

**MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING
RED RIVER JOINT WATER RESOURCE DISTRICT
CASS COUNTY HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT
WEST FARGO, NORTH DAKOTA
JUNE 14, 2017 ~8:00AM**

The Red River Joint Water Resource District held a special meeting on June 14, 2017 at 8:00a.m.commencing at the office of Cass County Highway Department, West Fargo, ND.

Those present were: Managers Gary Thompson, Ben Varnson, Lance Yohe, Robert Rostad and Scott Olerud; Sean Fredricks, Attorney; Carol Harbeke Lewis, Treasurer; Nettie Johnson, Secretary; Randy Gjestvang, State Water Commission; Chad Engels, Moore Engineering, Inc.; Mike Bassingthwaite, Interstate Engineering, Inc.; James Haugen, Richland County WRD; Arv Burvee, Richland County WRD; Don Moffett, Richland County WRD; Justin Johnson, Richland County WRD; Keith Weston, RRRRA; and Cam Leedahl, Leonard, ND (Helendale Private Drain).

REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR THE DISTRIBUTED DETENTION STUDIES OF THE PEMBINA RIVER, PARK/PEMBINA RIVERS, AND THE FOREST RIVER

Cost-share for the three distributed detention studies for the Pembina River, Park-Pembina River and the Forest River was previously approved, and the studies are now complete. Randy Gjestvang explained a May 19, 2017 letter from Moore Engineering which described why the final costs slightly exceeded the previous contract amount. In general, the additional costs were due to additional coordination of deliverables and contracting.

It is Randy Gjestvang's recommendation that the RRJWRD approve the additional cost-share for the project as outlined below:

Pembina River – increase of \$7,026.74 from \$196,000.00 to \$203,026.74

Park/Pembina River – increase of \$6,038.30 from \$50,000.00 to \$56,038.30

Forest River – increase of \$1,744.25 from \$130,000.00 to \$131,744.25

Ben Varnson moved to approve the additional cost-share request and to amend the contract for all three distributed detention studies. Lance Yohe seconded the motion. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

HELENDALE PRIVATE DRAIN

Attorney Sean Fredricks presented and explained a draft *Resolution Recommending Approval* to the Richland County WRD on behalf of the Executive Committee. Mr. Fredricks said that both Chad Engels and Randy Gjestvang both reviewed and offered proposed conditions to include in the *Resolution*.

Cam Leedahl, Helendale provided additional information regarding cfs and river levels at the Kindred Bridge. She feels closing the Helendale drain gates at 3,000 cfs seem reasonable, however, those were the years the river did not go much if at all over the flood stage. Ms. Leedahl asked the Joint Board to consider using the 4,000 cfs level as the more reasonable

number when the river is at moderate flood stage. She added that they would much rather have the cut-off at 4,500 cfs, when the river is approaching major flood stage.

Mr. Engels explained that since 1947 the Kindred gage has exceeded 3,000 cfs in 16 separate years. This is one in four years on average. Nearly all of these occasions have occurred as a result of the spring snowmelt. Only a few times in recorded history has river flow at this location exceeded 3,000 cfs after the spring snowmelt. The Kindred gage has not exceeded 3,000 cfs for the past 5 years at all, not even during the spring snow melt. 2009 and 2011 were historic floods. Historic floods are infrequent and are exactly when the gates should be closed. 2011 was the only year in the 70 year recorded history of the gage that an extended post snowmelt gate closure would have occurred. 2011 was a record year all across the State of ND. In terms of river flow volumes, many rivers exceeded the 100 year frequency. Requiring a lengthy gate closure in the summer after the spring runoff once every 100 years is not unreasonable as the applicant claims.

The Southeast Cass WRD has submitted comment to the State Water Commission and Red River Joint WRD that a condition should be placed on the State Permit which requires gate closure when flows exceed 3,000 cfs at Kindred. Mr. Engels also recommended that the Red River Joint WRD supply the same comment to both the Richland County WRD and State Engineer's Office.

Discussion was held on county roads possibly being used as dams for the Project. Attorney Fredricks said that this is something that the Richland County WRD could set as a condition on the permit and refer to the State Engineer's Office.

After questions and comments were concluded, the Executive Committee chose to table this discussion until further information can be brought forth for the Committee to make a final decision. No action was taken.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:15am without objection.

APPROVED:

ATTEST:

Gary Thompson, Chairman

Nettie Johnson, Secretary