MINUTES OF VIRTUAL / CONFERENCE CALL MEETING
RED RIVER JOINT WATER RESOURCE DISTRICT FULL BOARD
ORIGINATING AT THE CASS COUNTY HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT
WEST FARGO, NORTH DAKOTA
JUNE 8, 2022

A virtual / conference call meeting of the Red River Joint Water Resource District (RRJWRD) Full Board was held on June 8, 2022, at 9:30 a.m.

Present were Bruce Anderson, Barnes County Water Resource District; Tom Perdue, Grand Forks County Water Resource District; Ben Varnson, Nelson County Water Resource District; Wes Ecker, North Cass Water Resource District; Don Kemp, Pembina County Water Resource District; Arv Burvee, Richland County Water Resource District; William A. Hejl and Richard Sundberg, Rush River Water Resource District; Dan Jacobson, Southeast Cass Water Resource District; Nina Stone, Accountant; Melissa Hinkemeyer, Administrative Assistant; Sean M. Fredricks, Ohnstad Twichell, P.C.; Randy Gjestvang, North Dakota Department of Water Resources (NDDWR); Keith Weston, Red River Retention Authority (RRRA) Executive Director; Dani Quissell, North Dakota Water Users Association; Ted Preister, Red River Basin Commission (RRBC) Executive Director; Chuck Fritz, International Water Institute (IWI); Zach Herrmann, Mike Opat and Gabe Bladow, Houston Engineering, Inc.; Nathan Trosen, Moore Engineering, Inc.; Morrie Lanning, Barr Engineering Co.; and Blake Carlson, Widseth, Smith, Nolting. Maple River, Ransom County, Sargent County, Steele County, Trail County and Walsh County Water Resource Districts were absent.

Minutes

It was moved by Manager Varnson seconded by Manager Burvee and unanimously carried to approve the minutes of the April 13, 2022, meeting.

Bourbanis Dam – update on 2022 flood damage and potential construction alternatives

Zach Herrmann discussed in detail the severe erosion that occurred during the spring melt at Bourbanis Dam. Mr. Herrmann also discussed the response effort to the erosion which included assistance from the North Dakota National Guard and the NDDWR. Pembina County Water Resource District is now working with the NRCS to determine the best path forward for Bourbanis Dam, which may be decommissioning or partially decommissioning the dam, to remove the public safety risk to downstream and nearby property owners including the City of Cavalier. Mr. Herrmann said the goal is to have a project designed, bid and constructed by the end of the year. Pembina County Water Resource District is concurrently completing a study of the dams in the watershed to determine a long-term plan for the watershed, including potential addition of storage to dams downstream of Bourbanis Dam. Mr. Herrmann stated the NRCS is providing

significant cost-share for the project, and the Pembina County Water Resource District plans to submit a cost-share request to the RRJWRD for 65% of the non-federal, non-state share of the project. The Board briefly discussed the matter and indicated it is preferable to retain as much retention as possible in the watershed however they understand the current situation the Pembina County Water Resource District faces.

Treasurer's report

It was moved by Manager Burvee and seconded by Manager Perdue to approve the Financial Report, as presented. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

2023 budget

A motion was made by Manager Varnson and seconded by Manager Anderson to approve the 2023 detailed budget, as presented. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

Manager Burvee left the meeting at this time.

Cost-share request – IWI LiDAR Tool Development – hydro-conditioning for use in Water Delineation Tool on IWI Map Portal

Chuck Fritz discussed a cost-share request from the IWI for hydro-conditioning of the 2018/2019 NDDWR LiDAR data for the development of LiDAR derived tools in the Red River Basin in North Dakota. Some of the previous hydro-conditioning work in the Red River Basin in North Dakota can be utilized again, lowering the cost of the work to $8.50 per square mile, with a total cost of $109,624 for the portion of the Red River Basin in North Dakota that is within the RRJWRD member counties. The North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality (NDDEQ) is also interested in the data and may provide up to 60% cost-share for the hydro-conditioning work. The RRJWRD Executive Committee recommended approval of 40% cost-share for hydro-conditioning of the 2018/2019 NDDWR LiDAR data for the development of LiDAR derived tools in the Red River Basin in North Dakota, not to exceed $43,850, contingent upon the NDDEQ approving the remaining 60% cost-share for the project.

