

West Great Falls Flood Control & Drainage District
PO Box 791, Great Falls, Mt 59403-0791
June 20, 2023
Commissioners' Meeting Minutes

Location of meeting: DES Conference room 521 1st Ave NW, Great Falls, Mt.

Call to Order: 7:05 PM by Commissioner Rogers.

Roll call: Commissioner Rogers, Commissioner Fairhurst, Commissioner Mares and Janet Fulmer present.

Public Attendance: Judy Rogers, Barb Lankford, Scott Lankford, Jeffi Poulsen, Trina Mans & Aspen Northerner.

Reading of Minutes: Reading of the May 16th and June 8th minutes. Commissioner Mares asked that the election results notice to the court, election certification letter and her oath of office, dated 19 May, 2023, be included with the filing of the May minutes. May and June Minutes approved.

Commissioners signed the Notice of Election Report to the court. Commissioner Mares said she would file it with the Clerk of Court.

Reports:

Treasurer's report: Operations balance \$504,192.99 Maintenance Reserve balance \$37,991.23, Flood Emergency balance \$24,564.73. Taxes receivable \$6092.75. \$13,000.00 to be transferred from Operations to Maintenance Reserve for the pipes inspection due in 2025.

Inspection Report – Commissioner Roger reported he had inspected the drainage structures from 479 down to 176. He stated the rest will be completed as soon as practical and the semiannual inspection report will be completed..

Snow Pack and Flood Forecast Report – Suspended

Emergency Preparedness Report – Commissioner Mares reported she worked with USACE to determine the emergency reporting chain of command. She obtained the 24hr contact information for the local DES and the Montana response center. She talked to United Material and updated the contacted list. The emergency response contractor (Mike Andre) was contacted.

Spraying progress report - Commissioner Rogers reported the RR levee, Crescent Drive levee, 9th St SW levee and the main levee from Croxford to Thares has been sprayed however, no dye was used on anything sprayed so far. Will have to check later to see if the spraying was effective. Public comments centered around why we did not use another company to do the spraying. The comment was answered that nobody else applied for the job.

Mowing progress report – Commissioner Rogers reported that mowing has not started yet and would, with the approval of the board, recommend that mowing starts as soon as the

weed spraying takes effect. Approved.

Pest Control Progress Report - Commissioner Fairhurst reported that there are two people onboard to help control beavers. One will cover from 27th St. up river and one from 27th St down river. The season is open until August 31st and we can obtain kill permits after that. The trappers will provide periodic reports on the number of beavers taken.

Drainage Structure & Flap Gate repairs - Commissioner Rogers reported the water is still too high and he has not gotten a hold of T&L painting yet.

Fencing Report – Commissioner Fairhurst reported the fence paralleling 6th St. SW is down and needs to be replaced with a security fence to help control the homeless in the area. Commissioner Rogers said the transverse fence paralleling the drainage ditch from station 323 south of Central Ave W. is down and need to be removed to facilitated mowing the ditch. The board agreed to have Commissioner Fairhurst get a quote from Fairfield Fence to replace the fence near 6th St. SW.

Woody Vegetation Removal Report - Commissioner Rogers reported as soon as he gets done with the levee inspection he will know what areas need tree removal. At that time he will get a hold of Donny Lightheizer to start the process.

River Status report – Commissioner Rogers report the the high water this year happened on June 8th at 3313.5 feet. No gates were closed due to the brevity of the event and no water was coming through the gates that were below high water.

Contract Status Report – Commissioner Mares report all contracts are signed and in place. Fencing and repairs will be on an as needed basis.

Lake Drain upgrade status Report – Commissioner Rogers reported the lake finished filling on the 8th of June. However, FWP requested we drop the level of the lake by one foot to preserve the trees along the shore line. The city of Great Falls agreed an Commissioner Rogers will start lowering the lake once river levels drop. Great West proposal will be covered under new business.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Pott's summons and complaint against the district. Our attorney said he filed an extension of time to answer the complaint. Mr. Regh did not provide a copy of the extension to the district. Mr. Regh also emailed the district about developing a more robust contract with Taylor's Transport. The board agreed to send an email the Mr. Regh emphatically stating we did not want a new contract.

NEW BUSINESS:

Password issues tabled for now.

Commissioners Compensation:

A motion: to petition the court for a temporary adjustment of commissioners' compensation. The board approved filing a petition with the court to temporarily modify the commissioners' compensation order to allow Commissioner Fairhurst to decline compensation. All commissioners signed the petition. Commissioner Rogers will file the petition with the Clerk of Court

Permitting of the Wadsworth Lake Drain upgrade.

A motion to accept the Great West Engineering proposal for completing the permitting process necessary for the Lake Drain upgrade in the amount of \$7,000.00. Discussion included get help from FWP if the Cascade County Flood Plain Administrator is going to require a no rise hydrological study. Approved.

Confined Space permit required Policy & Procedures:

A Motion: to establish written policies and procedure in accordance with OSHA rules for permit required confined space access on district property. Discussed boiler plating existing manual from others to make the manual. Motion approved. Commissioner Fairhurst will take the lead on the project,

Items put forth for public comment:

Grounds maintenance:

Discussed the feasibility of purchasing equipment to maintain the levee grounds and hiring a seasonal worker to maintain the levee grounds. Board and public comment was generally favorable and included comments about letting someone come in and hay the property.. Commissioner Rogers agreed to take point on following up.

File storage:

Discuss the feasibility of obtaining and siting a storage container or building to house the district's archived files. Board and public comment was generally favorable with some questions about the necessity and keeping the DES storage area.

Commissioner Rogers agreed to take point on following up.

Staff gauge monitoring:

Discuss remote video monitoring of the District staff gauge accessible to the public via the web page and or social media if possible. Board and public comment was very favorable. Discussed different systems available and how the public could access the site. Janet Fulmer said she would do some follow up and had the training to set up a web page to display the images.

General Public Comments:

Announcement of the training for small government open meetings. Also announced the meeting for the local emergency planning board.

Great West engineering will be doing the study on the city of Great Falls storm water plan and will be working with us on the Watson coulee drainage system.

Invoices to be paid: Approved warrants for Commissioner Lankford \$158.62, Commissioner Rogers \$158.62, Ooma \$17.32, R&R Law \$1452.50(1102.50 for Taylor's and 350.00 for the election), US Treasury \$240.96, Mt Dept Revenue \$51.00 and Travelers Insurance(bonds) \$425.00

Meeting Adjourned 8:37 PM

Charles Rogers,
Commissioner

Fred L. Fairhurst,
Commissioner

Sandy J. Mares,
Commissioner