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JAMES RIVER WATER DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES
DECEMBER 10, 2020

The James River Water Development District (JRWDD) Board of Directors convened at 9:00 A.M. for its regular meeting on Thursday, December 10, 2020 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
Robert Braun - Aberdeen
LeRoy Braun – Mellette
Clinton Bauer – Freeman

DIRECTORS ABSENT

None

STAFF PRESENT

Judy Smoyer, CFO & Associate Manager
Dave Bartel, District Manager
Rocky Knippling, Watershed Coordinator
Shane Deranleau, Watershed Coordinator

OTHERS PRESENT: Jay Gilbertson – East Dakota Water Development District, Cindy Zenk – SD Soil Health Coalition, Mark Tiede – Liberty Township, Russel Weinberg – Davison County Highway, David Hoffman – City of Parkston, Chuck Pyle – US Fish and Wildlife Services, Larry Cooper & Larry Picek – Lake Byron Sanitary District, Robert McGillvrey – City of Wolsey, Marcus Traxler – Mitchell Daily Republic

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Manager Bartel indicated that the landowner in Hutchinson County building multiple silt dams in Molan Township will not be requesting funds at this time and to delete Item 6J from the agenda. **Motion** by Director Koupal, seconded by Director Wiese to approve the agenda as amended. **Motion passed on a roll call vote (Absent: Millan).**

CONFLICT OF INTEREST: Chairman Klimisch asked if any Directors had a conflict of interest regarding any agenda item. The following was disclosed at the January 15, 2020 annual meeting and is ongoing until otherwise disclosed:

- 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

APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 10, 2020 MINUTES: **Motion** by Director Amundson, seconded by Director L. Braun to approve the Minutes as printed. **Motion passed on a roll call vote (Absent: Millan).**

SD SOIL COALITION: Cindy Zenk, SD Soil Health Coalition Coordinator, was present to request project assistance funds in the amount of \$15,000 to provide cost share to agricultural producers throughout the District in order to plant cover crops and implement various grazing management practices. This project will help to improve water quality, increase the profitability and economic viability of participating producers as well as have a positive effect on wildlife populations. Total cost of the project is \$443,000. **Motion** by Director Stanley, seconded by Director L. Braun to authorize cost-share assistance up to a maximum of \$15,000 for matching costs to establish grazing management practices as well as cover crops. **Motion passed on a roll call vote (Absent: Millan)**. These funds will expire on December 10, 2022.

LIBERTY TOWNSHIP: Mark Tiede, Liberty Township Clerk, was present to request project assistance funds in the amount of \$15,800 to Liberty Township in Hutchinson County for engineering and costs associated with repairing a flood damaged township road. Total cost of the project is \$170,237.50. **Motion** by Director Millan, seconded by Director Bauer to authorize cost-share assistance up to a maximum of \$15,800 for related costs associated with repairing a flood damaged township road in Liberty Township. **Motion passed on a roll call vote**. These funds will expire on December 10, 2022.

DAVISON COUNTY HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT: Russel Weinberg, Davison County Highway Superintendent, was present to request project assistance funds in the amount of \$22,350 to provide riprap on nine structures in Davison County. This project will provide cleaner water and protect the structures from future flood events. Total cost to riprap the nine structures is \$44,700. **Motion** by Director Koupal, seconded by Director Amundson to authorize cost-share assistance up to a maximum of \$22,350, not to exceed 50% of the total project costs, to Davison County Highway to riprap at nine structures in Davison County. **Motion passed on a roll call vote**. These funds will expire on December 10, 2022.

CITY OF PARKSTON – SEWER EXPANSION: Dave Hoffman, Mayor of Parkston, was present to request project assistance funds in the amount of \$50,000 for a sewer expansion project and installation of a sewage lift station and manholes in the City. Total cost for the sewer expansion is \$274,637. **Motion** by Director Millan, seconded by Director Wiese to authorize cost-share assistance up to a maximum of \$40,000, not to exceed 50% of the total project costs, to the City of Parkston for their sewer expansion project. **Motion passed on a roll call vote (Nay: R. Braun, Amundson & Bauer)**. These funds will expire on December 10, 2022.

DAVISON CONSERVATION & US FISH AND WILDLIFE: GRAZING MANGEMENT: Chuck Pyle with the US Fish and Wildlife Service was present to request additional project assistance funds in the amount of \$15,000 for their ongoing grazing management plan throughout the District. On March 15, 2018, the James River Water Development District Board approved \$30,000 in project assistance funds for a grazing management plan. Specific conservation practices implemented include pipelines, tanks, pasture pumps, alternative energy water pumps, rural water hook-ups, and shallow wells. The overall goal of this project is to promote grassland management, which is beneficial for wildlife production, erosion reduction, and improved water quality in the James River. Interest in the project has surpassed goals and has assisted over 15 landowners and over 3400 acres of improved grazing management. **Motion** by Director Wiese, seconded by Director Amundson to authorize cost-share assistance up to a maximum of \$15,000, not to exceed 50% of the total project costs to the Davison Conservation District and the US Fish and Wildlife Service for a grazing management plan throughout the District. **Motion passed on a roll call vote**. These funds will expire on December 10, 2022.

LAKE BYRON SANITARY DISTRICT: Larry Cooper and Larry Picek, were present to request project assistance funds in the amount of \$50,000 to move forward with a sanitary sewer system for properties on and near Lake Byron in Beadle County. The funds will be used to establish an office within the District, meeting the publishing requirements for all Board actions, obtaining legal assistance as required, finalizing construction plans, and all other obligations of a sanitary district. **Motion** by Director Millan, seconded by Director Koupal

to deny the \$50,000 funding request. **Motion** by Director Millan, seconded by Director Koupal to amend their motion to authorize cost-share assistance up to a maximum of \$5,000, not to exceed 50% of the engineering costs associated with providing an affordable sewer treatment system for the properties on and near Lake Byron. **Motion passed on a roll call vote.** These funds will expire on December 10, 2022.

CITY OF WOLSEY – LAGOON SLEDGE REMOVAL: Robert McGillvrey was present to request project assistance funds in the amount of \$49,000 to clean out the SW sewage lagoon cell which is plugged with sand and is not functioning correctly. Total cost for the sewer expansion is \$98,000. **Motion** by Director Wiese, seconded by Director R. Braun to authorize cost-share assistance up to a maximum of \$49,000, not to exceed 50% of the total project costs, to the City of Wolsey for their sewage lagoon cleanup. **Motion passed on a roll call vote (Absent: Bauer).** These funds will expire on December 10, 2022.

HUTCHINSON COUNTY – DENNIS FUERST: Dennis Fuerst, landowner in Hutchinson County, is requesting project assistance funds in the amount of \$2,295 to repair a dam in German Township. Total cost to repair the dam is \$3,060. **Motion** by Director Koupal, seconded by Director Wiese to authorize cost-share assistance up to a maximum of \$2,295, not to exceed 75% of the total project costs, to Dennis Fuerst to repair a dam in Hutchinson County. **Motion passed on a roll call vote (Nay: Amundson) (Absent: Bauer).** These funds will expire on December 10, 2022.

YANTON COUNTY – TOM STYS: EXPANSION TO CURRENT DAM: Tom Stys, landowner in Hutchinson County, is requesting project assistance funds in the amount of \$50,000 to expand a dam that was built in 2016. Total cost to expand the dam is \$139,765.50. **Motion** by Director R. Braun, seconded by Director Amundson to deny funding to Tom Stys to expand a current dam.

YANTON COUNTY – TOM STYS: BUILD THREE SILT DAMS: Tom Stys, landowner in Hutchinson County, is requesting project assistance funds in the amount of \$69,960.63 to build three silt dams upstream from the main dam. The drainage area above these three silt dams is 2,467 acres and will be used to slow water flow and sediment. Total cost to build the three silt dams is \$93,280.83. **Motion** by Director Bauer, seconded by Director Millan to authorize cost-share assistance up to a maximum of \$50,000, not to exceed 75% of the total project costs, to Tom Stys to build three silt dams in Yankton County. **Motion passed on a roll call vote (Nay: Amundson).** These funds will expire on December 10, 2022.

EXTENSION OF GRANT

The following project will expire at the end of the year and have requested extensions:

- Enhanced CRP funds: \$38,962.96 remaining

Motion by Director Amundson, seconded by Director R. Braun to extend the Enhanced CRP funds until December 31, 2021. **Motion passed on a roll call vote.**

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

- On December 8, the South Central Watershed Project was awarded \$1.5 Million.
- Continue working with City of Mitchell on the Firesteel Creek project.

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.
- Director R. Braun would like the Board to consider supporting a program to offer dugout cleanouts. In the flatter northern area of the District, dams are not as common, instead they dig a dugout in the stream channel. They serve in much the same way as a dam in allowing the water to

slow down and sediment to fall out. Directors R. Braun and Stanley will develop a program and provide an update at the January or March meeting.

- Included in the board packet is a dam inspection worksheet drafted by Director Amundson. The board members will review the information and discuss at the January meeting.
- The board discussed the reimbursement policy for board members with the new normal being remote meetings and conferences. Staff indicated that board members are currently being paid the same regardless of attending a meeting in person or remotely. For the safety of board members, staff, and others; board members will continue to be reimbursed at full rate for meetings attended remotely or in person.

TREASURERS REPORT: The Board reviewed the August 2020, September 2020, and October 2020 financial reports. **Motion** by Director R. Braun, seconded by Director Amundson to approve the August 2020, September 2020, and October 2020 as presented. **Motion passed on a roll call vote.**

2021 MEETING DATES: **Motion** by Director Amundson, seconded by Director Stanley to approve the 2021 meeting dates as follows: January 21 – March 11 – May 13 – July 8 – September 9 – November 18. **Motion passed on a roll call vote.**

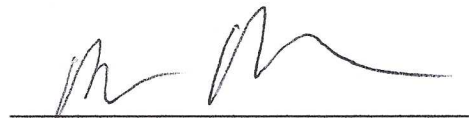
EXECUTIVE SESSION: **Motion** by Director Wiese, seconded by Director L. Braun to go into executive session pursuant to SDCL 1-25-2(1) for the purposes of discussing personnel matters. **Motion passed on a roll call vote.** **Motion** by Director Amundson, seconded by Director R. Braun to come out of executive session. **Motion passed on a roll call vote.** **Motion** by Director R. Braun, seconded by Director Stanley to increase Dave Bartel's salary by \$1,500 effective January 1, 2021 and to increase Judy Smoyer's salary by \$1,500 effective January 1, 2021. **Motion passed on a roll call vote.**

BOARD OF DIRECTOR AND STAFF REIMBURSEMENTS: **Motion** by Director Amundson, seconded by Director Bauer to approve staff and Director expenses. **Motion passed on a roll call vote.**

NEXT MEETING: The next meeting will be held January 21 by video or audio at 9:00 am.

ADJOURN: Being no further business, Chairman Klimisch declared the meeting adjourned at 12:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted:



Secretary