It was moved by Manager Varnson and seconded by Manager Perdue to approve the cost-share request from IWI for 40% cost-share for hydro-conditioning of the 2018/2019 NDDWR LiDAR data for the development of LiDAR derived tools in the Red River Basin in North Dakota, not to exceed $43,850, contingent upon the NDDEQ approving the remaining 60% cost-share for the project. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

Cost-share request – IWI River Watch and River of Dreams

Mr. Fritz reported the IWI was notified that the River Watch and River of Dreams programs were approved for a NDDEQ Section 319 grant. The grant requires 40% local cost-share for the programs, which the RRJWRD has previously funded. The 40% local match covers three years of the River Watch program at a cost of $107,520 and three years of the River of Dreams program at a cost of $60,301. Randy Gjestvang recommended

approval of the cost-share request from IWI for the programs and stated the RRJWRD Executive Committee has also recommended approval of the cost-share request.

It was moved by Manager Anderson and seconded by Manager Varnson to approve the cost-share request from IWI for the following commencing July 1, 2022, and ending June 30, 2025:

- River Watch program, not to exceed $107,520
- River of Dreams program, not to exceed $60,301.

Upon roll call vote, the following voted in favor: Barnes County Water Resource District, Nelson County Water Resource District, Rush River Water Resource District and Southeast Cass Water Resource District. North Cass Water Resource District and Grand Forks County Water Resource District voted no. The motion passed.

Sheyenne River Bank Stabilization Project Proposal – update

Mike Opat discussed a potential bank stabilization project along the Sheyenne River downstream of Baldhill Dam. Mr. Opat indicated the first step of the project is to conduct an inventory of issues along the Sheyenne River that impact public infrastructure. Barnes County Water Resource District has requested cost-share for the project inventory through the NDDWR. Following a decision on the cost-share request by the NDDWR, Barnes County Water Resource District plans to prepare a project scope and budget and submit a cost-share request for the non-state share of the cost for review at the July RRJWRD Executive Committee meeting.

Legislative updates

Sean Fredricks and Dani Quissell reported on legislative updates regarding water resource districts. Discussion was held on the SB 2208 interim study and benefit-cost analysis related to water conveyance projects. Ms. Quissell also updated the Board on the proposed changes to the State Water Commission cost-share policy.

LiDAR products update

Mr. Gjestvang provided an update on the development of LiDAR derived tools using the 2018/2019 NDDWR LiDAR data. IWI staff are currently downloading the NDDWR LiDAR data as it becomes available. The remaining LiDAR data for the Red River Basin should be available for download later this summer.

RRRA report

Keith Weston reported the RRRA is hosting a tour in conjunction with other regional Boards and agencies on August 24, 2022. The tour begins in Grand Forks, North Dakota, and will be visiting various sites in the Red River Basin. Registration for the tour will be available beginning June 20, 2022, on the Red River Watershed Management Board website. The next meeting of the RRRA will be held Wednesday, June 15, 2022.

RRBC report

Ted Preister reported on recent RRBC activities and projects. The RRBC recently held a meeting and tour on May 26, 2022, in Selkirk, Manitoba and the annual Ex-Officio

meeting is scheduled for September 8, 2022, in Moorhead, Minnesota. The RRBC is also participating in the tour with the RRRA on August 24, 2022.

Metro Flood Diversion Project report

Dan Jacobson reported construction is ongoing regarding the Metro Flood Diversion Project.

NDDWR / State Water Commission report

Mr. Gjestvang reported on recent meetings and activities he has participated in. The NDDWR is hosting meetings this summer to discuss and solicit feedback on potential updates to the State Water Commission cost-share policy. Mr. Gjestvang also updated the Board on the status of the USGS Drought Risk Analysis Project. The NDDWR is also hosting a dam safety workshop for project sponsors of dams in North Dakota.

Next meeting

The next Full Board meeting of the RRJWRD will be held on September 21, 2022.

Adjournment

There being no further business to be considered by the Board, the meeting adjourned without objection.

APPROVED:

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Gary Thompson
Chairman

ATTEST:

_____
Carol Harbeke Lewis
Secretary-Treasurer