

Minutes of Meeting

Souris River Joint Water Resource Board

Thursday, April 2, 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, April 2, 2020, by way of a Webex conference call. The speakerphone was located in the Broadway Conference Room at Ackerman-Estvold located at 1907 17th Street SE, Minot, North Dakota, and call in information was provided on the public notice for the meeting. Joint Board members attending the meeting were Chairman David Ashley, Dan Steinberger, Dan Jonasson, Tom Klein, and Clif Issendorf (joined later). Chairman David Ashley called the meeting to order and announced that a quorum was present.

The Joint Board discussed the proposed Agenda for the meeting.

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

The draft Minutes from the March 5 meeting were discussed.

Dan Jonasson made a motion to approve the Minutes from the March 5 Joint Board meeting. Dan Steinberger seconded the motion. The motion passed without opposition.

Ryan Ackerman provided an explanation for the letter and proposed Joint Funding Agreement for Water Resource Investigations from the U.S. Department of the Interior, U.S. Geological Survey.

Tom Klein made a motion to approve the Joint Funding Agreement. Dan Steinberger seconded the motion. A roll call vote was cast. The motion passed without opposition.

The Joint Board discussed the Budget Report included in the April Board Packet. Ryan Ackerman discussed the Balance Sheet as shown in the Meeting Packet. Dave Ashley inquired about the funding from the McHenry County WRD. Brent Burgard indicated that the funding was revenue that was earned in 2019, with off-setting credit in 2020.

Dan Jonasson moved to approve the Budget Report included in the April 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 April 2020 Board Packet. Chairman David Ashley provided an opportunity for questions on bills. Dan Steinberger inquired about mileage costs to Fargo. Jerry Bents explained that the mileage was the result of several trips to Minot. Dan Steinberger inquired about set offs. Jerry Bents explained that set offs are corrective work orders and until the work is completed, a percentage of payment is withheld. Dan Steinberger inquired about the Park Construction COVID-19 notice letter. Jerry Bents explained that the contract covers this situation and it allows for more time to complete the project, but not an increase in contract price. Dan Steinberger questioned

whether the change in the bridge deck elevation was going to cause any hydrology issues. Troy Borchard explained that it would not.

Tom Klein made a motion to approve the payment of bills in the amount of \$1,167,387.14. Dan Steinberger seconded the motion. 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 April Board Packet. Jerry Bents indicated that Phase MI-1 construction is approximately 75% complete, with a current schedule of having the floodwall completed by mid June 2020, and full completion of the project is expected to be June 2021.

Jerry Bents provided an update on Phase MI-5 design work. The new project alignment will protect the north side of the railroad, and a scope of work has been started. Soil borings will be done next by week, and acquisition boundaries have been figured. 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 an update on MI-4A. City utility lines will need to be relocated in advance of the MI-4 project. 90% drawings have been submitted to the city. Some road reconstruction will also be needed. At the review meeting, the city had some minor comments, and the USACE had no comments. 100% design is anticipated within the next few months. The estimated cost is \$2.8M.

Jason Westbrook provided an update to the Joint Board regarding construction of Phase MI-2/3. A Project Status Report from Barr Engineering is contained in the April Board Packet. Jason Westbrook provided a drone video to the Joint Board. Wagner demobilized most of its crew for the winter, so minimal work was done. Some rip rap work has been done, and the Perkett Ditch Pump Station is almost complete. Once the ground frost has melted and weight restrictions are lifted, more work will be done.

Jason Westbrook provided an update to the Joint Board regarding construction of Phase BU-1. Work will resume in late April or May.

Jason Westbrook provided an update to the Joint Board regarding Phase WC-1. 100% plans were submitted last month to USACE, and a few comments still need to be addressed, but plans should be ready for bid once permits are issued. Barr is still working around land acquisition issues and coordination issues with Canadian Pacific Railroad.

Ryan Ackerman provided the Joint Board with an update regarding the StARR Program. The program is winding down, but there are a few acquired structures that need to be demolished. The Kohlman and Nelson sites have long term agreements in place.

Troy Borchard from HDR Engineering provided an update regarding Rural Bridges. A Project Status Report is contained in the April Board Packet. A public meeting was scheduled for March 23rd in Velva and March 24th in Mohall regarding bridge projects. Due to COVID-19, those meetings have been delayed with no dates yet set. Sawyer site is working to get utility and right of way documents finalized, as well and finalizing design. The Park bridge detour route is being tweaked. The Velva site detour is

being figured out. Dan Steinberger asked about load estimates on the bridge design, and whether the bridge would be able to accommodate large farm equipment. Troy Borchard explained that the bridge will be able to handle any legal load allowed in North Dakota.

Ryan Ackerman discussed possible Board member technology options due to the amount of information needing to be reviewed and acted on in a timely manner. The efficiency of the Board needs to improve. \$10,000 for capital expenditure and a \$1,000 monthly expenditure was requested in order to get each board member a computer with a data plan and Joint Board email. Tom Klein noted that Microsoft Teams did not work well for him. Ryan Ackerman explained that many networks are being taxed right now. Dan Steinberger inquired about the IT services that would be needed. Ryan Ackerman explained that his office would provide the IT services as needed.

Tom Klein made a motion to solicit quotes for equipment and services as described in the Board Packet, with a maximum capital purchase of \$10,000, and a maximum monthly expense of \$1,000 and authorize the Chariman to sign agreements on behalf of the SRJB. Clif Issendorf seconded the motion. A roll call vote was cast. The motion passed without opposition.

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

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



Jack Dwyer
Legal Counsel