

MINUTES OF VIRTUAL / CONFERENCE CALL SPECIAL MEETING
RED RIVER JOINT WATER RESOURCE DISTRICT FULL BOARD
ORIGINATING AT THE CASS COUNTY HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT
WEST FARGO, NORTH DAKOTA
JULY 15, 2022

A virtual / conference call special meeting of the Red River Joint Water Resource District (RRJWRD) Full Board was held on July 15, 2022, at 8:30 a.m.

Present were Gary Thompson, Traill County Water Resource District; Bruce Anderson, Barnes County Water Resource District; Tom Perdue, Grand Forks County Water Resource District; Rodger Olson, Maple River Water Resource District; Ben Varnson, Nelson County Water Resource District; Wes Ecker, North Cass Water Resource District; Don Kemp, Pembina County Water Resource District; Arv Burvee, Richland County Water Resource District; Richard Sundberg, Rush River Water Resource District; Dan Jacobson, Southeast Cass Water Resource District; Josh Ihry, Steele County Water Resource District; Carol Harbeke Lewis, Secretary-Treasurer; Nina Stone, Accountant; Melissa Hinkemeyer, Administrative Assistant; Sean M. Fredricks, Ohnstad Twichell, P.C.; Randy Gjestvang, North Dakota Department of Water Resources (NDDWR); Zach Herrmann, Mike Opat and Paul LeClaire, Houston Engineering, Inc.; Lyndon Pease and Nathan Trosen, Moore Engineering, Inc.; Morrie Lanning, Barr Engineering Co.; and Blake Carlson, Widseth, Smith, Nolting. Ransom County, Sargent County and Walsh County Water Resource Districts were absent.

Traill County WRD – Elm River Dam No. 3 Improvements – cost-share request

Lyndon Pease discussed the proposed Elm River Dam No. 3 Improvements Project. The project would address a failing principal spillway culvert and erosion above the culvert which is compromising the earthen embankment at the Dam. Traill County Water Resource District is requesting the RRJWRD provide 90% of the cost-share on the non-federal, non-state share of the project, not to exceed \$168,300. Sean Fredricks noted Section X of the RRJWRD *Cost-Share Policies and Procedures* states the RRJWRD may vary from its cost-share policies and procedures on an individual or case-by-case basis if deemed necessary by the RRJWRD. Randy Gjestvang recommended approval of the cost-share request from Traill County Water Resource District. The RRJWRD Executive Committee also recommended approval of the cost-share request.

It was moved by Manager Varnson and seconded by Manager Burvee to approve the request from the Traill County Water Resource District for 90% cost-share on the non-federal, non-state share regarding the Elm River Dam No. 3 Improvements Project, not to exceed \$168,300, in accordance with Article X of the RRJWRD *Cost-Share Policies and Procedures*. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

Barnes County WRD – Sheyenne River Bank Stabilization Study – cost-share request

Mike Opat discussed a proposed bank stabilization study along the Sheyenne River downstream of Baldhill Dam to the confluence of the Red River. Mr. Opat indicated the first step for the project is to identify and inventory bank erosion issues along the Sheyenne River that impact public infrastructure. Barnes County Water Resource District is requesting up to 50% cost-share of the non-federal, non-state share of the project, not to exceed \$16,250. Mr. Fredricks noted this type of project would fall under Section X of the RRJWRD *Cost-Share Policies and Procedures*. Randy Gjestvang recommended approval of the cost-share request from Barnes County Water Resource District. The RRJWRD Executive Committee also recommended approval of the cost-share request.

It was moved by Manager Burvee and seconded by Manager Olson to approve the request from the Barnes County Water Resource District for up to 50% cost-share on the non-federal, non-state share regarding the Sheyenne River Bank Stabilization Study, not to exceed \$16,250, in accordance with Article X of the RRJWRD *Cost-Share Policies and Procedures*. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

Pembina County WRD – Bourbanis Dam partial decommission – cost-share request

Don Kemp and Zach Herrmann reviewed the severe erosion that occurred during the spring melt at Bourbanis Dam. Due to the damage Bourbanis Dam incurred this spring, Pembina County Water Resource District has determined the best course of action is to partially decommission Bourbanis Dam at this time to remove the public safety risk to downstream and nearby property owners, including the City of Cavalier. Mr. Herrmann indicated the Pembina County Water Resource District is concerned that erosion issues at Bourbanis Dam will continue even if repairs are made. It is safer to partially decommission Bourbanis Dam than to risk the dam potentially breaching in an uncontrolled manner when downstream facilities are at capacity. Pembina County Water Resource District is concurrently completing a study of the dams in the watershed to determine a long-term plan for the watershed, including potential addition of storage to dams downstream of Bourbanis Dam. Discussion was held on the Bourbanis Dam partial decommissioning project. Mr. Herrmann stated the Pembina County Water Resource District plans to bid the project in August with the project completed by the end of the year. The Natural Resources Conservation Service is providing significant cost-share for the project and the Pembina County Water Resource District is requesting 65% of the non-federal, non-state share of the project, up to \$295,030. Mr. Fredricks indicated the RRJWRD could approve cost-share for the project under Section X of the RRJWRD *Cost-Share Policies and Procedures*. Mr. Gjestvang indicated the partial decommissioning of Bourbanis Dam is the most responsible approach Pembina County Water Resource District can take at this time as a breach of Bourbanis Dam would be disastrous. The Executive Committee recommended approval of the cost-share request and indicated they hope Pembina County Water Resource District can enhance water storage in the watershed at a later date.

It was moved by Manager Jacobson and seconded by Manager Perdue to approve the request from the Pembina County Water Resource District for 65% cost-share of the non-federal, non-state share of the Bourbanis Dam partial decommission, not to exceed \$295,030, including \$10,460 of previous expenses, in accordance with Article X of the RRJWRD *Cost-Share Policies and Procedures*. 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:

Gary Thompson
Chairman

ATTEST:

Carol Harbeke Lewis
Secretary-Treasurer