

MINUTES OF THE EDDY COUNTY WATER RESOURCE BOARD
September 5, 2023

A regular meeting of the Eddy County Water Resource Board was held on September 5, 2023 at 9:00 AM at the Eddy County Courthouse. Board members Monty Schaefer and Mike Tweed, and Secretary/Treasurer, Travis S. Peterson, were present in the basement of the Eddy County Courthouse. Eddy County Landowner, Todd Koepplin, was also present.

The minutes of the regular August 1, 2023, meeting were presented. Schaefer made a motion to approve. Second by Tweed. Motion carried.

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

Bill presented for payment:

AE2S – Invoice #88034 - May 13, 2023 to June 16, 2023 (one-third of \$6,049.91) = \$2016.64

AE2S – Invoice #89236 - July 15, 2023 to August 11, 2023 (one-third of \$1,029.40) = \$343.14

Schaefer made a motion to pay both bills. Tweed seconded the motion. 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: The Board discussed the AE2S Technical Memorandum dated June 30, 2023 that expands on the previous technical memorandum. Alternatives to address water inundations north of the canal and downstream impacts include:

1. 30" pipe across the New Rockford Canal and 18" culvert in approach immediately south of canal on west side of Highway 281 (original proposal);
2. Route water to the east near canal ("Alternative 1");
3. Crossing canal approximately 2,800' west of Highway 281 near railroad tracks ("Alternative 2");
4. Highway 281 Right-of-Way Ditch Grading ("Alternative 3").

The original proposal, a 30" pipe across the New Rockford Canal adjacent to west side of Highway 281 and a secondary 18" culvert in the approach south of the canal west of Highway 281, will relieve inundation north of the canal and around James River Ag. However, there will be minor increases of inundation downstream south and southeast. This will require coordination with the affected landowners and acknowledgement of identified flow changes likely to occur from these modifications.

Alternative #1, routing water to the east near the canal, was deemed infeasible due to topographical challenges in that the land near the east end of the canal is, on average, about 6-10' higher than the land near the intersection of the canal and Highway 281.

Alternative #2, crossing canal approximately 2,800' west of Highway 281 near railroad tracks, would not reduce flooding in the ditch along Highway 281, but would reduce inundation north of the canal.

This alternative would increase flow and flooding potential in the ditch near the railroad tracks and could increase impacts downstream south and west. This alternative would require coordination with the railroad and downstream landowners to the south and west. Hydraulic analysis would also be required prior to pursuing this alternative. This alternative is interesting to Todd Koeplin and he spoke at length about this alternative.

Alternative #3, Highway 281 Right-of-Way Ditch Grading, was not discussed.

After reviewing the various alternatives, Schaefer indicated a preference to further investigate alternative #2, crossing canal approximately 2,800' west of Highway 281 near railroad tracks. After discussion, Schaefer moved to further engage AE2S for the purpose of preparing a hydraulic analysis and fleshing out the feasibility of crossing under the Red River Valley and Western Railroad tracks, contingent on Garrison Diversion Conservancy District and US Bureau of Reclamation continuing the one-third/one-third/one-third cost share agreement for engineering services. Tweed seconded. Motion carried.

Nate Collier/Wade Wipperling/Columbia Township: Peterson reported that he has not heard or seen anything from Wade Wipperling. Peterson is uncertain as to the status of this project.

Rosefield Township/Culverts: Schaefer reported that he saw David Rue's track hoe sitting near the location of the 61st Ave culverts so it appears those culverts are in the process of being replaced.

Garrison Diversion Conservancy District: Tweed reported that a dedication of the new Stump Lake Road will be at 11 am on September 6, 2023. An executive board meeting will take place on September 14, 2023. It will include a tour of the Red River Valley Water Supply Pipeline.

Devils Lake Basin Joint Water Resource Board: A regular meeting was held on August 9, 2023. It was a quiet meeting. The Board is contemplating future projects. Whether Benson County will rejoin the Devils Lake Basin Joint Board is unknown. The next regular meeting is scheduled for September 13, 2023.

Upper Sheyenne Joint Water Resource Board: Schaefer reported that a regular meeting was held on August 16, 2023. Pilot projects continue to be the focus. The engineers are working to secure permits. The Red Bridge Crossing is near the top of the list when project work starts. Work on Red Bridge Crossing will likely take place during the 2024 construction season. The next meeting is scheduled for October 18, 2023 at 9 am in Carrington.

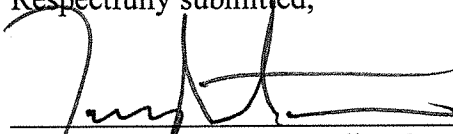
New Business:

None

Next Meeting: The next regular meeting is scheduled for October 3, 2023, at 9 AM in the Eddy County Courthouse.

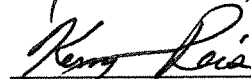
There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 10:28 AM.

Respectfully submitted,



Travis S. Peterson, Recording Secretary

APPROVED:



Kenneth Reis, Chairman