

MINUTES OF VIRTUAL / CONFERENCE CALL SPECIAL MEETING
RED RIVER JOINT WATER RESOURCE DISTRICT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
ORIGINATING AT THE CASS COUNTY HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT
WEST FARGO, NORTH DAKOTA
JUNE 26, 2023

A virtual / conference call special meeting of the Red River Joint Water Resource District (RRJWRD) Executive Committee was held on June 26, 2023, at 8:30 a.m.

Present were Josh Ihry, Steele County Water Resource District; Arv Burvee, Richland County Water Resource District (alternate); Tom Perdue, Grand Forks County Water Resource District (alternate); Carol Harbeke Lewis, Secretary-Treasurer; Melissa Hinkemeyer, Administrative Assistant; Sean M. Fredricks, Ohnstad Twichell, P.C.; and Randy Gjestvang, North Dakota Department of Water Resources. Gary Thompson, Traill County Water Resource District, Ben Varnson, Nelson County Water Resource District, Keith Weston, Southeast Cass Water Resource District, and Don Kemp, Pembina County Water Resource District, were absent.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) – proposed drain tile setback rules

Discussion was held on USFWS proposed drain tile setback rules on property with USFWS wetland easements. The proposed regulations will be separate from Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) drain tile setbacks and setbacks will be determined on an individual basis using best-available science. The proposed regulations indicate no effects to property with a USFWS wetland easement are allowed from drain tile. The USFWS is accepting comments on the proposed regulations until June 27, 2023. Sean Fredricks said the Board has been asked to be a signatory on a comment letter from various local agricultural groups to the USFWS regarding the proposed drain tile setback rules.

A motion was made by Manager Burvee and seconded by Manager Perdue to authorize the Chairman to sign the letter from various local agricultural groups to the USFWS regarding comments on the proposed drain tile setback rules on property with USFWS wetland easements. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

Adjournment

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

APPROVED:

Josh Ihry
Chairman

ATTEST:

Carol Harbeke Lewis
Secretary-Treasurer