

Minutes of Meeting

Souris River Joint Water Resource Board

Thursday, February 6, 2020

A meeting of the board of directors of the Souris River Joint Water Resource Board was called to order by Chairman David Ashley at 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, February 6, 2020, in the Community Room of the Minot Auditorium, in the City of Minot, North Dakota. Joint Board members attending the meeting were Chairman David Ashley, Dan Steinberger, Clif Issendorf, Dan Jonasson and Tom Klein. Chairman David Ashley called the meeting to order and announced that a quorum was present. A roster of those who attended the meeting is attached as Attachment A.

The Joint Board discussed the proposed Agenda for the meeting. David Ashley proposed two items be added under "other business." David Ashley proposed a Report on Souris River Plan of Study as Agenda Item No. 14.a, and Basin Conditions as Agenda Item No. 14.b.

Tom Klein made a motion to approve the agenda, as amended. Dan Jonasson seconded the motion. The motion passed without opposition.

The draft Minutes from the January 2 and January 16 meetings were discussed.

Clif Issendorf made a motion to approve the Minutes from the January 2 and January 16 Joint Board meetings. Tom Klein seconded the motion. The motion passed without opposition.

The Joint Board discussed the Budget Report included in the February Board Packet. Ryan Ackerman indicated that the February budget report is different than previous budget reports, and that moving forward, the budget reports will be on the accrual basis to be more accurate from a timing perspective and to be more consistent with auditor's recommendations.

Dan Jonasson moved to approve the Budget Report included in the February Board Packet. Dan Steinberger seconded the motion. A roll call vote was cast. The motion passed without opposition.

The Joint Board discussed the bills as set forth in the February 2020 Board Packet. Chairman David Ashley provided an opportunity for questions on bills. A discussion ensued regarding a charge that was attributable to "quality control" in the bills. Ryan Ackerman indicated that it was likely a bid item that was placed on the contractor, and he would provide a more specific answer after reviewing the work attributable to that line item in more detail.

Clif Issendorf made a motion to approve the payment of bills in the amount of \$476,250.77. Dan Jonasson seconded the motion. Dan Steinberger asked whether the concrete shortage in 2019 impacted the MREFPP construction. Ryan Ackerman indicated that, likely due to the size of the construction contracts, the Joint Board was not significantly impacted by the shortage. A roll call vote was cast. The motion passed without opposition.

Jerry Bents from Houston Engineering provided the Joint Board with an update on Phase MI-1. A Project Status Report from Houston Engineering is contained in the February Board Packet. Jerry Bents played a drone video for the Joint Board. Jerry Bents indicated that Phase MI-1 construction is approximately 72% to 73% complete as of the end of the 2019, with a current schedule of having the floodwall completed by May 15 of 2020. A significant effort has been made and will be made in the next few months on the Broadway Pump Station.

Jerry Bents provided an update on Phase MI-5 design work. A public input meeting is scheduled for February 10 regarding MI-5. Jerry Bents indicated that the previous alignment that was selected in 2018 was subject to significant design requests from BNSF, which were ultimately too expensive despite the Joint Board being considered for an \$18M BUILD grant, and BNSF agreeing to pay \$2M for upgrades. At this point, the “technically preferred option,” which is being presented on Monday, will protect the north side of the railroad. The estimated cost for the technically preferred option is \$75M, which will require the acquisition of an additional 15 homes and 7 businesses. Jerry Bents provided several comments why the technically preferred option was selected, including costs, impacts, and the uncertainty surrounding the first alignment with BNSF. The technically preferred option will be presented to the City of Minot on March 2 seeking formal approval, and March 5 in front of the Joint Board seeking formal approval.

Jason Westbrook provided an update to the Joint Board regarding construction of Phase MI-2/3. Jason Westbrook provided an answer to Dan Steinberger’s question relating to the “quality control” bid item, explaining that this line item was for quality control testing requirements that were placed on the contractor within the construction contract. A Project Status Report from Barr Engineering is contained in the February Board Packet. Jason Westbrook provided a drone video to the Joint Board. Jason Westbrook indicated that the 30” raw water line is complete, and that there are a few upcoming change orders that will be brought to the Joint Board for approval that exceed the threshold for unilateral approval by Dan Jonasson as set forward in the Joint Board’s change order policy, because the actual quantities for fill for levee construction exceeded the estimated quantities.

