

Special Meeting
could Tuesday
by phone

Manager KAPPAHN introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption:

RESOLUTION ADOPTING EMERGENCY
PUBLIC HEARING ALTERNATIVES

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF MANAGERS OF THE BOIS DE SIOUX
WATERSHED DISTRICT:

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, Minnesota Governor Tim Walz declared a peacetime declaration of emergency related to the Coronavirus pandemic (COVID-19); and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 is a severe respiratory illness, caused by the SARS-CoV-2 virus, a new strain of coronavirus that is spread from person to person, posing a threat to the health and safety of the residents of the Bois de Sioux Watershed District (the "District"); and

WHEREAS, it is recommended that social distancing be implemented statewide in an effort to slow the spread of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, under Minn. Stat. § 13D.01, all meetings must be open to the public, unless an exemption applies stating otherwise; and

WHEREAS, under Minn. Stat. § 13D.021, subd.1, so long as certain conditions are met, the governing body is permitted to participate in meetings via telephone conference or other electronic means during a health pandemic or emergency declaration; and

WHEREAS, the District has meetings that have public hearings scheduled in which interested persons have the opportunity to provide comments to the Board of Managers of the District (the "Board"); and

WHEREAS, in an effort to promote social distancing while still allowing interested persons to provide public comments, the District deems it necessary for the health, safety, and welfare of the public to adopt alternative methods for interested persons to provide public comment to the Board; and

WHEREAS, this Resolution provides for implementation of alternative methods of public comment provided to the Board while the State and Nation are under emergency protocols related to COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, once such alternatives are in place and posted, such alternatives remain in effect until they are rescinded or altered by action of the Board.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Managers of the Bois de Sioux Watershed District as follows:

1. The Board will limit the length of meetings or, if necessary, postpone or cancel any meetings that are deemed non-essential. If meetings cannot be postponed or cancelled, only essential business of the Board will be considered at the meeting (e.g. paying bills, approving contracts, and other business operation items).
2. In the event the Board holds a meeting on a non-scheduled meeting date or holds a meeting via conference call, real time/live streaming, or similar remote access, the Board will provide public notice of this alternative access as provided under Minn. Stat. § 13D.04, subd. 2. The public will be asked not to participate in these meetings at the governing body's regular meeting location, but rather participate via conference call, real time/live streaming, or similar remote access.
3. If a public hearing is required for an agenda item during a special meeting as previously discussed, the Board will accept public comment via mail, electronic mail, or other written means, by providing a deadline for interested persons to provide public comment after the Board holds a "public hearing" via call-in numbers, real time/live streaming online, or similar remote means.
4. Before accepting the alternative methods of public comment, the Board should provide the public with notice informing interested persons where they should send their public comment, the deadline to send public comment, and inform them that their written comments will be taken into consideration at the next regular or special meeting.
5. Upon completion of the public comment period, the Board will consider any public comments received at its next regular or special meeting. All votes will be conducted by roll call vote that discloses each manager's identity.
6. This Resolution is effective from the date of approval until such time as it is rescinded or altered by action of the Board.

Dated this 26th day of MARCH, 2020.