/Pfau moved to approve the agenda with the addition of US Postal Service – Rental Fee. Motion Carried.

Reading of the minutes of the October 10th meeting were dispensed with and moved to approve per motion by Pfau/Krumwiede, motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Pledge of Securities – L. Haman visited with Donna Hager of Merchants Bank in regards to the pledge of securities and the Letter of Credit. Hager confirmed that all monies are covered and the Letter of Credit is a guarantee that Merchants Bank will cover the extra money not covered by FDIC and other pledges. The bank checks balances monthly to insure proper pledge levels.

Bills to approve: Director vouchers and secretary vouchers were submitted and reviewed for payment. ND Water Users dues of \$300 and NDWRD Association dues of \$675 were approved as moved by Krumwiede/Haman. Motion carried.

At this time, Chairman Ashley addressed the guests at the meeting. Steven Irey, Blaine Welstad and Wesley Zurcher. Irey presented background on a drainage complaint located in the SW4-10-159-80 filed by his late father, Leo . Welstad provided historical information as a supervisor of Pratt Township. The prairie road was built up in the 1980's. Elmer Zurcher and Wesley Zurcher surveyed the area and determined that all water drains east to the river. A culvert was eventually installed but the time is unknown. Welstad further offered that the change in weather pattern may be a major factor in the increased water draining across Irey's land. A whistleblower in 2011 was inspected by FSA/NRCS with no violation being found. Zurcher recalled the prairie road was built up and drainage increased after a discussion with Leo Irey.

Murray Pfau investigated the site on October 6th and again on December 12 and found that the area is a natural drain with some levels of water setting in the drain.

Irey would like to be able to farm the area as in the past.

Ashley reviewed the project and findings: 1) Culvert depth is not an issue; 2) That area of the county has lots of problems due to high water tables due to excessive rainfall and floods; 3) Nothing in writing for culvert installation work as agreed to by Elmer Zurcher and Leo Irey. A solution offered was to fix the cutouts caused by erosion by installing a grassed waterway. Welstad will work with Steve Irey to that end. He also will include Keith Hall and Trevor Hall in the work. Galen Marsh and Wesley Zurcher would like to assist in fixing the situation. Irey, Welstad and Zurcher then left the meeting.

Chairman Ashley resumed the regular meeting finishing the bills to be approved: US Postal Service \$70 Annual Box rent fee was approved as per motion by Haman/Pfau. Motion carried.

Financial statements for October and November were reviewed. Olson/Pfau moved to approve the reports. Motion carried.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Weir Gate: Area is not sufficiently frozen at this time. Work will commence as soon as this happens. Pfau offered that there may be a local resident near the gate that could be responsible for maintaining levels.

Falsen Township Riverbank Erosion: No quotes presented at this time.

Ashley attended one day of the State Convention to attend a couple of meetings and connected with some key personnel. Attendance was up this year and reports received stated it was a good convention.

NEW BUSINESS:

Township Financial Assistance Program:

- 1) Brown Township submitted an application to replace a cement cattle crossing with a culvert at an estimated cost of \$11,000. Work has been done but no invoice has been submitted to the WRD Board. This item was tabled in order to get further information.
- 2) Anamoose Township submitted invoices for two culvert installations. \$1302.82 and \$1444.82 were cost share approved for the projects as per motion by Haman/Krumwiede. Roll call vote: all voting aye. Motion carried.
- 3) Velva Township submitted invoices for \$4037. Discussion was that two culverts were installed not just one. Pfau/Haman moved to have L. Haman visit with the Township for clarification. Once clarification is received Ashley will be consulted and payment may be made. Motion carried.
- 4) Land Township and Berwick Township have approved applications but no invoices have been received.

BOARD ACTIVITIES:

Pfau reported that Commissioner Lance Johnson had contacted him about a bridge in Little Deep Township being washed out and requested permission to replace it with culverts. The work was completed with approval.

Ashley informed the Board that some engineering firms are recommending replacing bridges with box culverts. This will potentially cause major problems for downstream landowners in the future. The Souris River Joint Water Board is working with this problem.

He again updated the Board on the encroachment of North Prairie Regional Water on the dike near Velva. The Corp of Engineers acknowledge the mistake and are considering to rescind their approval as the pipe was bored under the dike without prior approval.

OTHER BUSINESS: None

The next regular meeting is Tuesday, February 13, 2024.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 9:12 AM per motion by Olson/Haman. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Lorinda Haman, Secretary