

MINUTES

STUTSMAN COUNTY WATER RESOURCE BOARD

November 27, 2024

The regular meeting of the Stutsman County Water Resource Board was called to order by Vice-Chairman, Anthony Roorda, on November 27, 2024, at 11:03 a.m. in the County Commissioner's Room of the Stutsman County Courthouse. Members present were Anthony Roorda, John Schock, Dennis Clark, and Arlyn Schmidt. Joel Lees appeared by phone.

Additionally present was Greg Spenningsby, board alternate, Mike Gunsch of Houston Engineering, Josh Loosmore, and Jerry Bergquist. Also present was Abigail Geroux, secretary of the Board, and Melissa P. Magnuson.

MINUTES

The first order of business was to review and approve the minutes of the October 30, 2024, regular meeting minutes. Arlyn Schmidt moved and Dennis Clark seconded a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Motion passed.

FEASIBILITY STUDY

The first order of business was discussion by Mike Gunsch and Jerry Bergquist regarding the responsibilities between the Stutsman County Commission and the Stutsman County Water Resource Board regarding the feasibility study. Mike Gunsch indicated that the Stutsman County Commission provided Houston Engineering with a notice to proceed. He will set forth a schedule for meetings of the Steering Committee and provide official notice and documentation to all board members. This way all board members would be able to participate in the Steering Committee or otherwise see any correspondence going back and forth as they choose. Jerry Bergquist explained that the role of the Stutsman County Commission was to assist in providing funding for the feasibility study and that ultimately the Stutsman County Water Resource Board has the authority regarding various water projects in the county.

Arlyn Schmidt asked to get a little more background on how these feasibility projects came about. Mike Gunsch explained that both him and Jerry Bergquist were at a regional meeting of the Stutsman Water Commission. They ended up ultimately discussing a variety of issues in the areas of Crystal Springs

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Lake and Mike Gunsch indicated the manner that the county could reserve potential funding through the State Water Commission, but this required placing this as a potential project for their Water Development Plan, at which point Jerry Bergquist made contact with Joel Lees to put forward potential options to obtain funding for a feasibility study.

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Next, Arlyn Schmidt discussed his recollections of prior attempts to conduct drainage in the area. Arlyn Schmidt also indicated that he was also aware that there was some discussion regarding building up Reule Dam to save the township roads in the area. He noted that he knew the owners built up Reule Dam to create a lake and there has been some discussion to further build up that structure to assist in the management of water out in that area, but that project did not move forward.

There was then discussion regarding potential avenues on where this project could be located. It was noted that one option would be through a pipeline on railroad property. It would be approximately 12 miles of pipe. The other one would be along a highway corridor where they would be looking at potentially nine miles of pipe. They discussed the potential advantages and disadvantages including costs associated with those options and using a pipe rather than an open channel.

**DENNIS LOEWEN**

Ms. Geroux then provided various updates on ongoing business for the board. Dennis Clark indicated he visited Dennis Loewen's property, which was a recent complaint that the board received. Dennis Clark suggested that Mr. Loewen visit with the local township about obtaining an emergency drainage application for Highway 69. They are concerned about access to part of their property in the spring from spring runoff. Instead of building up that property, the ability to do some drainage would help alleviate the situation on a temporary basis. Dennis Clark indicated that the majority of the unauthorized drainage was coming from property in Wells County and not in Stutsman. It was his understanding Mr. Loewen decided not to pursue the complaint further.

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MISCELLANEOUS

Ms. Geroux then discussed with the board regarding a request from Joel Lees and research regarding townships and culverts. She explained that she had done some additional research, but looked into doing a more thorough research regarding a matter. It was also note by Mike Gunsch that there are specific standards townships are required to follow in the Administrative Code and that he could also provide that information to our office.

John Schock then noted that he had been in contact with Dustin Krueger from Stutsman County Soil Conservation. John has an update on the water quality project on Spiritwood Lake. He indicated that the project was going much better than expected, that Dustin Krueger had done testing out in the middle of the lake and he noted that the quality of the water become significantly better. He also noted that the temperature of the water had changed, which results are not something they were expecting. The changes in the lake were positive and were happening faster than they were expecting.

FINANCIALS

The board then reviewed the bills and financials. Dennis Clark moved and John Schock seconded a motion to approve the bills and financials as presented. Motion passed.

CHECK NUMBERS

1. Dalsted & Ryan, P.C. - \$630.00 #2956

It was then noted that the next board meeting will be scheduled at December 23, 2024, at 4:00 p.m. at the County Commissioner's Room at the Stutsman County Courthouse.

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There being no further business before the board, Dennis Clark moved and Arlyn Schmidt seconded a motion to adjourn. Motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 11:55 a.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

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ABBAGAIL GEROUX  
Secretary

**BOARD APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The board approved the minutes this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_,  
2024.

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JOEL LEES, Chairman, or  
ANTHONY ROORDA, Vice-Chairman