Jason Westbrook also provided an update regarding Phase MI-BU. The 408 approval process is near complete, and the NEPA document has been submitted. There are about 5 properties that still need to be acquired, after which the levee project will be ready to bid.

Jason Westbrook also provided an update regarding Phase WC-1, located on the west side of Minot near the Hwy 83 Bypass, which will serve as the tie-back for Phases MI-1, 2, and 3. The 100% drawings will be submitted to the USACE in February, which address the comments from the USACE and IEPR panel. USACE will provide their timeline for review and approval.

Ryan Ackerman provided the Joint Board with an update regarding the StARR Program. Ryan Ackerman directed the Joint Boards’ attention to Page 219 of the February Board Packet to review the bid opening summary for the resale of structures. Ryan Ackerman recommended that the Joint Board approve the acceptance of bids.

Clif Issendorf made a motion to accept all structure resale bids contained in the February Board Packet. Dan Steinberger seconded the motion. A roll call vote was cast. The motion passed without opposition.

Dennis Reep from HDR Engineering provided an update regarding Rural Bridges. A Project Status Report is contained in the February Board Packet. Regarding the Sawyer bridge, the estimated schedule would be a full plan set delivered in June, with all reviews and permitting done by the end of year. Regarding Velva, HDR is researching traffic issues during construction, and is hoping to conduct a public meeting to gather input. For Mouse River Park, HDR had a positive meeting with the US Fish and Wildlife Service, where the US Fish and Wildlife indicated that a land swap would not be necessary, and that the work could be completed within right of way that could be dedicated.

The Joint Board took note of future meetings as set forth in the February Board Packet. Several important upcoming meetings were noted and discussed.

Ryan Ackerman gave a presentation to the Joint Board regarding the Plan of Study, a study that has been ordered by the International Joint Commission to look at the operations of reservoirs that exist in the Souris River basin, including Rafferty Dam, Alameda Dam (now known as Grant Devine), and Lake Darling. Because Rafferty was constructed to provide water supply for a nearby power plant, and Alameda was constructed to meet the apportionments of the Boundary Water Treaty, they were not constructed initially to provide flood control benefits. Later, the United States paid consideration to Canada in order to gain additional flood storage benefits, but the Canadian and US objectives are not necessarily aligned for these reservoirs. The Plan of Study has looked at a number of different operation alternatives, and has developed a tool that models resulting peak flows on the Souris River based on different operation maneuvers. However, due to the different benefit objectives between upstream (Canada) and downstream (US) interests, reaching a consensus will be challenging.

Ryan Ackerman provided a report to the Joint Board regarding basin conditions, to evaluate major flood risk in the Souris River basin. Ryan Ackerman indicated that 2020 flood risk is measured by four different factors in the Souris River basin: 1) soil conditions; 2) snowpack; 3) reservoir levels; and 4) rain forecast. Ryan Ackerman indicated that although soil conditions are saturated due to heavy rains in 2019 in North Dakota, the snowpack is not significantly higher than average, especially in the upper Souris basin in Canada. Reservoir levels are at or below normal operating levels. Even though there is a 40% chance of higher than average rain fall, the Souris River basin is not currently at a high level of risk for major flooding.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned.



Jack Dwyer
Legal Counsel



Sign-In
 February 6, 2020
 Minot Municipal Auditorium

Name	Organization
DENNIS REEP	HDR ENGINEERING
Brent Burgard	Ackerman - Estvold
Dusty Zimmerman	Ackerman - Estvold
DAN JONASSON	SRJB / city - Minot
Dune Aske	SRJB - McHenry Co. IL
Chf. J. Jensen	BCWRB & SRJB
Tom Hill	BCWRB & SAJB
Nathan Amick	Ackerman - Estvold
David Lebrun	Souris River Designs
DAN STEINBERGER	RENVILLE WRB
Jason Westbrock	Barr
Kelly Johnson	Senator Howe - office