

LAKE AGASSIZ WATER AUTHORITY

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Ramada Plaza & Suites
Fargo, North Dakota
October 16, 2015**

A meeting of the Lake Agassiz Water Authority (LAWA) was held at the Ramada Plaza & Suites, Fargo, North Dakota, on October 16, 2015. The meeting was called to order by Chair Mahoney at 11 a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Chair Tim Mahoney
Vice Chair Ken Vein
Director LaVonne Althoff
Director Clark Cronquist
Director Mark Johnson
Director Ralf Mehnert-Meland
Director Keith Nilson
Director Carol Siegert
Director Bob Werkhoven
Alternate Gordon Johnson for Director Rick Bigwood
Acting Secretary Merri Mooridian

MEMBERS ABSENT

None

OTHERS PRESENT

Staff members of the Garrison Diversion Conservancy District were present along with others. The registration sheet is attached to these minutes as Annex I.

The meeting was recorded to assist with compilation of the minutes.

CONSIDERATION OF THE MINUTES

Motion by Director Mehnert-Meland to approve the September 18, 2015, minutes as distributed. Second by Director Althoff. Upon voice vote, motion carried.

OFFICER AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

None

RED RIVER VALLEY WATER SUPPLY PROJECT (RRVWSP) UPDATE

RRVWSP Presentation - - Steve Burian, Advanced Engineering, and Kip Kovar, District Engineer, Garrison Diversion, provided a PowerPoint presentation focusing on how the RRVWSP will work and how it will be implemented under a state and local plan.

Work Plan - - Mr. Kovar stated that the RRVWSP work plan separates the project into intake, alignment and discharge features. He reviewed these features with the board and explained the work involved with each one. The work plan also separates the project into conceptual, preliminary and final design phases. Approximately \$34 million of engineering work is required before construction can begin.

Mr. Kovar commented on upcoming task orders. In November, work will begin on the hydraulics and pumping design. After the aquifer characteristics are collected along the Missouri River, we will begin putting the horizontal collector well concept design task order together.

Mr. Kovar referred to the table included in the meeting packet showing the planning level budget for the RRVWSP. It is broken up into conceptual engineering, preliminary engineering and administration, legal and financial. Final design is missing, but it will be included at the next meeting. The table also shows the current cost estimate of each task order. The total estimated cost for the conceptual design phase of the project is \$4.6 million. A copy of the table is attached to these minutes as Annex II.

Mr. Kovar pointed out that the task order for land services and needs assessment is new since the last board meeting. He would like the board's approval to include the cost for this task order in the budget.

Mr. Kovar said land services will involve getting more easements if the conceptual design is acceptable. The needs assessment task order will involve site visits with the users to determine what they want for water.

Motion by Director Cronquist to approve increasing the RRVWSP Work Plan to \$4,692,790. Second by Director Althoff. Upon roll call vote, the following directors voted aye: Althoff, Cronquist, Johnson, Mahoney, Mehnert-Meland, Nilson, Siegert, Vein and Werkhoven. Alternates voting aye: G. Johnson. Those voting nay: none. Absent and not voting: none. Motion carried.

Merri Mooridian, Acting Secretary, said due to the increased cost in the RRVWSP Work Plan, LAWA will need to increase its 2015 budget amount for engineering to \$271,000.

Motion by Director Werkhoven to approve increasing the 2015 Lake Agassiz Water Authority's budget for engineering to \$271,000. Second Director Johnson. Upon roll call vote, the following directors voted aye: Althoff, Cronquist, Johnson, Mahoney, Mehnert-Meland, Nilson, Siegert, Vein and Werkhoven. Alternates voting aye: G. Johnson. Those voting nay: none. Absent and not voting: none. Motion carried.

Service to Central North Dakota & Other Water Suppliers - - Ms. Mooridian stated there have been previous discussions and a prior request from the Jamestown Stutsman

Development Corporation regarding the possibility of water service to central North Dakota through the RRVWSP. She suggested that LAWA approve the investigation into providing a water supply to central North Dakota and other water suppliers.

Ms. Mooridian referred to and explained the map included in the meeting packet showing the prospective LAWA water service area, potential users along the pipeline and the potential Stutsman County users. A copy of the map is attached to these minutes as Annex III.

Vice Chair Vein informed the board that Garrison Diversion also approved the investigation into serving central North Dakota at its board meeting on October 8. He believes that the Water Topics Overview Committee is expecting this type of study to be done.

Director Mehnert-Meland said he thinks we should look at expanding the coverage. He asked at what point it becomes binding not only for potential new members but also for existing members.

