**MINUTES OF THE**

**UPPER SHEYENNE RIVER JOINT WATER RESOURCE BOARD**

October 23rd, 2024

“These are DRAFT minutes, subject to amendment before final approval by the Upper Sheyenne River Joint Water Resource Board.”

The Upper Sheyenne River Joint Water Resource Board met on October 23rd, 2024, at Garrison Diversion Carrington, ND.

Managers Present:

Jerry Hieb, Barnes County WRD

Monty Schaefer, Eddy County WRD

Ben Varnson, Nelson County WRD-Via Phone

Bill Deck, Pierce County WRD

Dennis Clark, Stutsman County WRD

Kevin Veitz-Sheridan County-Via Phone

Tor Bergstrom, Steele County WRD

Managers Absent:

Julie Beckstrand, Benson County WRD

Others Known To Be Present:

Mandar Nangare, Barr Engineering

Dave Aure-USFWS

Randy Gjestvang-Red River Joint

Dani Quissell-ND Water

Brian Fuder-Red River Retention

Jeff Frith- Devils Lake WRD

Dave Carlsrud, Valley City Mayor

Tasha Krueger, Secretary, Upper Sheyenne River Joint WRB

**CALL TO ORDER**: Chairman Deck called the meeting to order @ 9:00 A.M.

**ROLL CALL**: Roll call was taken with seven counties present-Jerry Heib- Barnes County, Monty Schaeffer- Eddy County, Ben Varnson-Nelson County, Bill Deck-Pierce County, Kevin Veitz-Sheridan County, Dennis Clark-Stutsman County, and Tor Bergstrom-Steele County. Not present-Julie Beckstrand-Benson County WRD.

Currently, we don’t have a representative from Griggs County or Wells County.

**AGENDA REVIEW**: The agenda was reviewed by Chairman Deck. Motion to approve the agenda was made by Manager Bergstrom. Seconded by Manager Veitz. Motion carried.

**MINUTES OF August 21st, 2024**: Minutes from the August 21st, 2024 meeting were emailed out. Motion to approve the Minutes of August 21st, 2024, was made by Manager Bergstrom. Seconded by Manager Schaefer. Motion carried.

**TREASURER’S REPORT October 23rdh, 2024**: The checkbook balance as of October 23rd, 2024, was $80,276.33. There has been income of $78,458.86 and expenses of $58,699.93 and currently the checkbook balance is $100,035.26. The total funds on hand are $100,035.26.

A Motion to approve the Treasurer’s Report was made by Manager Veitz. Second by Manager Bergstrom. Upon Roll Call vote, Heib-aye, Schaefer-aye, Varnson-aye, Deck-aye, Clark-aye, Veitz-aye, Bergstrom-aye, Motion carried.

**BILLS FOR APPROVAL October 23rd, 2024:** The following bills were presented for approval; Tasha Krueger $1,064.69; Barr Engineering $41,910.02; and Garrison Diversion $30.00. Total bills for approval total $43,004.71.

A Motion to approve payment of bills was made by Manager Veitz Second by Manager Bergstrom. Upon Roll Call vote, Heib-aye, Schaefer-aye, Varnson-aye, Deck-aye, Clark-aye, Veitz-aye, Bergstrom-aye, Motion carried.

**Bank Signature:**

Manager Schaefer signed the authorization and provided a copy of his driver’s license for the State Bank of Lakota.

**2025 Meeting Dates:**

A list of 2025 meeting dates were present to the board. The June and December meeting will be announced at a later date. The meeting dates follow the North Dakota Water Convention. Motion to approve the 2025 meeting dates was made by Manager Clark. Seconded by Manager Heib. Motion carried.

**Oarsman Award:**

The Oarsman award will be discussed and reviewed by Manager Bergstrom.

**SWC Award:**

The board had no nominations at this time.

**Bi-Laws/Amendments**

The Bi-Laws, Agreement were reviewed. The board members will review the documents and discussion will be taken place at the December or February meeting.

**Upper Sheyenne Pilot Project Update- Mandar Nangare:** Mandar presented.

**Status Update:**

2 permits have been submitted for Site #10 Section 34-150-60 SW ¼ (Nelson County)

* Section 404 permit
* Sovereign Lands Permit

A Class III Cultural Resource Survey (Beaver Creek Archeology) was completed. There were no cultural resources within the proposed project footprint. All structures are and were historically located outside of the inventory area, no specific avoidance measurers are recommended for these resources by the survey team. BCA recommends a finding of No Historic Properties Affected for this project. No anticipated objection by SHPO to the project as a result of these findings. Construction is targeted for December 2024 if weather conditions are favorable.

