

**MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING  
RED RIVER JOINT WATER RESOURCE DISTRICT  
TELECONFERENCE  
TRAILL COUNTY WATER RESOURCE DISTRICT  
HILLSBORO, NORTH DAKOTA  
MARCH 15, 2017 ~ 8:30AM**

The Red River Joint Water Resource District held a teleconference on March 15, 2015 at 8:30am commencing at the office of Trill County Water Resource District, Hillsboro, ND.

Those present were: Chairman Gary Thompson and Secretary Nettie Johnson. By phone: Managers Lance Yohe, Josh Ihry, and Scott Olerud; Sean Fredricks, Attorney for the Board; Cass County WRD personnel: Nina Stone, Michelle Anderson and Kathy Grueneich; and Randy Gjestvang, State Water Commission.

**BY-LAWS**

Attorney Sean Fredricks prepared some draft revisions to the By-Laws regarding membership fees. Revisions and updates were made to the By-Laws to reflect the changes that were discussed at an earlier meeting, along with several other updates. A few other additions were made as well (e.g., updated the Executive Committee's authorities). A "red-line" version will be sent out to the RRJWRD Full Board for their review and to discuss at their April 12, 2017 meeting. No action was taken today.

**LEGISLATION**

**Quick-Take:** On quick-take, SB 2047 is our preferred bill relative to HB 1244 which would effectively eliminate quick-take (would limit quick-take to situations where a project has a direct and specific appropriation from the Legislature or Congress, which virtually never happens). The House Energy & Natural Resources Committee has not yet taken action on SB 2047 following that Committee hearing; we suspect they are awaiting the outcome of the Senate E&NR Committee vote on HB 1244. Our plan is to offer amendments to SB 2047 to assuage concerns of certain House members, in hopes we can then request that the Senate defeat HB 1244. The language in 1244 would be devastating.

The Senate Energy & Natural Resources Committee hearing on HB 1244 is Friday, March 17, at 10:00 a.m.

**VOUCHER POLICY**

Discussion was held on an action that was taken by the Executive Committee on March 8, 2017 regarding a recommendation of payment for services provided regarding legislative issues.

- In this particular situation, Sean Fredricks referenced the proposed payment as cost-share. We need to make sure any payment is referred to as cost-share for services relating to legislative issues and that there is no reference to reimbursement for wages / overtime so it doesn't become a payroll issue.
- Would it be a possibility or more appropriate for the RRJWRD to set a Per Diem rate, reimbursement for mileage, lodging, meals, etc. for this type of thing?

- If this is considered cost-share, should cost-share policy be followed, similar to what is done for projects, with an agreement in place? Maybe this could be avoided with setting rates for reimbursement as set out in the previous bullet point?
- Does this set a precedent for reimbursement to any WRD staff person that may participate in or assist with something that could also be considered beneficial to the RRJWRD? This could be difficult to determine.
- Is work on legislation relating to legal assessment drains, drain tile, etc. something that falls under RRJWRD jurisdiction when it doesn't relate to flood control? This is the type of thing that County Commissioners may question.

This topic will be discussed further at the RRJWRD Full Board meeting on April 12<sup>th</sup>.

**BILLS**

Manager Ihry moved to approve payment of check numbers 3541 and 3542. Manager Yohe seconded the motion. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 9:15am without objection.

APPROVED:

ATTEST:

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Gary Thompson, Chairman

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Nettie Johnson, Secretary