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Sargent County Water Resource District Special Meeting Minutes Drain Tour 6/19/2025

Roger Zetocha, Todd Stein, Bruce Speich, Luke Siemieniewski, Michael Wyum, and Richard Ruch departed the Sargent County Courthouse in Forman at 10:30 AM on 6/19/2025 for a tour of facilities owned and operated by the Sargent County Water Resource District in eastern Sargent County. The Board first drove to Rutland to view Drain 8 and noticed areas of cattails and trees growing in and along the eastern edge of town where Drain 8 commences. The Board then viewed the remainder of the drain and discussed the feasibility of eliminating the steep slope of the drain while ensuring continued functionality.

The Board then drove to Silver Lake and inspected the face of the Silver Lake Dam to see the extent of the erosion taking place there. While there, the Board again noticed a fence that needs an extension to protect the public. The Board previously hired a fencing company to complete that project but the company did not follow through so the Board will need to revisit this issue.

The Board then drove east from Havana and viewed the Brummond-Lubke Dam from the county road, choosing not to drive to the dam due to heavy rains in the area recently. The Board then drove to Nelson Dam and observed the excellent grass cover which hasn't been grazed this year to date. The Board then viewed Frenier Dam from the township road to the west of Coteau des Prairie Lodge, again noticing the good grass coverage on the face of the dam which also had not been grazed this year.

The Board stopped on the county road near the Robert Lee farm and observed Drain 12, noting a few of the areas where significant work had been done on that drain the past few years. The Board then drove along the southern portion of RS1, traveling into Richland County and seeing Kennedy Slough where it overflows into Park Lake. The Board also saw where Park Lake outlets and ultimately flows into RS1. The Board proceeded east and saw areas to the east that overflow in high water periods with waters heading for RS1.

Around 2pm the Board headed to Drain 2 north of the Speich ranch and saw first-hand the irrigation well which is partially exposed on the bank of the drain. The Board also noticed some of the sloughing which is occurring along this steep drain as well as trees in need of spraying.

The Board met Paul Mund near Immanuel Lutheran Church to visit about the downstream area of Drain 7 where it flows into the Wild Rice River. The Board made two other stops along this downstream area before heading into Milnor to see an area of exposed bank on Drain 7 north of town which needs to be riprapped and trees in need of spraying.

The Board arrived back in Forman at 4:25 PM.

Prepared by Michael Wyum.

APPROVED:

Luke Siemieniewski

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ATTEST:

Wendy Willprecht