

## **Morton County Park Board Meeting Agenda**

**May 26, 2015**

**Commission Room, Morton County Courthouse**

**210 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave NW, Mandan ND**

**4:00 PM**

Call to order

Roll Call

Approval of Agenda

Approval of minutes of previous meetings

Approve monthly bills & payroll – Graner

1. Fish Creek Leak
2. Park License
3. 1806 Sign
4. Little Heart Rip Rap Erosion
5. Graner Park Phase II
6. Park Updates

\*ISSUES MAY BE ADDED OR DELETED BY MEETING DAY

## MORTON COUNTY PARK BOARD MEETING

April 28, 2015

The Morton County Park Board Meeting was called to order on April 28, 2015, at 4:00 PM by Chairman Wetsch at the Morton County Courthouse, 210 Second Avenue NW, Mandan, North Dakota. Others present were Members Schulz, Griffin, Geiger, Goetzfried, Zachmeier, Graner, Auditor Rhone, and Park Director Nilsen.

Graner moved and Geiger seconded to approve the agenda. All voting aye, motion carried.

Goetzfried moved and Geiger seconded to approve the minutes of March 24, 2015. All voting aye, motion carried.

Zachmeier moved and Goetzfried seconded to approve bills and payroll. All voting aye, motion carried.

Goetzfried moved and Schulz seconded to purchase a new sign not to exceed \$400 to promote Ft Rice and Graner parks. All voting aye, motion carried.

Schulz moved and Geiger seconded to advertise for bids for the rip rap project at Graner Park pending the necessary permits. All voting aye, motion carried.

Goetzfried moved and Graner seconded to adjourn at 5:11 PM. All voting aye, motion carried.

## Notes for May 26 Park Board Meeting

**Fish Creek:** On April 30<sup>th</sup> Tony and I met with Erica Althoff and 4 other people from NRCS. Erica is the area engineer for NRCS. We met on the Dam at Fish Creek. NRCS believes the leak is in the low water draw down pipe between the shut off valve and the riser. This pipe is a 12" asbestos cement pipe, this complicates the situation. Morton County Parks is the primary partner along with ND Game & Fish and ND State Water Commission.

I had a conversation with Game & Fish (Paul Baily and Jerry Weigel) concerning our options. Their main concern is not to draw the lake down and harm the fishery. They would like to see the low water draw down pipe stay in the structure, either by placing a new pipe or fixing existing pipe. I feel they are open to options.

I visited with ND State Water Commission (Karen Goff and David Nyhus) about this same issue. Karen and I discussed different options on how we could determine what the actual problem is. Possibly use an underwater camera or building a coffer dam and pumping the water out to find the problem. David Nyhus was going to try and get some information to us before the next meeting. David stated that he would like to leave the pipe in the water to avoid issues with the asbestos.

This pipe was placed in the riser to draw the lake down in the fall for flood control. The dam was built in 1971 and the draw down pipe has not been used for flood control. One option would be just to plug the hole with concrete and not have a draw down pipe. This would be the cheapest fix but arguably not the most desired. Another option would be to replace or repair the existing pipe; this is complicated by the asbestos in the pipe. This option might not get the best results because of the design of the piping system. The third option would be to plug the existing hole, leave the pipe in the water and install a new draw down piping system. I think this is the option that will probably happen but only my thoughts.

Being the primary partner in this dam we have a major say as to what the fix will be. We will also have some dollars invested in the project. How much I do not know. ND State Water Commission and Game and Fish will also have dollars into the fix. ND State Water Commission has the expertise in this kind of project. The partner affected the most could be the G&F, if they were to lose a draw down pipe. I will keep everybody informed on any information I receive.

**Park License:** On May 4<sup>th</sup>, I took Julie Wagendorf on a tour of our three parks that have electrical service. She did the inspecting and I did the schmoozing. She looked at the pad layouts, the electrical systems, water systems and the certificates of the sewer systems. We patted her inspection with no issues what so ever. From now on we need to show the new designs for our campground expansions, no need to show where water hydrants and vault toilets are going. The uni sex toilets are not a problem, she was quite impressed with them. I was told we do not need a license to operate the parks, however we will be inspected every year but today I received the licenses for the three parks. Julie is a pleasant lady who I think knows how the public can treat these kinds of places; this will make the inspection process a lot less stressful. I have asked that she performs our inspections in the future.

**1806 sign:** We finally have the permission to place our sign on highway 1806 in the area we wanted. I have requested permission from the corp to put our original sign off the highway right of way leading into Graner Park. We will be placing the Fort Rice sign in the same manor at Fort rice Campground. These two signs will need the mileages browned out. I have been in touch with Allen Kopyy to have a contract written up.

Little Heart Rip-Rap Erosion: The Rip-Rap that protects the Little Heart Boat Ramp and Parking Lot has started to fail on the upstream end. I have spoken with Bob Frohlich about the matter; we will be monitoring this all summer and fall. Next season we will be making the fix. The way the fix will work is all permits, billing, and contracting will go through Morton County Parks and the G & F will reimburse us 75%. This is following our operations and maintenance agreements. I will have the numbers figured by budget time.

Graner Park Phase II: Our Phase II expansion is complete. The paper work for the final payment on the grant has been done and sent in to the North Dakota State Parks. We have some work that will need to be done on the new campground. We will need to landscape for better drainage, place a culvert under the road on the south side of the park, and do some filling. The fill material will come from the rip-rap project. The dump station will need two signs one on each end that simply state "Wait Here For Dump Station". All in all the expansion is a great improvement and success.

Park updates: All our parks and boat ramps are up and running. Our crew has been able to get every park mowed for the holiday weekend. The Trail system has been mowed and trimmed. Most of the cemeteries have been mowed and trimmed; Crown Butte Cemetery and Lohstretter Cemetery are the only ones that did not receive attention before this weekend. This upcoming week we will be planting all the replacement trees and new plantings system wide. The parks have been extremely busy so far this season. Graner Park has taken in \$9,423 Harmon Lake \$1,075 and Fort Rice \$306. Sweet Briar has been quite busy also. These figures do not include the Memorial Day weekend. With all campgrounds near capacity the numbers will jump. The no camping policy at Crown Butte and Danzig Dam on Tuesdays and Wednesdays has worked well. We have not had any issues with squatters so far this season.

108 in

24 in

4.536 in

6 in

**GRANER PARK REC AREA 12 MILES**

**FORT RICE REC AREA 24 MILES**