

**MEETING MINUTES
RED RIVER JOINT WATER RESOURCE DISTRICT
FULL BOARD MEETING
CASS COUNTY HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT
WEST FARGO, ND
JANUARY 8, 2020 ~ 9:30AM**

Chairman Thompson called the meeting to order at 9:30am.

ROLL CALL

Water Resource Districts present were: Richland, Sargent, Walsh, Maple River, Grand Forks, Traill, Barnes, North Cass, Rush River, Southeast Cass, Nelson, and Steele. Member counties absent were: Ransom and Pembina. Also present were: Attorney Sean Fredricks; Treasurer Carol Harbeke Lewis; Secretary Nettie Johnson; Randy Gjestvang, State Water Commission; and those whose name appears on the attached roster.

AGENDA

Rodger Olson moved to approve the order of the agenda. Larry Tanke seconded the motion. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

MEETING MINUTES

Ben Varnson moved to approve the December 5th, 2019 meeting minutes as presented. Tom Perdue seconded the motion. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

2020 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ELECTIONS

In accordance with Article XIII, Section 1, of the By-Laws, the full Joint Board must elect Managers to serve on the Executive Committee for 2020. More specifically, the full-time positions currently held by Chairman Gary Thompson and Manager Robert Thompson, and the alternate position currently held by Dan Jacobson, are all up for election this year.

Sean Fredricks explained that, under Robert's Rules of Order, Chairman Thompson can continue presiding and can conduct the nomination process even though his position is up for election. Further, nominations from the floor do not require seconds, and motions to cease nominations are unnecessary; rather, the Chair can simply hold the floor open for nominations until no further nominations are offered. With regard to elections, Robert's Rules allow ballot voting or voice voting; however, North Dakota open records laws, specifically N.D. Cent. Code § 44-04-21(1), requires all votes to be "open, public votes." With that in mind, the Board must conduct its votes by voice vote.

Chairman Thompson next opened the floor for nominations for the full-time Executive Committee position the Chairman currently occupies. Rodger Olson moved to nominate Gary Thompson. Chairman Thompson asked for further nominations. When no further nominations were offered, Chairman Thompson declared nominations for this full-time position closed. Upon a voice vote conducted by Secretary Johnson, all counties voted unanimously in favor of the nomination of Gary Thompson. The vote was unanimous and Gary Thompson will serve in this full-time Executive Committee position.

Chairman Gary Thompson next opened the floor for nominations for the full-time Executive Committee position held by Robert Rostad. Manager Rostad retired and no longer serves on the Richland County Water Resource District. Josh Ihry nominated Dan Jacobson, Manager from the Southeast Cass Water Resource District. Gary Friskop nominated Jim Haugen, Manager from the Richland County Water Resource District. When no further nominations were offered, Chairman Thompson declared nominations for this full-time position closed. Upon a voice vote conducted by Secretary Johnson, the following counties voted in favor of Dan Jacobson: Sargent, Barnes, Maple River, North Cass, Southeast Cass, Rush River, Nelson, and Steele. The following counties voted in favor of Jim Haugen: Richland, Walsh, Grand Forks, and Traill. Dan Jacobson received more votes; Dan Jacobson will serve in this full-time Executive Committee position.

Chairman Gary Thompson next opened the floor for nominations for the alternate Executive Committee position previously held by Dan Jacobson. Ben Varnson nominated Jim Haugen, Manager from the Richland County Water Resource District. When no further nominations were offered, Chairman Thompson declared nominations for this alternate position closed. Upon a voice vote conducted by Secretary Johnson, all counties voted unanimously in favor of the nomination of Jim Haugen. The vote was unanimous and Jim Haugen will serve in this alternate Executive Committee position. Scott Olerud will act as senior alternate in 2020.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer Carol Harbeke Lewis presented the RRJWRD financial report. Josh Ihry moved to approve the treasurer's report as presented. Bruce Anderson seconded the motion. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

Sean Fredricks provided updates on the status of the Economic Analysis process for the State Water Commission's cost-share policies, limited to flood control and water conveyance projects. He indicated the State Water Commission recently voted to require an economic analysis for any flood control or water conveyance projects expected to cost \$200,000 or more.

