

Pomme de Terre River Association
Joint Powers Board Meeting Minutes
Friday, July 8, 2022
8:30 a.m. Morris Fire Hall or via Webex

Chair Wenstrom called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

Present: Rod Wenstrom, Jeanne Ennen, Dave Lonergan, Joe Fox, Keith Englund, Paul Barsness, Ken Johnson, Paul Groneberg, Kurt Mortenson. Others present: Darrick Henrichs, landowner; Micayla Lakey, Watershed Coordinator; Jared House, TAC chair (8:45); Chris Staebler, Stevens SWCD. Others present via Webex: Pete Waller, BWSR; Todd Larson, Stevens County Highway Engineer.

The Minutes were unanimously approved on a motion by Keith Englund and second by Kurt Mortenson.

The Agenda as amended was approved on a motion by Joe Fox. Second by Keith Englund. Passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report was unanimously approved on a motion by Jeanne Ennen and second by Paul Barsness.

There were no bills to pay.

Silver Lake Project Update

Jeanne Ennen noted that Todd Larson showed the TAC a feasibility report similar to what Greg presented to the JPB at their last meeting. Stevens is ready to progress with the project. Since this update was added to the agenda at the last minute, Ken Johnson mentioned that he was not prepared to comment on behalf of Grant County as to what their perception is. He noted that it's always necessary to be respectful of downstream landowners when raising lake levels. Henrichs spoke about the unsafe issues with the intersection. He wants to encourage the group to act soon before there is a serious accident. He noted that they feel raising the road is not going to solve anything. Larson reported via Webex that Stevens County is ready to progress on the project and there is a management plan ready to go. Jared House, TAC chair, also talked about how the Pomme de Terre has no regulatory authority or say in the end process. There's nothing for us to approve. We appreciate updates. Jeanne stressed how we need to move forward in a way that has the least impact on involved landowners.

PDTRA Employee Handbook Update

The Stevens SWCD office recently added Juneteenth to their calendar of paid holidays. The PDTRA employee handbook currently states that the PDTRA holiday schedule should follow that of the host entity. The TAC recommends the board approve this. Paul Barsness moved to approve the addition of June 19 (or the corresponding Friday/Monday if the 19th falls on a weekend) to the handbook holiday schedule, to follow the host entity schedule. Second by Kurt Mortenson. Passed with two opposed.

Approval of 2023 WBIF Budget

Micayla presented the budget the TAC has developed. There will be some ability to move funding around as needed. Jeanne Ennen moved to approve the 2023 WBIF Budget as presented. Second by Paul Barsness. Passed unanimously. Jared mentioned that the work plan and grant agreement will be slated for approval at the next meeting. Pete discussed the general process for applying for this ongoing funding.

Coordinator Report

91% of WRAPS grant was spent prior to the 6/30/2022 grant expiration. She reported on final expenses and why there was a small amount of funding that we were not able to spend.

The funding for the 2019 CWF grant has all been allocated and most has been spent.

There have been a few new projects encumbered within the 2019 Federal 319 Grant. There are still some funds left for outreach and staff/LGU time.

We have encumbered a small amount of project funding to the 2021 WBIF grant. LGUs have started to spend staff time against this grant.

She showed LGU funding available in each of the grants and project funds encumbered and spent by county.

She showed a report of expenses that are not paid directly out of grants. This report was requested at the last meeting.

She is finishing up the grant closeout for the WRAPS grant and submitting BWSR reports for grant funding used through 6/30/22.

The Soil Health kit supplies have been received and delivered to the SWCDs who ordered. Stevens is waiting for a backordered rainfall simulator.

She went to an outdoor educator's conference to learn more about presenting at outdoor educational events.

She's been attending county and SWCD meetings to update LGUs on the work of the Pomme de Terre. She has three counties left to attend.

Please let her know if you are interested in her attending their county fair. Otherwise she'll work to set up a booth with information at each event.

The TAC is planning to skip their October meeting since Micayla will be gone. The JPB may want to consider this as well unless there is pressing business.

TAC Report

Jared House reported for the TAC. Projects are ramping up across the watershed. Waiting for engineering can be an issue. Weather is also an issue and this year, it's also presenting us with additional potential projects. They have started using the comprehensive sub-watershed assessment that was recently completed.

Agency Reports

Pete Waller, BWSR, mentioned that the competitive round of funding is open until August 22. He reiterated the programs available for funding.

The next meeting will be held August 12, 2022 at 8:30 a.m. in the Morris Fire Hall.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:35 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanne Ennen, Secretary/Treasurer

Date