

MINUTES OF THE EDDY COUNTY WATER RESOURCE BOARD

January 2, 2024

A regular meeting of the Eddy County Water Resource Board was held on January 2, 2024 at 10:00 AM at the Eddy County Courthouse. Board members Monty Schaefer, Kenneth Reis and Mike Tweed, and Secretary/Treasurer, Travis S. Peterson, were present in the basement of the Eddy County Courthouse. Also present was Eddy County landowner, Todd Koeplin.

The minutes of the regular December 5, 2023 meeting were presented. Reis made a motion to approve. Second by Tweed. Motion carried.

The Treasurer's Report was presented and reviewed. Schaefer made a motion to approve the Treasurer's report. Tweed seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Bills presented for payment:

Upper Sheyenne River Joint Water Resource Board (1 st of four annual installments)	\$ 2,418.78
Schimelfenig Construction (Eddy County's share) (80% cost share – Black/Topp/Sizer)	\$15,300.00

Reis made a motion to pay the bills presented for payment. Seconded by Tweed. Motion carried.

Correspondence: Various correspondence was reviewed. Except as otherwise noted in these minutes no action required.

Old Business:

New Rockford Canal/Garrison Diversion Conservancy District: Peterson informed the Board that he has no new information. Todd Koeplin was present and curious about the status of this matter. An update was provided to Koeplin. Mike Tweed indicated that he intends to bring the New Rockford Canal up for discussion at the next Garrison Diversion Conservancy District meeting scheduled for January 11, 2024.

Garrison Diversion Conservancy District: Tweed informed the board that pipeline construction work has ceased until spring. Pipeline contractors met with the GDCD board to discuss 2023 construction progress. As a result of a high-water table, trenches caving in, and other difficulties, construction is three to four miles behind schedule. The next regular meeting is scheduled for January 11, 2024.

Devils Lake Basin Joint Water Resource Board: Tweed summarized the business conducted at the last meeting held in Bismack in conjunction with the annual winter water convention. In addition to regular business, the board received updates from representatives of NDAWN, USGS, and ND Game and Fish. For 2024, Van Howatt was elected president of the board and Mike Tweed was elected vice president. The board discussed a list of resolutions and approximately 84 projects around North Dakota that will be presented to the next legislative assembly for consideration. The next regular meeting is scheduled for January 10, 2024 at 9 am in the Ramsey County Courthouse.

Upper Sheyenne Joint Water Resource Board: No update.

Annual Water Convention: Tweed summarized his attendance at the convention held in Bismarck, December 7 – 9. Tweed handed out a new ND Education Foundation publication entitled *ND Water, A Century of Challenge, 1889-2000*. Tweed took part in discussions related to 1) US Bureau of Reclamation; 2) Waters of the United States (WOTUS); 3) NDAWN; 4) US Farm Bill; 5) Irrigation; 6) Missouri River; and 7) Oaks Experimental Station. With regard to the Oakes Experimental Station, GDCD turned ownership and control over to NDSU. This facility is located approximately five miles south of Oakes on Highway 1.

Cherry Lake Township/Travis Black/Jeff Topp: Peterson and Schaefer summarized discussions they had with Jeff Topp regarding this cleanout project. Topp and the other landowners are very pleased with the work done and are appreciative to the Eddy County Water Board for its participation. There is a stretch of approximately one-half mile that was not able to be cleaned because it was too wet. The landowners would like the cost share commitment to remain open with regard to this one-half mile. The landowners are hopeful work on the one-half mile can be completed in 2024, as conditions permit. The board expressed no objection to leaving the cost share commitment open relative to this one-half mile section. As noted above, the water board approved payment of its 80% cost share (\$15,300) and the landowners allocated among themselves the remaining 20%. The landowners provided Peterson their respective checks in the total amount of \$3,825.00 payable directly to Schimelfenig Construction. Peterson will forward to Schimelfenig Construction the Eddy County Water Board check and the landowner checks for payment of the total amount due (\$19,125.00).

Rosefield Township Culverts: Schaefer reported that the culvert work in Rosefield Township is complete. Rosefield Township received reimbursement from Wells County for work to those culverts within the Rocky Run assessment district.

New Business:

Oak Creek Drain Culverts: Reis received reports that gates near the Stokke Cemetery are wide open. The operating plan indicates those gates are to be open a maximum of 3” during the winter. It was agreed that Reis and Schaefer will make a site visit to learn the status of these gates.

Monty Schaefer Term: Monty Schaefer’s term expired December 31, 2023. Schaefer agreed to serve another three-year term. Peterson will inform the county commission of Schaefer’s willingness to serve.

Next Meeting: The next regular meeting is scheduled for February 6, 2024, at 10:00 AM in the Eddy County Courthouse.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 10:57 AM.

Respectfully submitted,



Travis S. Peterson, Recording Secretary

APPROVED:



Kenneth Reis, Chairman