Ben Varnson discussed the "watershed pilot project" dollars made available this biennium, and Representative Schmidt's objectives behind this legislation. Ultimately, neither applicable legislators nor the State Water Commission seem to understand what projects would qualify for this money or the process for seeking these dollars.

FARGO-MOORHEAD DIVERSION PROJECT

Rodger Olson described the current status of the FM Diversion Project. Joel Paulson has been hired to serve as Executive Director for the FM Area Diversion Project. He previously served on the City Council in Moorhead as well as holding positions with several other offices.

Construction updates were given on the Diversion inlet and control structure. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers awarded a \$59,448,550.00 contract to Ames Construction, Inc., of Burnsville, Minnesota, to complete the Wild Rice River Control Structure. The contract is the second construction contract to be awarded by the federal government for the Fargo-Moorhead

Area Diversion Project. The Diversion Authority continues to move forward with the P3 Procurement process. The Cass County Joint WRD continues the right of way acquisition process on the North Dakota side of the Red.

Manager Olson also provided updates regarding funding issues the Minnesota permit litigation.

RED RIVER RETENTION AUTHORITY

Randy Gjestvang provided a brief update on behalf of Keith Weston, Executive Director for the RRRRA, who was unable to attend today's meeting:

Mr. Weston had a booth at the Prairie Grains Conference in Grand Forks on December 12th, 2019 for outreach purposes and the building of and maintaining good communication with producers as they develop projects and plans that can help reduce flooding in the Red River Basin.

Mr. Gjestvang described the status of the 16 studies that are on-going.

Christie Fisher, NRCS, is optimistic about future projects and studies.

INTERNATIONAL WATER INSTITUTE

Chuck Fritz, Executive Director, was here to give updates on outreach efforts and River Watch and River of Dreams activities that are currently underway with classrooms in N.D.

Mr. Fritz encourages everyone to attend a River Watch Forum to be held at the Alerus Center in Grand Forks on March 25th, 2020.

A NPS grant proposal was submitted in September 2019 to the ND DEQ for 2020-2023 River Watch and River of Dreams funding. If the proposal is accepted, matching funds of 40% will be needed. IWI will be requesting that the RRJWRD provide the match if the program is funded through the NPS Program.

RANDY GJESTVANG REPORTS & UPDATES

Mr. Randy Gjestvang provided a report on meetings and inspections that he has been involved with from December 5th, 2019 through January 7, 2020.

Lower Red River Regional Detention Analysis:

- At the December 6th meeting, the SWC extended their contract to provide cost-share up to \$45,000.00 for the study. The study must be completed by June 30, 2021 in order to obtain cost-share from the SWC.

RRJWRD Water Management Strategy:

- The SWC will be requesting a list of projects for the 2021-23 Development Plain this month. Randy suggests an update to the RRJWRD Water Management Strategy Report this year when WRD's can provide an updated project list for the SWC Development Plan to see how projects from RCPP plans are progressing.

2020 Spring Flood:

- Conditions are setting up for a possible large spring flood. The State Engineer has begun its planning and preparing. There is a possibility that the storage capacity of the dams may be filled and flooding is likely in local areas as well as along the main stem.

SWC Cost-Share Policy:

- Prior to the November 7th cost-share policy meeting, the SWC staff had provided documents that included alternatives for when the Economic Analysis would be required. They also provided alternatives for how the results of the EA could be used by the Commission in cost-share determinations.

Lower Pembina River area Border Dike:

- The next meeting is proposed to take place in February 2020.

OTHER BUSINESS

The next RRJWRD full Board meeting will be held in West Fargo on April 8th, 2020.

ADJOURNMENT

Having no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 11:20am without objection.

APPROVED:

ATTEST:

Gary Thompson, Chair

Nettie Johnson, Secretary

