

**Minutes of Meeting
North Dakota Irrigation Association
Annual Member Meeting
Bismarck, N.D.
December 12, 2013**

Call to Order

Chairman Robert Vivatson called the meeting to order. A quorum was declared.

Introductions

All attendees introduced themselves.

Minutes of December 6, 2012 Member Meeting

Loren Dewitz moved to accept the minutes of the December 6, 2012 member meeting. Tom Scherer seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Nomination and Election of Directors

The following nominees were presented for the 2013 board of directors: Robert Vivatson, Carter VanderWal, Steve Knorr, Alan Butts, Norm Haak, Loren Dewitz, Herb Grenz, Roger Gunlikson, Rod Holth, Scott Mund, Doug Gullikson, Tom Rolfstad, and Mike Tweed. Chairman Vivatson asked for further nominations. Hearing none, Loren Dewitz moved to accept the list as presented and cast a unanimous ballot. Ken Kjos seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Report on 2013 Activities

NDIA Field Representative Jerry Schaack gave reports on marketing, funding and financing, projects/irrigation activities, research, power and energy, and communication. One highlight of 2013 is that the Water Appropriations Division now has a full staff, so that should help with the permit backlog.

Discussion of irrigation with water from the McClusky Canal (present and projected)

Kip Kovar, district engineer of the Garrison Diversion Conservancy District gave an update on the Mile Marker 7.5 Project, which uses water from the McClusky Canal. There are currently 28 pivots and next year there will be 30, as well as a pump station and booster station. The project uses project pumping power for much of the project. There was recently a survey sent out to producers along the canal and the responses showed a great deal of interest in irrigating from the canal.

Other Business

Three resolutions were presented to the members for approval. The first resolution was regarding the retention of floodwater, and stated that "the North Dakota Water Users Association encourages the State Water Commission, local water resource districts, and other involved groups include a beneficial use for the retained water in the studies that are being conducted for flood control and the retention of flood waters." Mike Ames moved to adopt the resolution. Loren Dewitz seconded the motion. Motion Carried.

The second resolution was regarding the Oakes irrigation Research Site. It stated, "The North Dakota Water Users Association go on record in support of raising \$1 million for a one-time renovation of this station and urges SBARE to place the highest priority on including funds for its personnel and operations in NDSU's 2015-2017 Biennial Budget. Loren Dewitz moved to adopt this resolution. Roger Gunlikson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The third resolution was regarding consolidation of the State Water Commission's technology system with the state's Information Technology Department. It stated, "The State Water Commission has the most functional water resource website in the nation. The data available on the site are the most complete for water resource management, and its evaluations are second to none. The consolidation of the SWC's IT component with the state's Information Technology Department will adversely affect the functionality of the agency's website, accessibility of the data on the site, and the public's ability to utilize the data set with a substantially higher cost.

Therefore, be it resolved that he North Dakota Water Users Association and North Dakota Irrigation Association urge the legislature and Office of the Governor to NOT consolidate the SWC's information technology system with the state's Information Technology Department." Loren Dewitz moved to adopt this resolution. Tom Scherer seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Loren Dewitz reported on an increased real estate tax on management practices that increase the value of the land, which would include irrigation and drain tile. While this issue was a county initiative that ended up failing, the NDIA should keep an eye on this, because other counties might also try to implement a similar tax.

Adjourn

Herb Grenz moved to adjourn. Loren Dewitz seconded it. Motion carried.

Michael Dwyer
Executive Director