**EAST RANGE WATER BOARD**

**Monthly Meeting Minutes**

**Wednesday, January 17, 2024 4:30 P.M.**

**City/Town Government Center**

***Appointed Board Members for City of Aurora:*** *Douglas Gregor, Chairman of the Board; David Skelton (via Zoom, non-voting); Dennis Schubbe;*

***Appointed Board Members for the Town of White:*** *Jon Skelton, Vice Chairman of the Board; Clark Niemi;*

***Absent Board Members: None***

***Others Present:*** *Lucas Heikkila (COA); Kimberly Berens (*COA);*Jodi Knaus (TOW); Robert Rutka (Resident), Richard Hess (COA Councilor); Mike Larson (SEH); Mia Thibodeau (Fryberger Law via Zoom); Jim Gentilini (COA)*

1. A board meeting was called to order by Chairman Gregor at 4:30 P.M.

2. Consent Agenda:

1. Approval of December 20, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes
2. Treasurer’s Report – Interim Financing: $189,939.07; Biwabik Fund: $72,132.56; Total: $262,071.63;
3. Approval of Disbursements:
   1. SEH - $2,058.00
4. Correspondence – None

**MOVED BY CLARK NIEMI, SUPPORTED BY JON SKELTON APPROVING THE CONSENT AGENDA AS PRESENTED. MOTION CARRIED**

1. Legal matters – Updates including but not limited to:
   1. Scenic Acres Land & Facility Title Clearance Status – Tabled until further notice.
   2. Creation of New Legal Entity Timeline & Guidance – Tabled until end of project.
2. Guests – None
3. Engineering Updates
   1. Funding Initiatives & Cumulative Accounting – Updates by Mike Larson & Doug Gregor
4. PFA Meeting was held on 12/29/23 – the ability to pay the loan needs to be demonstrated by Resolution; draft application was submitted and special appropriations application was also submitted; Thibodeau has concerns about the $12 million loan and urged the Board to wait until formal responses from the EPA and IRRR are received and to share these responses with Jeff at the PFA. She wants to be included in any correspondence relating to financing the Project.
5. Gregor, Heikkila, & David Skelton met with Representative Lislegard on 1/2/24 – Lislegard will meet with Senator Smith & Senator Klobuchar for the 569 funding.
6. Gregor & Heikkila met with IRRR Commissioner Rukavina & Whitney Ridlon on 1/5/24 to secure an additional $1 million in project funding; a Resolution would be needed in March.
7. Army Corps Section 569 Application is being submitted for the Project; the funding CAP could be increased to $10 million
8. Larson & Heikkila met and drafted an EPA application to be sent to the Army Corps
   1. Engineering Work – No updates were given by SEH
9. Awarding of bids status – discussion took place to either extend awarding or award on Feb. 1st; Heikkila will reach out to the contractors regarding an extension to 3/1/24.
10. Delegation Committee Meeting Updates
11. Design Updates – None discussed
12. Appropriations Permit – DNR Review Status – Pending
13. Federal Environmental Review Status – Notice has been published for 30 days and posted; still waiting for response from Felicia.
14. Project Certification
15. Contingency Agreement Status – No discussion
16. Project Permits – All good
17. Project Schedule – an updated timeline is needed
18. Community Outreach – informational ads will be published in the East Range Times
19. Other Business
    1. St. James Pit & current water plant updates – pumping will begin next week
20. Next Meeting Date: Wednesday, February 1, 2024 4:30 p.m.
21. Adjournment

**MOVED BY CLARK NIEMI, SUPPORTED BY DENNIS SCHUBBE TO ADJOURN AT 5:26 PM. MOTION CARRIED**