Vice Chair Vein replied that the Jamestown Stutsman Development Corporation recently adopted a resolution affirming its participation in the RRVWSP.

Director Mehnert-Meland commented that some type of agreement or contract needs to be drafted for those who want to sign up for water from the RRVWSP.

Tami Norgard, Vogel Law, stated there is currently a nonbinding agreement that users signed in 2008. She is working on revising that agreement and making it a binding agreement. Draft proposals will be brought to this board to discuss what seems fair in terms of financial contributions and what would be required if you are a member of LAWA versus if you have a water service contract.

Motion by Director Mehnert-Meland to authorize investigation into serving Central North Dakota and other water supplies from the RRVWSP. Second by Director Siegert. Upon roll call vote, the following directors voted aye: Althoff, Cronquist, Johnson, Mahoney, Mehnert-Meland, Nilson, Siegert, Vein and Werkhoven. Alternates voting aye: G. Johnson. Those voting nay: none. Absent and not voting: none. Motion carried.

Water System Visits - - Ms. Mooridian said the plan is to go out and visit with each the water systems about their needs and water demands. The meetings will start with the users who have signed the nonbinding letter of intent and then work their way across the pipeline corridor. Once the numbers are more refined, the users will know how much it costs per cfs to be involved in the project.

Task Order Update - - Mr. Kovar distributed a revised RRVWSP Engineering Update dated October 14, 2015, and provided a status report on the five task orders. A copy of the update is attached to these minutes as Annex IV.

Schedule - - Ms. Mooridian said the goal is to develop a conceptual design for the RRVWSP by the spring of 2016, a preliminary design by the spring of 2017, complete final engineering by 2018 and begin construction in 2019.

FINANCIAL REPORT

2015 Budget Analysis Statement - - Ms. Mooridian referred to the Budget Analysis statement for the period of January 1 to September 30, 2015, a copy which is attached to these minutes as Annex V.

Total income for 2015 is \$27,897. Expenses are \$35,211. The total bank balance is \$749,737.

Motion by Director Werkhoven to accept the budget analysis statement for the period of January 1 to September 30, 2015. Second by Director Althoff. Upon roll call vote, the following directors voted aye: Althoff, Cronquist, Johnson, Mahoney, Mehnert-Meland, Nilson, Siegert, Vein and Werkhoven. Alternates voting aye: G. Johnson. Those voting nay: none. Absent and not voting: none. Motion carried.

Bills Paid - - Ms. Mooridian reported that since the last meeting, the only bill paid was for water sampling in the amount of \$10,916.

2015 Membership Dues - - Ms. Mooridian referred to the copy of the 2015 dues letter. Dues letters were mailed out last week to LAWA members, along with their statement for 2015 membership dues.

Summary of Dues Paid - - Ms. Mooridian referred to the table showing membership fees and cost share payments submitted, which is provided for the board's information.

NEW BUSINESS

Future Meetings - - Chair Mahoney suggested the next meeting be held in December with the date and time to be determined.

Resolutions - - Mayor Mahoney presented four resolutions of appreciation for the board's consideration today. Three are for former board members, including Bruce Furness, Keith Burley and Winston Johnson. The fourth is for Pat Zavoral, who has been an alternate on the board and long-time employee for the city of Fargo. The resolutions are attached to the minutes as Annex VI through IX respectively.

Motion by Director Cronquist to approve resolutions of appreciation for Bruce Furness, Keith Burley, Winston Johnson and Pat Zavoral. Second by Director Siegert. Upon roll call vote, the following directors voted aye: Althoff, Cronquist, Johnson, Mahoney, Mehnert-Meland, Nilson, Siegert, Vein and Werkhoven. Alternates voting aye: G. Johnson. Those voting nay: none. Absent and not voting: none. Motion carried.

Alternates - - Chair Mahoney stated that board members were mailed a letter with their meeting packet asking them to designate an alternate to attend board meetings and act on the director's behalf when they cannot be in attendance. Directors need to return their letter to Garrison Diversion staff indicating who they've selected as their alternate.

Technical Advisory Committee - - Ms. Mooridian commented that once results start coming in on the task orders, it may be time to have the Technical Advisory Committee begin meeting again.

Water Topics Overview Committee - - Chair Mahoney informed the board that the Water Topics Overview Committee will be meeting in Bismarck on November 4. A presentation will be given on the RRWSP at that time.

OTHER BUSINESS

There being no further business to come before the board, the meeting adjourned at 12:10 p.m.

(SEAL)

Tim Mahoney, Chair

Merri Mooridian, Acting Secretary