

PHONE CONFERENCE
MINUTES OF A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
RED RIVER JOINT WATER RESOURCE DISTRICT
ORIGINATING AT THE OFFICE OF THE
TRAIL COUNTY WATER RESOURCE DISTRICT
HILLSBORO, NORTH DAKOTA
JUNE 3, 2019 ~ 9:00AM

The Red River Joint Water Resource District held a special meeting on June 3, 2019 at 9:00am commencing at the office of the Trail County Water Resource District, ND.

Those present by phone were: Managers Gary Thompson, Larry Tanke, and Robert Rostad; Richard Axvig, Grand Forks WRD; Attorney Sean Fredricks; Randy Gjestvang, SWC; Zach Herrmann, Houston Engineering; Keith Weston, Red River Retention Authority; and Nettie Johnson, Secretary.

SWC Dam Rehab Cost-Share Policy

The Executive Committee discussed a recent determination that dam rehabilitation funding for the purpose of dam safety is no longer considered eligible under the Flood Control/Dam Safety category within the NDSWC Cost-share Policy. Rather, it is considered eligible under the Flood Control/Water Retention category. The SWC staff has interpreted the language in the SWC cost-share criteria in such a way that these dam rehab studies would not be eligible for dam safety cost-share up to 75% but may be considered 50% if there is federal cost-share.

Using the Flood Control/Water Retention category is a misalignment of current cost-share policy based on the stated intent to address Dam Safety issues for cost-share requests. Flood Control/Dam Safety is the appropriate funding level for four cost-share requests recently submitted by the Grand Forks WRD, Walsh County WRD, and Pembina County WRD.

The work proposed in the submittal is administered by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and is required to adhere to the Watershed Rehabilitation Program (Public Law 83-566). This program indicates the definition of *Rehabilitation* as all work necessary to extend the service life of a dam and to meet applicable safety standards. This work includes addressing spillway adequacy issues, repair of structural deficiencies of spillways and gates, address geologic concerns, address downstream dam safety hazards, and address earthen spillway erosion issues. Based on the stated intent of the Flood Control/Dam Safety category in the NDSWC Cost Share policy, all the above activities would be considered eligible dam safety deficiencies.

After further discussion, Robert Rostad moved to remit a letter to Garland Erbele at the NDSWC asking for a response to the interpretation of the SWC staff regarding cost-share percentages of Dam Rehabilitation Studies. Larry Tanke seconded the motion. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:30am without objection.

APPROVED:

ATTEST:

Gary Thompson, Chairman

Nettie Johnson, Secretary