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JAMES RIVER WATER DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES
JULY 8, 2021

The James River Water Development District (JRWDD) Board of Directors convened at 9:00 A.M. for its regular meeting on Thursday, July 8, 2021 at the District Office in Huron, SD and by way of Zoom.

ROLL CALL: The following persons were in attendance:

DIRECTORS PRESENT

Dan Koupal – Mitchell
Dan Klimisch – Yankton
Randy Stanley – Groton
Mike Wiese – Aberdeen
Frank Amundson – Huron
Carol Millan – Mitchell
LeRoy Braun – Mellette
Clinton Bauer - Freeman

DIRECTORS ABSENT

STAFF PRESENT

Dave Bartel, District Manager
Judy Smoyer, CFO/Associate Manager
Rocky Knippling, Watershed Coordinator
Matt Cavenee, Watershed Coordinator
Shane Deranleau, Watershed Coordinator

OTHERS PRESENT: Kris Dozrk, Tanner Clausen & Barry McLaury – SD DANR, Mark Snedeker – Sanborn Conservation District, Barb Metzinger & Gary Blindauer – Sanborn County Drainage Board, Jay Gilbertson – EDWDD

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: **Motion** by Director Wiese, seconded by Director Amundson to approve the agenda as printed. **Motion passed.**

CONFLICT OF INTEREST: Chairman Klimisch asked if any Directors had a conflict of interest regarding any agenda item.

- Director LeRoy Braun has a conflict of interest with Agenda Item #7c and will abstain

The following was disclosed at the January 21, 2021 annual meeting and is ongoing until otherwise disclosed:

The following Directors shared the following information:

- Director Robert Braun is currently employed by the City of Aberdeen
- Director Mike Wiese is currently a Brown County Commissioner
- Chairman Dan Klimisch is currently a Yankton County Commissioner

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

Robert Braun joined the meeting at this time.

APPROVAL OF MAY 13, 2021 MINUTES: **Motion** by Director Koupal, seconded by Director Wiese to approve the Minutes as printed. **Motion passed.**

SANBORN COUNTY DRAINAGE BOARD – RESTORING DRAINAGE DITCH 14: Gary Blindauer was present to request project assistance funds in the amount of \$30,000 to reconstruct and restore drainage ditch 14. Karen Lambert, representing Sanborn Conservation District Board of Supervisors, provided comments of concern via email. At this time, the board is requesting letters of recommendation and/or documentation of support from other agencies involved, such as SD Game Fish and Parks, Sanborn Conservation District and Sanborn County. **Motion** by Director Millan, seconded by Director Amundson to deny the request. **Motion passed on a roll call vote.** The board will reconsider funding in the future for the project when the requested material is provided.

SOUTH DAKOTA RIPARIAN BUFFER INITIATIVE: Barry McLaury, Kris Dozrk and Tanner Clausen with SD DANR were present to request project assistance funds in the amount of \$125,000 for the planned Riparian Buffer Initiative (RBI) being developed by the state. The overall goal of the RBI is to establish over 3,000 acres of new riparian buffers to improve water quality in the impaired watersheds in SD. The planned cost of the 5-year RBI program is \$15 million, with \$10 million being sought from USDA RCCP funding. **Motion** by Director Wiese, seconded by Director R. Braun to authorize cost-share assistance up to \$125,000 for the 5-year RBI program, with the stipulation that the funds would need to be applied within the James River watershed and if the USDA RCCP funds are not awarded to the State the \$125,000 will revert immediately to the District's project assistance funds. **Motion passed on a roll call vote.**

SPINK COUNTY – LEROY BRAUN DAM REPAIR: LeRoy Braun, landowner in Spink County, is requesting project assistance funds in the amount of \$19,237.50 to repair a dam in Jefferson Township. This 200-acre dam sits less than 150 yards from the James River. Total cost to repair the dam is \$25,650. **Motion** by Director Wiese, seconded by Director R. Braun to authorize cost-share assistance up to a maximum of \$19,237.50, not to exceed 75% of the total project costs, to LeRoy Braun to repair a dam in Spink County. **Motion passed on a roll call vote (Abstain: L. Braun).** These funds will expire on July 8, 2023.

