

Pomme de Terre River Association
JPB Meeting Minutes
Friday, March 14, 2025, 9:00 a.m.
Morris Fire Hall or via Teams

Chair Mahoney called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Present: Larry Mahoney, Jeanne Ennen, Jeff Way, Jeff Klages, Paul Groneberg, Alan Golden, Rod Wenstrom. Others present: Pete Waller, BWSR; Aaron Larsen, TAC Chair; Sophia Maruska, Watershed Coordinator; Chris Staebler, Stevens SWCD; Rick Lokken, Barrett Lake Association; Bruce Zierke, Stevens County landowner. Other present via Teams: Neil Haugerud, Mike Kelly, Alex Letvin, MN DNR; Erik Jones, Houston Engineering.

Introductions were made.

Mr. Lokken asked for a moment on the agenda. He spoke about the lake association, which has started functioning again. They have been working on stocking walleyes and working with DNR fisheries. There is a large population of rough fish on Barrett Lake and he asked the JPB for direction on how to deal with this problem. He has exhausted other sources looking for how to handle the problem and would like to know where to go for information and funding going forward.

Agenda was unanimously approved on a motion by Jeanne Ennen and second by Jeff Way.

Minutes from the January meeting were unanimously approved on a motion by Jeff Way and second by Paul Groneberg.

The Treasurer's Report was unanimously approved on a motion by Alan Golden and second by Jeanne Ennen.

Jeff Way moved to approve the Bills to Pay. Second by Alan Golden. Passed unanimously.

The audit firm now only provides six printed copies of the final audit, with additional copies available at \$15 each. Because of the high cost of additional printed copies, the board agreed that going forward, these printed copies will be forwarded to the Executive Committee members, fiscal agent and watershed coordinator. The full board will receive the final version via electronic copy.

Funding & Project Update

23WBIF

There is an error on the overall summary page but the project summary is correct. Funding has been moved on the summary sheet from PDTRA Admin to Stevens to pay for Sophia's time. There will be a work plan change to reflect the fact that Sophia is now an SWCD employee. The WOT structural ag project on the project budget summary was cancelled so the TAC will be deciding whether there are other projects that can use the funding or whether we need a grant extension. Pete is going through the final review of the reconciliation and request for the next 40% of the grant.

25WBIF

PDTRA budgeted amounts were moved to Stevens for this grant as well. Most funding has not been spent or allocated yet. FY23 funding will be spent first.

CRP Incentive Grants

We are waiting to see if a new Farm Bill is approved that will allow the approval of additional CRP contracts.

Crissy Dam recommendations

Work is progressing and design is almost done. Discrepancy with the stop logs has been resolved.

1W1P Midpoint Grant

Work plan in elink was approved. We should receive the first 50% of this in the near future. Houston Engineering completed a scope of work. Budget is \$42,900. The TAC would like to include a tool that automates the inclusion of progress goal numbers as calculated by the BEAST tool. HEI estimated that this would be an additional \$10,000. They will provide this information “one-time” as part of the midpoint assessment work, but the TAC would like the tool itself to be able to do this for other grants/projects going forward. Jeff Klages moved to approve the scope of work, with the addition of the \$10,000 for the assessment tool. Second? Passed unanimously.

Crissy Dam Recommendations/Next Steps

Public info meeting was held last Thursday with about 50 in attendance. Sophia created and distributed a FAQ sheet and had various displays available. She compiled information about similar projects. She has also included extensive information available on a new page on the PDTRA web site. Comments can be submitted through the form on the website. Major concerns voiced at the meeting were water level, maintenance of new green space created by a drop in water level. Option 1 includes a native planting in the new green space now which once established should eliminate this problem. Jeanne commented that she and another of the commissioners received calls assuming they were on the steering committee and as such will be part of the decision making party, which they are not. She just wanted to clarify this, noting she doesn't want to accept responsibility that isn't hers. Ultimately, the DNR has all decision-making power. The TAC and two county representatives have been attending steering committee meetings and are trying to keep the TAC and JPB updated.

Bruce Zierke asked to make a comment. He noted that citizens were not aware that this project was happening prior to a commissioner's comment and the public meeting. He noted that everyone agreed to take the dam out and replace it with rock rapids. But they would like to keep the water level up. If there is funding available, they would like to dredge and create a reservoir. Most want to preserve the recreational benefits of the open reservoir. He is concerned that the initial purpose of the dam was to create a recreational spot and the project design takes this out. He also feels the project design and approval will take more time than the DNR is currently estimating.

There will likely be two more information meetings. One this spring and one prior to the start of construction, which is slated for next year.

The DNR (Neil) commented via Teams that they provide the options in their order of preference, based on ecological impact, in order to start the conversation among the community. Erik also reiterated what he mentioned at the public information meeting, that they are certainly willing to

consider public input on what they want. Their initial design and the re-establishment of the river will help with movement of sediment downstream. If no additional green space is created now, that area will continue to deteriorate over time and become even worse than it is now.

Coordinator's Report

- Soil Health Meeting yesterday in Morris with 41 attendees. There was a panel of growers and updates from NRCS, SWCD, and MDA.
- She has been working on all the documentation for the Crissy Dam public information meeting and updates to the website related to that.
- Attended a PTMApp training.

TAC Report

No additions to what has already been discussed.

Agency Reports

Pete Waller, BWSR, did not have additions.

The DNR representatives did not have other updates aside from the Crissy Dam comments.

Closing

The next meeting will be held April 11, 2025 at 8:30 a.m. Mahoney is not able to attend. Vice Chair Groneberg may be able to preside.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanne Ennen, Secretary/Treasurer

Date