Bids for construction will be published on November 8th, 15th, and 22nd, 2024 in the Lakota American, Nelson County local newspaper.

Bid opening will be held on December 10th, 2024 at 2:00 p.m. in Bismarck, ND before the regular meeting at 2:30 p.m.

**RCPP Update:**

Federal Funding- 2023-2028: There is funding for 3 Federal Funding projects with bank stabilization. There are 2 landowners in Eddy County and possibly one in Steele County interest in applying for the program.

Non-Federal Funding: There is non-federal funding for 1 more project, not including the Nelson County Site #10.

In 2018-2019, a study was conducted to determine the erosion on the Sheyenne River. The DEQ funding

Next biennium the Upper Sheyenne River Joint Board can request more funding for projects on the Sheyenne River.

**Legislative Update:** Dani Quissell presented.

The State Water Commission met on October 10th, 2024. The Department of Water Resources reported as of September, $20 million has been transferred to the Water Stabilization Fund. Any funds that come into the Resources Trust Fund in excess of projections are transferred to the Water Stabilization Fund.

The Commission approved $9.1 million in cost-share for a variety of projects include: dam repair, and water supply projects.

S. Bill 4996: Senator Hoeven has introduced a bill to increase the authorization amount for funding from the federal government to the state of North Dakota and tribal government within North Dakota. The funding will be used for Northwest area water supply program, the Red River Valley Water supply project, the Southwest pipeline project, and other rural water projects including projects on the reservations in North Dakota.

Senator Hoeven along with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, announced $1.8 billion projects to address concerns related to the spillway at the Garrison Diversion. The project will ensure the integrity of the Harrison Dam and protect against other long-term issues. The construction is slated to start in 2029.

Measure #4 property tax bill: This bill could impact state funding for water projects as well as the ability of local political subdivision to complete water projects.

**ND Department of Water Resources:** Randy Gjestvang spoke. The East and West end of Devils Lake has been shut off this week. 200 cfs. at the east and west pump. Current elevation: 49.4 Peak elevation: 50.2

Normal fall maintance is being done on the pumps. The next pre-commission meeting meets on November 14th, 2024. The all-season gages are up to do. The FM-Diversion approved more gages. The budget has been submitted to the Governor’s Office.

**Devils Lake Joint Board:** Jeff Frith reported. The Devil’s Lake Basin has been wet. There has been 23-30 inches of precipitation in the Upper Basin since April. The Spring outlook will come out the end of January, 2025. All season gages have been installed nearby:

-Brocket

-Wolford

-Clyde

**North Dakota Department of Water Quality: Emily Lachenmeier-319**; Emily wasn’t present.

**US Fish and Wildlife:**

Dave Azure spoke. They are working on wetland restoration easements. There were 6,500 ducks banded. A lot of turnovers in biologists. Possibly 5 managers leaving.

**County Reports**

Barnes – drain tile permits, Little Dam Project.

Benson – No report.

Eddy – Nothing new.

Nelson – Nothing new.

Pierce – Nothing new.

Sheridan – Nothing new.

Steele – drain tile permits, Elm River Dam project (WPA dams), FEMA projects, drainage complaint

Stutsman – Crystal Spring-study to the state, water is 2 feet higher this year. Will need to be pumped, not drained.

**MANAGERS REPORT –**

The Job Description was discussed. Motion was made by Manager Bergstrom to approve the job description, Seconded by Manager Clark, Motion carried.

There was discussion about the salary. Motion was made by Manager Heib to approve a monthly salary of $1,100 for the Manager/Secretary/Treasurer position, Seconded by Manager Schaefer; Roll Call Vote: Upon Roll Call vote, Heib-aye, Schaefer-aye, Varnson-aye, Deck-aye, Clark-aye, Veitz-aye, Bergstrom-aye, Motion carried.

**North Dakota Fish & Wildlife**- Dave Azure gave an update on the easements from wetland restored, turn over of biologists, and ducks.

**SPECIAL MEETING** – December 10th 2024, at 2:00 p.m. Bismarck, ND

**REGULAR MEETING** – December 10th 2024, at 2:30 p.m. Bismarck, ND

**ADJOURNMENT** – A Motion to Adjourn was made by Manager Bergstrom at 11:00 A.M. Seconded by Manager Clark, Motion carried. Chair adjourned the meeting.

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Bill Deck, Chair

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Tasha Krueger, Secretary