

PHONE CONFERENCE
MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING
RED RIVER JOINT WATER RESOURCE DISTRICT
ORIGINATING AT THE OFFICE OF THE
TRAIL COUNTY WATER RESOURCE DISTRICT
HILLSBORO, NORTH DAKOTA
OCTOBER 30, 2017 ~ 9:00AM

The Red River Joint Water Resource District held a special meeting on October 30, 2017 at 9:00am commencing at the office of the Trail County Water Resource District, ND.

Those present by phone were: Managers Thompson, Varnson, Tanke, Rostad and Yohe; Attorney Sean Fredricks; Mike Dwyer, ND Water Users; Randy Gjestvang, SWC; Chad Engels, Moore Engineering; Carol Harbeke Lewis, Treasurer, and Nettie Johnson, Secretary.

Legislative Liaison

Mike Dwyer described the possibility and necessity of hiring for a position to work on behalf of all water resource districts due to the problems that arose at the last legislative session. His proposal is to hire legislative intern Jeff Diemert at a possible starting pay rate of \$35,000.00. He believes it would be extremely beneficial to have a presence at all legislative meetings and hearings and report back with any new water laws or changes to existing water laws.

The Red River Joint Board, Devils Lake Joint Board, Souris River Joint Board, and the Upper Sheyenne Joint Board would all be considered to assist in funding this position.

Mr. Dwyer added that both he and Sean Fredricks would step in when necessary to ensure matters are being done accordingly.

Coordinator Position

Discussion was held on the possibility of hiring a new coordinator for the RRJWRD (Tom Fischer's old position).

Randy Gjestvang described Tom Fischer's old duties including the meetings he attended and issues relating to water management.

Gary Thompson has been speaking to Curt Kreun, ND Senator (Grand Forks District), who may be interested in pursuing this position. Chad Engels added that he thinks it would be a good idea to have someone from the northern part of the state to be involved.

Funding for this position and the possibility of receiving cost-share from the State Water Commission was discussed. There are concerns that the SWC may not cost-share for this position as in the past due to changes in cost-share regulations.

The consensus of the full Board was to move ahead with the hiring of both positions.

More will be discussed at the next RRJWRD Executive Committee and full Board meetings.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:40am without objection.

APPROVED:

ATTEST:

Gary Thompson, Chairman

Nettie Johnson, Secretary