**THE GRAND FORKS COUNTY WATER RESOURCE DISTRICT**

**151 S. 4th St, Suite 348, Grand Forks, ND 58203**

**March 20, 2024**

The Regular meeting of the GF County Water Resource District was held on March 20, 2024, at the Water Resource District Office. Attending were Tom Perdue, Bob Drees, Jim Heider, Tom Durkin, Jerry Pribula, Nick Pribula, Dan Gaustad, Nick West, David Nord, Scott Peterson, Joe Solseng, Bill Knipe, Brian Prince, Jeff Sieger, Bev Solseng, James Solseng, Noelle Solseng, John Suchor, Tom Halstenson, David Stavetieg, Brad Dokken, Beau Bateman, Jordan Prazak, and Kari Lavecchia.

A motion was made by Bob Drees and seconded by Tom Durkin to approve the minutes of March 6, 2024, as read.

A motion to approve the bills was made by Tom Durkin and seconded by Jim Heider. A rollcall vote was taken with all members voting yes.

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| 03/19/2024 | 30606 | Tri County Water |  |  | 270.00 |
| 03/19/2024 | 30605 | Traill County Water Resource |  |  | 395.50 |
| 03/19/2024 | 30604 | Starion Bond Services |  |  | 345,940.00 |
| 03/19/2024 | 30603 | PRIBULA ENGINEERING PLLC |  |  | 20,925.00 |
| 03/19/2024 | 30602 | Polar Communication |  |  | 596.99 |
| 03/19/2024 | 30601 | ND Water Users Association |  |  | 300.00 |
| 03/19/2024 | 30600 | M & K Porta Potties |  |  | 735.00 |
| 03/19/2024 | 30599 | Grand Forks Utility Billing |  |  | 62.79 |
| 03/15/2024 | DD | KARI LAVECCHIA | PAYROLL |  | 200.00 |
| 03/15/2024 | DD | KARI LAVECCHIA | PAYROLL |  | 2,293.22 |
| 03/15/2024 | DD | PERRY BELLAH | PAYROLL |  | 1,227.51 |
|  |  |  | **TOTAL** |  | **372,946.01** |

Scott Peterson Deputy Director of ND Game and Fish addressed the board and summarized his view that their best option is that the county continue to manage the tracts in question, however they are willing to enter an agreement to manage the tracts for the board if that is what the board decides. Brian Prince would be the districts manager for the areas that Game and Fish would manage.

John Suchor spoke about the damage that has occurred to the dams from the lack of posting of the dams and the lack of personnel available to patrol them.

David Nord spoke about being concerned about the rights of the public and the amount of land that has been posted noting that the land owned by the water board is not owned by the water board but by the public and he feels like posting is an abuse of power and asked the board to reconsider.

Joe Solseng addressed the board as a landowner next to 3 parcels owned by the water board. He has land by Dams 4, 5 and 8. He would be agreeable to having hunting on Dams 5 and 8. However, he is in favor of posting Dam 4.

Tom Halstenson borders Dam 4 and said that the original easement for the land stated that there would be no hunting on that tract. When it has been posted there have been no issues or violations occurring. His recommendation would be to make the lands owned by the water board into a game sanctuary.

The board determined that the Larimore Dam RV Park and Fordville RV Park land will continue to be posted. A motion was made by Tom Durkin and seconded by Jim Heider.

The board determined that Dam site 1 should be fully huntable with no motorized vehicle access. The motion was made by Tom Durkin and seconded by Jim Heider

The board determined that Dam site 2 should be fully huntable with no motorized vehicle access. The motion was made by Jim Heider and seconded by Bob Drees.

The board determined that Damsite 4 should remain posted for no hunting. The motion was made by Jim Heider and seconded by Bob Drees.

Damsite 5 continue to be posted until our legal counsel can come up with the correct language needed to be specific about the boards wishes. A motion was made by Bob Drees and seconded by Tom Perdue.

The board determined that damsites 6-8 should remain fully huntable with no motorized vehicle access. The motion was made by Jim Heider and seconded by Bob Drees

The English Coulee Dam should continue to be posted until our legal counsel can come up with the correct language needed to be specific about the boards wishes. This motion was made by Bob Drees and seconded by Tom Durkin.

The Grand Forks County Water Resource District convened into executive session for attorney consultation regarding reasonable predictable civil litigation pursuant to NDCC 44-04-19.1 and 2. A motion was made by Bob Drees and seconded by Jim Heider.

Tom Durkin made a motion to end the executive session and Jim Heider seconded it.

LD#9 on the East side of the interstate was cleaned and the tree piles have been removed.

Jerry received a call from Mike Lazur on LD#59, he stated his tile outlet was buried, we will have Zavoral come and pull the back slope back in that area to resolve that problem.

Pribula Engineering is working on a list for redetermining benefits for LD# 18C.

Jerry spoke with Ross Erickson from the Mekinock Township board about the 2 drainage complaints we received against the township from John Arneberg. It claims that they are responsible for approving a bridge in that area which he states is increasing the flow of water coming past his land. The board directed our legal counsel to send a letter to Mr. Arneberg stating that at this point the board considers these frivolous complaints and if they continue, we will start assessing him the cost of the engineering fees associated with the complaint determination.

Nick got a quote for culverts to be inserted for Turtle River township section 32 on Legal Drain 1 on the timber bridges that are currently there. The board will agree to pay for ½ of the cost of the culvert and installation. Jim Heider made the motion to move forward, and Tom Durkin seconded it.

Bob Drees made a motion to participate with the County Highway Department in the cost of replacing the bridges on Legal Drain #12. Jim Heider seconded it.

John Suchor addressed the board concerning the inspection lists sent by the NRCS, he would like to go through the list of needed repairs or fixes.

A signed petition for the construction of an artificial drain was presented to the board for Sections 2-4 of Walle Township. Which would be a change to LD#4. Jordan Prozak, from Burian and Associates, gave a presentation of the proposed project. The board formally received the proposal and will take time to go through the specifics before they decide whether to accept it or not.

Bill Knipe lives in Section 3 of Walle Township and he is not in agreement with donating his land to the project however he is not against the project.

There is a joint board meeting between Grand Forks/Walsh counties to be held Tuesday April 2nd in Grafton ND at 9:00 a.m.

Tom Durkin made a motion to adjourn, and Jim Heider seconded it.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Kari Lavecchia/Secretary-Treasurer

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Tom Perdue/Chairman