ENHANCED CRP PROGRAM: The James River Water Development District is committed to improving water quality within the James River watershed through the Enhanced CRP Program available now for several USDA Continuous CRP practices. The JRWDD Enhanced CRP program consists of a one-time, up-front, 75% incentive payment of the CRP base-rate in addition to the producers regular CRP payment for the following practices: CP8A – Grass Waterways, CP21 – Filter Strips, CP22 – Riparian Buffer, CP29 – Marginal Pastureland Wildlife Habitat Buffer, CP30 – Marginal Pastureland Wetland Buffer. **Motion** by Director Koupal, seconded by Director L. Braun to authorize \$50,000 in new cost-sharing assistance for the CRP Program. **Motion carried on a roll call vote.** These funds will expire on December 31, 2022.

SOUTH CENTRAL WATERSHED PROJECT UPDATE: Rocky Knippling updated the Board on the South Central Watershed Project.

- Continue working with City of Mitchell on the Firesteel Creek project
- Water sampling continues
- Receiving several livestock water requests
- The State will be sending the new 319 contract for signature. **Motion** by Director R. Braun, seconded by Director Wiese to authorize Chairman Klimisch to sign the contract. **Motion passed.**

DISTRICT UPDATE: Staff and Directors reported on the following activities of the District:

- Included in the board packet, by Dave Bartel, was a log of meetings attended, project site visits and other items he has been working on.
- 2020 audit has been submitted to SD Legislative Audit for approval

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE: Committee Chair Wiese reported that annual performance reviews were completed on the District Manager and CFO/Associate Manager by Board members. Both employees received high marks and there were no concerns or problems identified. The evaluations will be discussed with staff at the next meeting.

PRELIMINARY 2022 BUDGET: Committee Chair L. Braun provided the preliminary 2022 budget. Discussion was held in regard to taking the allowed CPI and growth percentages. The District will take the allowed CPI for taxes payable in 2022 which has been set at 1.2% (\$12,415). The District will not take the allowed growth percentage for 2022.

SET THE 2022 BUDGET HEARING: The Board needs to establish the time and place for the 2022 public budget hearing. It is suggested that the 2022 budget hearing be held at the September 9 Board meeting in Huron at 10:00 AM. **Motion** by Director Amundson, seconded by Director Wiese to hold the public hearing on the District's Financial Year 2022 budget on Thursday, September 9, 2021, at 10:00 am during the Board of Directors meeting to be held at the District Office in Huron, SD and to authorize publication of the draft budget and necessary public notices in the official newspapers of the District. **Motion passed.**

APPROVAL OF UPDATED POLICY DOCUMENT: **Motion** by Director Millan, seconded by Director L. Braun to approve the updated policy document discussed and presented at the March 2021 and May 2021 Board of Directors meeting. **Motion passed.**

TREASURERS REPORT: The Board reviewed the April 2021 financial reports. **Motion** by Director Wiese, seconded by Director Bauer to approve the April 2021 financials as printed. **Motion passed.**

The Board reviewed the May 2021 financial reports. **Motion** by Director Stanley, seconded by Director Wiese to approve the May 2021 financials as printed. **Motion passed.**

BOARD OF DIRECTOR AND STAFF REIMBURSEMENTS: **Motion** by Director Amundson, seconded by Director Koupal to approve staff and Director expenses. **Motion passed.**

NEXT MEETING: The next meeting will be held September 9, 2021 in Huron at 9:00 am. Zoom will be available for persons interested in participating remotely.

ADJOURN: Being no further business, Chairman Klimisch declared the meeting adjourned at 10:40 am.

Respectfully submitted:


Secretary