

**BOIS DE SIOUX WATERSHED DISTRICT
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
December 22, 2020**

CALL TO ORDER The meeting was called to order by President Vavra at 10:00 a.m. via conference call and screenshare pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 13D.021. Present in the District Office: Steven Schmidt, Linda Vavra, and Allen Wold. Joined remotely: Ben Brutlag, Doug Dahlen, and John Kapphahn. Also present remotely: Engineer Chad Engels, Engineer James Guler, and Attorney Lukas Croaker. Also present in the District Office: Administrator Jamie Beyer.

PRELIMINARY RESOLUTION HEARING FOR BIG LAKE The purpose of the meeting was to hold a Preliminary Resolution Hearing for the District's Big Lake Project which is being established pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 103D.601. Wold motioned, seconded by Schmidt, to open the hearing. Roll call vote: Schmidt – aye; Wold – aye; Dahlen – aye; Kapphahn – aye; Brutlag – aye; Vavra – aye. Motion carried.

BIG LAKE PROJECT Attorney Croaker informed the managers that the project will be funded by grants totaling at least fifty percent (50%) of the project cost; assessments to local landowners will not exceed \$750,000; and the managers directed the engineer to prepare a report on the feasibility of the project. Attorney Croaker then introduced the engineer's Preliminary Report, which confirms that the project is feasible and promotes public welfare.

DESIGN DETAILS Engineering staff emphasized that this project is being reestablished because the current project design differs from the original design. The current design addresses environmental concerns previously expressed by state agencies and meets the objectives of area landowners, to reduce local flood risks. The project design will allow drawdowns of Big Lake in order to achieve flood storage and reduce downstream flows. The project will include these features:

- 1) A control structure will be placed on the southwest side of Big Lake that will include a gate and stop logs. With the gate closed, Big Lake would continue to operate as if the project was not built. With the gate open, the lake would be drawn down to a lower lake elevation.
- 2) A pipe will be installed from the control structure, through Highway 27, into the current outlet channel. The outlet channel is not a 103E public drainage system, nor is it a public water; it is privately owned.
- 3) The current outlet channel will be graded to the project pipe.
- 4) The project will require the acquisition of easements for all installations and project features.

DESIGN DIFFERENCES This project differs from the original project in the following ways:

- The previous project artificially bounced the lake higher than natural elevations.
- The dam and need for flowage easements have been eliminated.
- The ability to drain Big Lake nearly dry has been eliminated from the project design.
- The project cost is considerably less.

Landowner Larry Vipond asked the engineering staff to consider extending the pipe from Highway 27 to the City of Herman. Engineering staff evaluated this alternative, but found that it would be cost prohibitive, and that it is more practical to re-grade the existing channel to match into the pipe.

BIG LAKE OUTLET PROJECT ESTABLISHED Upon motion by Manager Wold, second by Manager Dahlen, and carried unanimously, the managers determined that the project promotes the public interest and welfare and is practicable and in conformity with the District's overall plan, approved the project, named it "Big Lake Outlet Project 2021-1," and directed the engineer to prepare an engineer's report pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 103D.711.

Hearing no further comments from interested parties, Manager Schmidt motioned, second by Manager Wold, to close the hearing. Roll call vote: Schmidt – aye; Wold – aye; Dahlen – aye; Kapphahn – aye; Brutlag – aye; Vavra – aye. Motion carried.

The meeting was then adjourned at 11:40 a.m.