

REGULAR MEETING OF THE BIG STONE COUNTY BOARD
January 19, 2021

The Big Stone County Board of Commissioners met in the courtroom at 8:30 AM on Tuesday, January 19, 2021. Chairman Backer called the meeting to order with Commissioners Athey, Klages, Olson and Sandberg present. Also present were Dillon Dwyer of the Ortonville Independent, IT Director Matt Anderson, Coordinator Pam Rud and Auditor-Treasurer Michelle Knutson. Others including Eran Sandquist of Pheasants Forever and HR Director Dawn Gregoire, were present via TEAMS. The Pledge of Allegiance followed.

The work session discussion began with Commissioner Sandberg providing an update on possible expansion of the trail in the refuge and possible funding options. Discussion was also held on the number of County bank accounts. After a review of their activity, Auditor-Treasurer Knutson will prepare a recommended list of accounts where it makes sense to close them and bring it to a future meeting for the Board's consideration.

UMRWD Administrator Amber Doschadis, Highway Maintenance Supervisor Darby Karsky and County Engineer Todd Larson arrived at the meeting.

Motion by Olson, seconded by Sandberg and carried to approve the minutes of the January 5th re-organizational meeting.

Motion by Olson, seconded by Klages and carried to approve the agenda with the moving of Engineer Larson before the US Fish & Wildlife appointment.

Commissioners reported on the following committees:

Olson – PrimeWest, PrimeWest-DHS; Countryside

Sandberg – Food Shelf

Athey – MRC

Klages – BSAG

Backer – BdSWD; BSAG; Woodland;CPT (2)

Motion by Athey, seconded by Klages and carried to authorize payment of the following claims as presented by Auditor-Treasurer Knutson:

Bond Trust Services	\$484,827.51
CDW Government	5,277.60
CPT	7,162.00
Dell Marketing	9,634.45
Fisher Sand & Gravel	12,465.42
Lac qui Parle Sheriff	7,609.60
Marco	8,908.08
MN Sheriff's Assn	3,563.14
Pioneer Public TV	5,000.00
Rinke-Noonan	5,630.00
Traverse County	27,118.70
38 Payments Less Than \$2,000	<u>15,752.86</u>
Total	\$592,949.36

Auditor-Treasurer Knutson asked for questions and/or comments on the year-to-date financial information provided for the Board's review.

Motion by Sandberg, seconded by Olson and carried to authorize \$1,000 for this year's Meander, an increase of \$500 from the approved budgeted amount.

Engineer Larson provided an update on highway department activities and an update on County Ditch 21.

Discussion was held on the letter received from the DNR regarding West Toqua Lake and the recent cleaning of Joint Ditch 4. Karsky has reached out to the DNR Hydrologist and is waiting to hear back from him. Karsky also stated that the ditch did not drain the Lake as it dried up on its own.

County Attorney Joe Glasrud arrived at the meeting.

US Fish & Wildlife representatives Blake Knisley and Bruce Freske were present via TEAMS to request certification of acquisition of land for habitat easements in Akron and Odessa Townships. Discussion was held on the drainage rights for County Ditch 2 on the Rolfsmeier property. This easement was tabled until the next meeting to allow time to review ditch information.

Motion by Klages, seconded by Olson and carried to certify for acquisition the following described property owned by Michael and Candice Kraemer for a habitat easement:

T121N, R45W, 5th PM, Section 4, part of the E1/2SW1/4 and part of the SW1/4SE1/4.

Motion by Olson, seconded by Klages and carried to certify for acquisition the following described property owned by Alan and Darcy Koeckeritz for a habitat easement:

T121N, R45W, 5th PM, Section 26, part of the S1/2S1/2SW1/4 and Section 35, parts of the NE1/4NW1/4.

Motion by Olson, seconded by Sandberg and carried to adopt the following resolution to adopt and implement the Bois de Sioux – Mustinka 1W1P as presented by Environmental Technician Danny Tuckett:

2021-10

WHEREAS, Big Stone County entered into a planning agreement Memorandum of Agreement to development the Bois de Sioux – Mustinka Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan; and

WHEREAS, Big Stone County has been an active participant in the development of the Bois de Sioux – Mustinka Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan (Plan); and

WHEREAS, Big Stone County recommended the Bois de Sioux – Mustinka Policy Committee submit the Plan for State approval on January 19th 2020; and

WHEREAS, Bois de Sioux – Mustinka Policy Committee submitted the Plan for State approval on December 5, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) North Region Committee met on January 6, 2021 and decided to recommend the Plan be approved according to Minnesota Statutes 103B.101, subdivision 14 at the BWSR meeting on January 27, 2021.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, contingent on BWSR approval, Big Stone County hereby adopts and will begin implementation of the Plan for the area of Big Stone County identified within the Plan and serve as a substitute for the county local water management plan as per 103B for the duration of the State approved Plan.

Motion by Athey, seconded by Olson and carried to re-appoint Don Diekmann and Charlie Maanum to the Planning Commission and Mike Trulson to the Board of Adjustment for 3-year terms as recommended by Environmental Director Darren Wilke.

Environmental Director Wilke reported that he is not recommending any changes to the current fee schedule at this time.

Chairman Backer adjourned the meeting at 10:05 AM.

Jay Backer, Chairman

ATTEST: _____
Michelle R. Knutson, Auditor-Treasurer