Regular Meeting July 14, 2020 7:00 am

Members present: Larry Skiftun, Philip Hoff, Tom Deede, Devin Long, and Bryon Brynjulson

Kale Van Brruggen-Rinke-Noonan, Jennifer Malloy and Thomas Demke- Apex Engineering were also in attendance via video conference.

Visitors: Leon Klocke, County Commissioner.

The Wells County Water Resource District Board meeting began at 7:00 am.

Minutes of the June 16, 2020 meeting were reviewed. Philip made the motion, seconded by Tom to approve the minutes. All voting aye, motion carried.

Preston Meyer met with the board regarding cattails holding up water on the lower end of the Rocky Run. Tom made the motion, seconded by Philip to have Dakota Helicopters spray this area from the Wells County line to 2 miles west of Cathay for approximately 10 miles contingent on the county cost sharing 50%. All voting aye, motion carried.

The Middle Sheyenne 319 Watershed Project was reviewed.

**Hurdfield Project:**

* Jennifer and Thomas reviewed with the board Change Order #3. Item #1 Gravity pipe installation reduction and owner purchase of pipe. Gravity pipe was not installed due to high water. Item #2 Reduction of rip rap installed due to pump station move. Decrease in cost from this change order is $28,555.16. Bryon made the motion, seconded by Philip to approve Change Order #3. All voting aye, motion carried.
* Discussion was held regarding the Mandrel Testing Agreement, Due to inability to accurately test the 24” HDPE gravity flow pipe running from Hurdsfield Lake to East Lake due to high water on the Hurdsfield Legal Drain Project, BEK Consulting agrees to mandrel test the pipe within the next 5 years, commencing on 4/29/20 with the water level at Hurdfield Lake is less than +1 foot the water surface elevation shown in the bid plans and the water level is at or below the outlet pipe elevation. Tom made the motion, seconded by Devin to approve the Mandrel Testing Agreement. All voting aye, motion carried.
* The board reviewed the quote from Dakota Pump and Control for remote pump access. Bryon made the motion seconded by Devin to approve the quote. All voting aye, motion carried.
* Jennifer reported that water samples should be taken and sent to the Department of Health to check the sulfate level. Jennifer will contact the state lab for water sample bottles and send them to the WRD. The WRD gateman will take samples of East Lake, Hurdsfield Lake and by the outlet.

Mark Schmitz met with the board regarding water not draining properly in Drain #1 in his area. Apex Engineering looked at the culverts and elevation on Highway 52 and the Rail Road crossing and will report on their findings at the August meeting.

**Sykeston Dam**: Arlan Bachmeier, Joe Richter, Jim Neumiller representing Sykeston Township and Keith Wachtel representing Cathay Township. The county will purchase the culverts. Philip made the motion, seconded by Devin, for the WCWRD to contribute $5000 towards the culvert project. All voting aye, motion carried. Cathay Township will contribute $3000 towards the project and Sykeston Township will pay the remaining balance.

**Kyle Hart Complaint:** Chad Weckerly put a gate on the culvert and would like the WRD to put a lock on the gate and operate the gate. If the WRD operates the WRD assumes the liability. The board does not want that liability. Discussion was held on the complaint. Tom made the motion, seconded by Devin to deny the complaint because the berm is still in place and Chad Weckerly did not drain more than 80 acres. All voting aye, motion carried. Bryon will take photos of the culvert/gate and berm to have on file in the event the berm is removed or the gate is opened or damaged.

**Keson Complaint:** Mark Halvorson built a dam on Kasey Jensen’s land, which then backed up water onto Tom Nudd. The dam was removed by Tom Nudd. The Sheriff and Larry were in attendance when the dam was removed. A complaint by Kasey will be filed with the Wells County States Attorney for trespassing against Mark Halvorson.

**Oak Creek Operations Plan:** The board reviewed the Oak Creek Drain Operational Plan and the Internal Operations Plan. Philip made the motion, seconded by Devin to approve this plan. All voting aye, motion carried.

**Emrick Drain Operations Plan:** The board reviewed the Emrick Drain Operational Plan and the Internal Operations Plan. Philip made the motion, seconded by Tom to approve this plan. All voting aye, motion carried.

**Gary Keller Complaint:** The board reviewed a complaint received from Gary Keller. The complaint states that someone has put boards on the Harvey Dam Reservoir Dam raising the height of the Sheyenne River and washing out his shoreline property. Philip made the motion, seconded by Bryon to dismiss this complaint. All voting aye, motion carried. Gary can appeal this decision to the State Engineer.

**Beaver Dam Removal:** Steve Copenhaver requested that a beaver dam be removed from an area in the Pipestem Creek which is holding back water. Philip made the motion, seconded by Tom to pay for the removal of the beaver dam. All voting aye, motion carried.

**Sheldon Feickert:** He hasaprivate drain and would like help in creating an operations plan. Sheldon will be gathering the information for the board to review.

**Spraying:** Larry will be contacting Dakota Helicopters again to see when they will spraying the drains. Larry met with the Wells County Commissioners to discuss spraying 6 miles in the James River channel by Fandrichs/Fehr’s. Wells County will cost share 50% of the spraying. Tom made the motion seconded by Devin to approve spraying the James River Channel and cost share with the county 50%, All voting aye, motion carried.

The board reviewed the 2021 budget as presented to them. Philip made the motion, seconded by Bryon to approve the 2021 budget. All voting aye, motion carried.

The board reviewed the bill from Wells County for a 24” gate. Philip made the motion, seconded by Bryon to pay this bill. All voting aye, motion carried.

The board reviewed the bill from Pat Biel for culverts and bands for Hamburg/West Norway Drain .Philip made the motion, seconded by Devin to pay this bill. All voting aye, motion carried.

The board reviewed the bill from Apex Engineering. Philip made the motion, seconded by Tom to pay this bill. All voting aye, motion carried.

The board reviewed the bill from Rinke-Noonan. Philip made the motion, seconded by   
Bryon to pay this bill. All voting aye, motion carried.

The board reviewed the bill from Kingdom Construction to lift out and place pump at Hurdsfield. Philip made the motion, seconded by Devin to pay this bill. All voting aye, motion carried.

The following bills were allowed and ordered paid:

#6335- Wells County- Ottertail share $ 39.09

#6336 Wells County-Gate 1529.00

#6337 Apex Engineering-Eng. fees 2655.25

#6338 Rinke-Noonan- Legal fees 500.00

#6339 Tammy Roehrich-Salary 1154.38

#6340 NDTC-phone-prepay 250.00

#6341 Larry Skiftun- per diem, mlge exp 981.96

#6342 Bryon Brynjulson- per diem, mlge exp 1031.41

#6343 Devin Long- per diem, mlge exp 139.62

#6344 Philip Hoff- per diem, mlge exp 153.42

#6345 Tom Deede- per diem, mlge exp 135.02

**Drain Fund**

#577 Pat Biel Trucking-Culvert-H/WN 1584.24

#578-VOID

#579 Apex Engineering- OC/Emrick 966.50

#580 Rinke-Noonan-legal fees-OC/Emrick/Hurdsfield 2079.50

#581 Kingdom Construction- Hurdsfield 250.00

#582 Northern Plains Electric-Hurdsfield 1585.00

#583 US Geological Survey- Hurdsfield 12,000.00

With no further business, meeting adjourned.

Approved: Attest: