

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE SARGENT COUNTY WATER RESOURCE BOARD HELD ON WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 9TH, 2020, AT 6:00 P.M. AT THE COGSWELL COMMUNITY CENTER IN COGSWELL, ND.

Managers present: Lucas Siemieniewski, Roger Zetocha, Michael Wyum, Todd Stein and Bruce Speich. Also present were Chris Gross, the board's engineer, and Josh Hassell, MEI, and the attached list of attendees. Others present via teleconference were Sean Fredricks, the board's attorney; Dick Johnson SWC Commissioner, Leon Mallberg, Paul Mathews, Kelly Cooper and Bob Banderet.

Chairman Siemieniewski called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

The purpose of the meeting was a Drain No. 9 informational meeting for a proposed extension project brought forth to the WRD by a group of landowners.

Richard Ruch, Brampton resident and Sargent County Commissioner, began the discussion regarding the extension of Drain No.9. He provided history of the drain and why landowners would like to see the drain extended.

Chris Gross presented a power point. The agenda was as follows:

1. History
2. Existing Information
3. Proposed Project and Typical Goals
4. Work to Date
5. Process Moving Forward

Chris stated the history on this project dates back to the summer of 2019. Since then there have been ongoing discussions between WRD, Moore Engineering, and landowners. In the fall of 2020 a survey and hydraulic analysis of the existing Drain No.9 channel and existing crossings took place. The intent for today's meeting was to provide the collected data to the landowners and allow for questions.

Chris then presented a map of the existing assessment district which laid out the proposed location of the drain extension.

The project goals that are typical for an extension project are:

1. Improve agricultural drainage from adjacent fields
2. Reduce crop loss
3. Increase road ditch conveyance
4. Improve culvert crossings to meet ND Stream Crossing Standards
5. Economic Benefit
 - a. Available cost-share

**100-yr flood protection is not a goal of any rural legal drain.

Josh Hassell spoke for some time regarding the technical end of how a drain extension would impact the assessment area. Please refer to the Power Point for this technical information.

The following steps need to take place to move the drain extension project forward:

1. Petition & Bond
 - a. Defined project scope

2. Survey Data Collection
3. Preliminary Engineering
 - a. Hydrology & Hydraulics
 - b. Utility Investigation
 - c. Right of Way Analysis
 - d. Wetland Investigation
 - e. Cost Estimate
4. Assessment Vote Process
 - a. Public Hearing
 - b. Assessment Hearing (if vote passes)
5. Permits
 - a. SWC-Drainage Permit
 - b. NRCS
 - c. USACE
6. Cost-Share
 - a. Economic Analysis (Required for projects exceeding \$200,000)
 - i. (*an approved permit is required prior to cost-share submittal/approval)
7. Final Design and Construction

Much discussion was had and the final statement from Chris Gross was in order for the project to move forward, it would need to be driven by the landowners themselves. Once a plan was agreed upon or not, the landowners should reach out to the SCWRD and engineer Gross for further discussion.

The meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

LUCAS SIEMIENIEWSKI, CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

WENDY WILLPRECHT, SECRETARY-TREASURER