**MINUTES OF THE**

**UPPER SHEYENNE RIVER JOINT WATER RESOURCE BOARD**

December 10th, 2024

The Upper Sheyenne River Joint Water Resource Board met on December 10th, 2024, at Bismarck Hotel and Conference Center, Bismarck, ND.

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

Managers Present:

Jerry Hieb, Barnes County WRD

Monty Schaefer, Eddy County WRD

Dave Satern, Nelson County WRD

Julie Beckstrand & Ken Hoffert, Benson County WRD

Bill Deck, Pierce County WRD

Dennis Clark, Stutsman County WRD

Kevin Veitz & LeRoy Becker-Sheridan County

Tor Bergstrom, Steele County WRD

Managers Absent:

Griggs County WRD

Wells County WRD

Others Known To Be Present:

Mandar Nangare, Barr Engineering

Tasha Krueger, Secretary, Upper Sheyenne River Joint WRB

**CALL TO ORDER**: Chairman Schaefer called the meeting to order @ 2:30 P.M.

**ROLL CALL**: Roll call was taken with eight counties present-Jerry Heib- Barnes County, Monty Schaeffer- Eddy County, Dave Satern-Nelson County, Bill Deck-Pierce County, Kevin Veitz-Sheridan County, Dennis Clark-Stutsman County, Julie Beckstrand-Benson County, and Tor Bergstrom-Steele County. Currently, we don’t have a representative from Griggs County or Wells County.

**AGENDA REVIEW**: The agenda was reviewed by Manager Beckstrand. Motion to approve the agenda was made by Manager Clark. Seconded by Manager Becker. Motion carried.

**MINUTES OF October 23rd, 2024**: Minutes from the October 23rd, 2024, meeting were emailed out. Motion to approve the Minutes of October 23rd, 2024, was made by Manager Beckstrand. Second by Manager Clark. Motion carried.

**TREASURER’S REPORT December 10th, 2024**: The checkbook balance as of December 10th 2024, was $100,035.26. There has been income of $13,808.36 and expenses of $43,004.71 and currently the checkbook balance is $70,838.91. The total funds on hand are $70,838.91. A Motion to approve the Treasurer’s Report was made by Manager Heib, Second by Manager Schaefer, Upon Roll Call vote, Manager-Heib, Manager Schaefer, Manager Satern, Manager Beckstrand, Manager Deck, Manager Veitz, Manager Bergstrom, Motion carried.

**BILLS FOR APPROVAL DECEMBER:** The following bills were presented for approval; Tasha Krueger $1,155.32; Barr Engineering $24,392.86 and 941; 4th Quarter $325.89; North Dakota Water Resource District Association- $500.00 North Dakota Irrigation Association; $1,000 IWI-Phase 2; $11,134.00. Total bills for approval total $35,643.56. A Motion to approve payment of bills was made by Manager Heib. Second by Manager Schaefer. Upon Roll Call vote, Manager-Heib, Manager Schaefer, Manager Satern, Manager Beckstrand, Manager Deck, Manager Veitz, Manager Bergstrom, Motion carried.

**ND Department of Water Resources:** Pat Fridgen spoke.

He gave a brief update on the events taking place at the North Dakota State Water Commission Annual Convention.

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

The project background study objectives for the pilot project included:

**-**Identify potential erosion, sedimentation, & flood plain connectivity issues

**Non-NRCS Sites:**

**Site #3-**Eddy County-Public Infrastructure-Low concrete road crossing over river with multiple culvers, bank erosion upstream and downstream

**Site #5-**Nelson County-Water Quality--Long eroding banks with steep bank 5’ tall

**Alt A-Sheridan County-**Water quality & biota movement-Eroded culvert at road crossing with downstream erosion.

**Site #5-Update:**

The construction site including seeding and fencing has been completed. The work was completed ahead of schedule. No issues in terms of property access. Due to logistical efficacy, overall project came under-budget.

**Updated Bid Amount Anticipated Final Cost Net Savings**

$199,823.10 $186,910.85 $12,912.25

The landowner, David Morken stated the banks are holding up and vegetation started to grow back.

**Site #10**

The bid advertising was published in the Lakota American on:

November 14th, 2024

November 21st, 2024

November 28th, 2024

The pre-bidding meeting took place on November 20th, 2024. Four contractors were present.

The public bid opening took place on December 10th, 2024.

The construction easement will be signed with the landowner after bid opening and before construction taking place onsite.

The permit is expected to be issues by the 3rd week of December.

The construction should take place in late December/ early January.

**NRCS Sites**

There are 3 eligible landowners have signed up for the project with NRCS. The NRCS staff to provide more updates and direction on next steps.

**Legislative Update**

Jack Dwyer wasn’t present.

**State Conservationist-USDA/NRCS**

There were 3 landowners who applied for the RCPP funding. The field office staff will meet with the landowners to discuss the plan moving forward. The ranking system is planned to be completed in January.

**Red River Basin Commission**

The Red River Basin Commission Conference is January 14th, 15th, 16th in Grand Forks, North Dakota.

On January 14th, 2025 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. water issues in the Red River will be discussion.

**Devils Lake Joint Board**

Jeff Frith wasn’t present.

**County Reports**

Barnes –Little Dam in Valley City and Kathryn Dam have been completed.

Benson – The city of Leeds is backing up with water. Working with a solution on the flooding.

Eddy – No report.

Griggs – No report.

Nelson – URJWRD pilot project sites.

Pierce – Working with Benson County on water backing up into Leeds.

Sheridan – Drainage Complaints. Culvert sizing and placement issue.

Steele – Drainage Complaints. Legal Representation for the Upper Sheyenne River was discussed.

Stutsman – Houston Engineering will be pumping Crystal Spring Lake.

Wells: No report.

**MANAGERS REPORT:**

Discussion on the Legal Representation. Manger Bergstrom will talk to Sean Fredricks.

Jerry Heib will be receiving the OARSMAN award. The lidar phase I1 will be paid to IWI.

Garrison Diversion is hosting a social starting at 5 p.m.

**NEXT MEETING** – February, at 9:00 a.m., Carrington, ND

**ADJOURNMENT** – A Motion to Adjourn was made by Manager Bergstrom at 3:23 P.M. Seconded by Manager Veitz. Chair Deck adjourned the meeting.

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Bill Deck, Chair

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Tasha Krueger, Secretary