

Public Hearing Minutes
South Brown & Brown-Marshall Conservation District Merger
January 25, 2022
Northern State University Campus
Library Room #1117
1200 South Jay Street, Aberdeen, SD

Call to Order: Chairman Doug Hansen called to order the public hearing at 1:00 pm CT.

Chairman Hansen transferred the gavel over to Catherine Williamson with Hearing Examiners via Teleconference to lead the hearing.

Roll Call of Members:

Members Present in Person: Doug Hansen & Bruce Haines

Members Present via Conference Call:

Dean Odden, Mike Konechne, Gene Williams, Tom Glover, Doug Hansen, Dusty Rodiek, Charlie Moe

Members Absent:

Bill Coburn

Others present in person:

Kim Paxton (DANR), Alex Roeber (DANR), Brenda Sievers (DANR), Judy Skoglung (Brown-Marshall Conservation District), Lindsey Simon (South Brown Conservation District Manager), David Dutenhoffer (District Tech), Duane Schneider (South Dakota Association of Conservation Districts), Allen Ryckman (South Brown Conservation District), Robert Braun (James River Water Development District), Dave Bartel (James River Water Development District), Dana Dennert (Brown-Marshall Conservation District), Roy Mikkonen (Brown-Marshall Conservation District), Lynn Ruenz (Brown-Marshall Conservation District), Randy Wiedebush (South Brown Conservation District), Leo Thompson (South Brown Conservation District), and Laurie Rindels (NRCS)

Others present Via Teleconference:

Angela Ehlers (SDACD) , Catherine Williamson (South Dakota Office of Hearing Examiners), and Bill Smith (DANR)

Opening Statement: Alex Roeber (DANR) gave a statement regarding the purpose for today's hearing.

Proponent Testimony

Allen Ryckman (South Brown Conservation District) commented that the merger makes the Brown-Marshall and South Brown more efficient within in the conservation districts.

Dana Dennert (Brown-Marshall Conservation District)-staffing with the merger makes this more efficient.

Angela Ehlers (SDACD) – SDACD supports the merger and is available to help with any questions.

Duane Schneider and Angela Ehlers - both commented that the SDACD will provide assistance to the Districts in getting appropriate information out to the public prior to the election and encouraging people to vote in favor of the merger.

Opponent Testimony

No opposition testimony was presented.

Closing Comments/Questions

Allen Rykman (South Brown Conservation District) asked what happened if this goes to a public vote and they vote it out?

Alex Roeber The resolution would be killed. The process would then need to be restarted with the local districts passing a resolution or gain enough signatures on a petition supporting the merger.

Doug Hansen - conservation districts will need to lead the local effort of making the public aware and voice approval for the merger. DANR will be responsible for working with the Secretary of State Office to file the question on the ballot for the next general election.

Public hearing closed at 1:15 PM CT.

DRAFT