

West Great Falls Flood Control & Drainage District
PO Box 791 Great Falls, MT 59403-0791
November 21st 2023
Commissioners' Meeting Minutes

Location of Meeting: Temple Baptist Church, 313 18th Street SW, Great Falls, Montana

Call to Order: 7:00 PM by Commissioner Rogers

Roll Call: Commissioners Rogers, Mares and Fairhurst present. Janet Fulmer absent. A quorum was present,

Public Attendance: Eric J. Bailey, Jeffi Poulsen, Trina Mans, and Aspen Northern.

Reading of Minutes: September 19, 2023 minutes were approved as corrected.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Treasurers' Report: October 2023: Operations Balance \$473,004.74, Maintenance Reserve Balance \$52,147.53. Flood Emergency Balance \$25,121.23

Inspection Report: Commissioner Rogers stated that 93.5% of mowing is completed, All drainage structures good. In fact, the levee looks really good,

Pest Control Report: Commissioner Fairhurst has completed the Release of Liability and Hold Harmless Agreement that will be effective for one year for Dustin Ashby and Mark Tracy for signatures. He will also prepare an identification card for Dustin and Mark with contact information should they have questions while inspections of the levee. Commissioner Rogers stated that the Bug Doctor did a great job in controlling gophers and there are about 6 holes that did not get filled in.

Drainage Structures & Flap Gate Repairs: Commissioner Mares stated that flap gates, drainage structures and flap gate repairs are completed. The 5 flap gates that were re coated and are good with station 216 flap gate just needing a bit of touch up.

Fencing Report: Commissioner Fairhurst stated that fencing that could be done is completed. This includes the 6th St SW fence and gate. The gate from Croxfords will replace the gate by Thares. Fairfield fencing will be busy until the snow fall.

Status of Annual Fiscal Report: Commissioner Mares stated that she has completed the July 30, 2023 fiscal year report and has rectified it. Commissioner Mares will work on the July 30, 2022 fiscal year report and will contact secretary for reports that she will need. The report will be complete by next meeting.

Woody Vegetation Report: Commissioner Rogers stated that he and Commissioner Mares marked all the trees that need to be removed. There is quite a bit of woody vegetation on the levee that needs to be cleaned up. Commissioner Rogers mentioned that Nick Brown has a burning service and that might be one option for cleanup. Commissioner Rogers will do some follow up on options.

Lake Drain Upgrade Status Report: Commissioner Rogers Stated that District has almost everything permitted with the exception of the Flood Plain Administrator. The Administrator still has not told the District if they have to do an in depth Quantitative Hydrological Study of the river. If this is required cost could be around \$24,000. If this happens, Fish Wildlife and Parks may help with the cost.

Permit Required Confined Space Progress: Commissioner Fairhurst stated that he met with the City and did obtain a copy of their permit and report.

Potts Summons and Complaint Against the District: The District has filed a claim with their insurance carrier. Attorney Jean Faure will be representing the District. The District is keeping a low profile at this point, Cost of Jean Faure representing the District will be paid by the District's Insurance.

Status of Court Report: Commissioner Mares stated that Judge Parker has approved report on October 5,2023. We have not received the Court Judgment as of yet from Judge Parker. Judge Parker's Office is checking on that. All that is available now is the minutes approving the Court Order.

File Storage Status Report: Commissioner Rogers stated that Mike Andre built the pad and his invoice was \$1,100 less then his original bid. A motion was made and, after discussion, approved for the District to purchase an 8ft by 20ft new Conex Box in the amount of \$4,950.00.

NEW BUSINESS

Options for a New Web Page: Commissioner Rogers stated that a bid was received from Shortgrass Web Development Fees are \$1,000 to develop and \$350 yearly fee to maintain. The District would be using Shortgrass local servers and Shortgrass would provide all the local support the District needs. Commissioner Rogers also stated that the District is looking at putting a video camera on the staff gauge on the river and Shortgrass would also help with that, Commissioner Fairhurst said the public needs to know what is going on with the District. Commissioner Fairhurst made a motion to go forward with research and approval for the District Chairman to approve purchase and development without further meetings. Motion approved.

Standardizing the naming of levee segments : Commissioner Rogers has proposed standardizing the naming of sections of the levee. He has prepared descriptions and maps. This standardization would be included in the District Disaster Preparedness Manual. The standardization would make working with contractors, the public, and emergency response officials more efficient. Commissioner Fairhurst made a motion to standardize naming sections of the levee. Motion was approved.

Contractor Issues: Commissioner Rogers stated that the District has had major issues with Dr. Lawn in doing the grounds keeping. Commissioner Rogers proposed and prepared a comprehensive bid package to send to landscaping maintenance companies. After a lengthy discussion, Commissioner Rogers made a motion to prepare a comprehensive grounds keeping package and send to local landscaping companies and Great Falls builder's Exchange. Motion approved. There will be a deadline for submitting bid packages.

Public Comment: Eric Bailey did have a question on the Lake Drain upgrade and Fish and Game possibly helping with cost if needed. The District has a \$43,000 grant from Fish and Game that expires in 2024 for the construction. The City has no budget to help.

Invoices to be Paid: Commissioner Mares \$317.22, Commissioner Rogers \$317.22, Dr Lawn for mowing the slope of levee and fall weed spraying \$18,947.50, Mike Andre Excavating for removal of flap gates, Storage pad and annual cleaning of drainage structures \$5,612.50. T & L Painting has deferred invoicing us until after first of year, Janet Fulmer for 2 months phone and web page \$64.89, Great West Engineering for permitting \$4,900. Motion to pay invoices was made and approved.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:20 PM

Charles Rogers
Commissioner

Fred L. Fairhurst
Commissioner

Sandy J. Mares
Commissioner