

# Little Missouri Scenic River Commission Meeting Minutes

September 10, 2019

Dickinson ND

Chair Schettler called the meeting to order at 2:10

Those in attendance were: Chair Joe Schettler, Secretary Melissa Baker, John Hanson, Pam Hestekin, Garland Erbele, David Crighton, David Glatt.

Chair asked those in the audience to sign in and offer their email for future meeting notices.

Chair called for approval of the agenda and entertained a motion to accept the agenda. It was suggested to flop items 4 and 5 in hopes the two remaining members of the commission would arrive.

***Motion to approve the agenda made by John Hanson. Second by Garland Erbele. Motion carried.***

Chair called for an approval of the August 6, 2018 Minutes. No changes were identified.

***Motion to approve the minutes as printed was made by David Glatt. Second by Pam Hestekin. Motion carried.***

An update on the water levels/flows in the basin to include Lake Sakakawea was made by Bryce, project hydrologist with the State Water Commission. A PowerPoint presentation is attached for the purposes of these minutes.

Garland Erbele indicated this year is shaping up to be the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest water level since the high water levels in 2011.

Chair Schettler asked if there is a website where anyone can locate those gauges/data shown or if this is something that the State Water Commission logs. At this time there is no way to monitor the water levels via a website. Reports are sent in to the State Water Commission for monitoring. They are looking to improve this process in the future to include that capability for all water gauges.

Chair Schettler asked if there is a start/stop date for the present gauges. Bryce indicated it is weather dependent when they are placed and retrieved.

John Hanson asked if there is data relative to qualitative analysis from the 1960s, 70s, 80s, 90s, etc. to compare to today's data. Historically there is a technician that does water sampling and this information should be available on the State Water Commission map service. David Glatt indicated the Health Department has that data and it is available on their website in addition to the biological history.

David Glatt asked if there has been any increase or withdrawals on the Little Missouri. Bryce indicated he does not believe there has been any increase of activity. Upstream there has not been an increase.

David Glatt asked if they have seen any long range weather anticipation for the winter. Bryce indicated there is a chance of above normal precipitation (3 months) based on climate prediction center information. He has not looked further than 3 months due to unpredictability of the weather.

Chair Schettler called for nominations for the position of Chair. John Hanson nominated Joe Schettler, Second by David Crighton. Chair called for any other nominations. There was no discussion. ***Joe Schettler was elected Chair by unanimous voice vote.***

Chair Schettler called for a nomination for the position of vice chair. Garland nominated David Creighton. Mr. Crighton declined. Garland Erbele nominated John Hanson who also declined. John Hanson nominated Pam Hestekin. Second by David Glatt. There was no discussion. ***Pam Hestekin was elected vice chair by unanimous voice vote.***

Future meeting date was set for September 1, 2020 at 2:00 pm MT unless an urgent matter arises needing the attention of the Commission. It was stated that any items needing immediate attention should be brought to the attention of Melissa Baker through her office at the ND Parks and Recreation Department.

Chair called for other business.

John Hanson asked for any update on the Highway 85 Bridge and the Billings County Bridge. Garland Erbele indicated David Crighton may have more information on these matters. David had indicated they are beginning to drill for pylons for the Highway 85 Bridge. There was no update on the Billings County Bridge.

John Hanson asked for update on the Wiley Bice Bridge. Update was given by Loren Wickstrom with the Bureau of Land Management. A right of way was granted for the existing structure and he will need to reclaim the holding ponds and some of the alfalfa fields on BLM lands. BLM retains administrative access through his land to get to the BLM lands. The public will need permission from Mr. Bice to access the BLM land.

***Motion was made by John Hanson asking Secretary Baker to provide a letter to the family of Gene Allen in recognition of his service to the Commission. Second by Melissa. No discussion. Motion carried.***

Chair Schettler called for Public Comments. None offered.

***Chair Schettler called for motion to adjourn. Motion by John Hanson. Second by David Crighton. Motion carried.***

Meeting adjourned at 2:47 pm.