

**BOIS DE SIOUX WATERSHED DISTRICT  
BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
December 27, 2019**

- CALL TO ORDER** The meeting was called to order by President Vavra at 10:00 a.m. Present: Linda Vavra, Jason Beyer, Doug Dahlen, Jerome Deal, Scott Gillespie, Steven Schmidt, and Allen Wold. Absent: Ben Brutlag, John Kapphahn. Also present: Engineer Chad Engels (by phone), Attorney Lukas Croaker (by phone), Administrator Jamie Beyer, and Technician Troy Fridgen.
- DNR REDPATH GRANT AGREEMENT EXTENSION** Board managers reviewed Grant Agreement Amendment No. 6 between the District and the DNR for a one-year extension of the September 29, 2010 Redpath Grant 3000000507/3000125390/26829 set to expire December 30, 2019. Upon motion by Gillespie, seconded by Schmidt and carried unanimously, the amendment was approved.
- CLA 2019 AUDIT CONTRACT** Board managers reviewed the CliftonLarsonAllen terms and objectives, dated October 29, 2019, for services related to the upcoming 2019 audit. Upon motion by Deal, seconded by Beyer and carried unanimously, the contract was approved.
- BRUTLAG & KAPPAHN ARRIVE** Board Managers Ben Brutlag and John Kapphahn entered the meeting.
- NORTH OTTAWA 2020 O & M PLANS** Board managers discussed 2020 operations and maintenance plans for the North Ottawa Impoundment. Board Manager Wold recommended that the District lease 8 cells, to cover operation and maintenance costs. Board Manager Beyer advocated that the District make preparations to implement activities recommended by consultants EOR, to increase species diversity and increase natural resource enhancements (NREs). Cattails have completely taken over Cells A4 and B4, limiting NRE opportunities and compromising flood storage capacity; Board Manager Brutlag stated that he believes responsible maintenance would include cattail removal, and Board Manager Beyer stated that cattail removal is necessary to prepare lands for EOR's recommendations, which may take two years. President Vavra emphasized that activities within the Impoundment must always defer to management for maximum flood storage.
- NORTH OTTAWA 2015 – 2019 LAND USE & 2020 FLOODING** Engineer Engels presented 2015 – 2019 land use by cell. Board Manager Gillespie requested that the District prepare a formal operating plan for 2020 that explicitly emphasizes that the Impoundment will be operated for flood damage reduction – even if doing so conflicts with NRE management. Board Manager Beyer expressed concerns that current lake, river, and ditch water levels indicate that flooding could be more substantial in 2020 than it was in 2019 – which was a top 3 flood in some areas of the District.
- DNR-INPUT SOUGHT FOR 2021** Certification of the District's budget and tax levies is made in December, and certification to Grant County, as to which parcels will be leased and which will not be leased, is due annually by February 1<sup>st</sup>. These important deadlines framed the District's efforts in February 2019 to meet with the DNR to plan NRE activities for the 2020 growing season. Board managers expressed frustration that DNR representatives have not been timely with feedback on the District's proposal for future NRE-enhancing activities, taking 10 months to provide a limited, sparse response despite monthly meeting requests from the District. Giving respect to the extremely limited amount of time, budget, and ability to now implement plans for the 2020 growing season, Board Managers discussed the need for the District itself to draft plans for 2020, and receive DNR NRE input for the 2021 growing season.
- COMMITTEE WILL RECOMMEND O & M PLAN TO BOARD** Beyer made motion, seconded by Dahlen, that, with Attorney Louis Smith's guidance, the North Ottawa Operations and Maintenance Committee propose a land management plan for 6 cells and that the District remove cattails in Cells A4 and B4 in order to prepare for future NRE activities. Roll call vote: Brutlag – aye; Kapphahn – aye; Schmidt – aye; Dahlen – aye; Beyer – aye; Deal – aye; Wold – aye; Gillespie – aye; Vavra – aye.
- TILLAGE** Two cells did not receive fall tillage. Schmidt requested that the District's boilerplate tillage language be reviewed at the next board meeting.
- WEED CONTROL** Technician Fridgen reported on weed control needs along the collection channel and on the inside banks of the Impoundment (weeds lead to slope instability and noxious weed removal is required by

township and county regulations). Board managers requested that Fridgen put together a map of the area, and estimate the number of acres for a potential bid or contract.

Upon motion by Dahlen, seconded by Deal and carried unanimously, the meeting was adjourned at 11:45 am.