Minutes of Meeting
Souris River Joint Water Resource Board
Thursday, September 3, 2026

A regular meeting of the board of directors of the Souris River Joint Water Resource District was called to order by Chairman David Ashley at 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, September 3, 2026, after announcing that a quorum was present. The meeting was held in Room 203 of the Minot Auditorium. The Joint Board members in attendance included Jason Sorenson, Tom Klein, Dan Steinberger and Clif Issendorf.

The Joint Board discussed the proposed Agenda for the meeting. Ryan Ackerman indicated there are three additional bills to be added under Item 7-A of the Agenda.

> **Tom Klein made a motion to approve the amended Agenda. Jason Sorenson seconded the motion. The motion passed without opposition.**

The draft minutes of the Souris River Joint Board's regular meeting of August 6, 2026 were discussed.

> **Dan Steinberger made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 6, 2026 regular meeting (with one change to add Tom Klein in attendance). Jason Sorenson seconded the motion. The motion passed without opposition.**

Ryan Ackerman of Ackerman-Estvold presented the Balance Sheet and Budget Report produced as of the end of April, copies of which were included in the September Joint Board Packet.

> **Jason Sorenson moved to approve the Budget Report. Dan Steinberger seconded the motion. A roll call vote was cast. The motion passed without opposition.**

The Joint Board next discussed the Joint Funding Agreement – USGS Gaging Station. Ryan Ackerman advised that the September Board Packet contains the U.S. Department of the Interior's standard joint-funding agreement for the Dakota Water Science Center Water Resources Investigations project for the Souris River at Broadway Bridge at Minot River Gage (05117600). The gage will be maintained by the USGS but payment is to come from local interests to cover the costs associated with the service. The annual cost of the gage to be paid by the SRJB is $7,660.

> **Tom Klein moved to approve the funding agreement and authorize the Chairman to sign on behalf of the SRJB. Clif Issendorf seconded the motion. A roll call vote was cast. The motion passed without opposition.**

The Joint Board next considered numerous contract agreements.

On Phase RC-2 (Mouse River Park Levee), Barr Engineering is proposing Task Order No. 21 related to the design and permitting services for the MREFPP Phase RC-2 (Mouse River Park Levee) project which includes a levee system, pump station, and two river closures. This task order provides scope of services, anticipated budget, project schedule, and USACE coordination. Full details are contained in the September Joint Board Packet.

> **Jason Sorenson moved to approve Task Order No. 21 with Barr Engineering with a total amount not to exceed $3,173,800 and authorize the chairman to sign the agreement on behalf of the**

SRJB. Dan Steinberger seconded the motion. A roll call vote was cast. The motion passed without opposition.

On Phase WC-3 (Kings Court Levee), Barr Engineering is proposing Task Order No. 23 related to the design and permitting services for the MREFPP Phase WC-3 (Kings Court Levee) project which includes addressing levee deficiencies. This task order provides scope of services, anticipated budget, and project schedule. Full details are in the September Joint Board Packet.

Tom Klein moved to approve Task Order No. 23 with Barr Engineering in the amount not to exceed $1,268,500 and authorize the chairman to sign the agreement on behalf of the SRJB. Jason Sorenson seconded the motion. A roll call vote was cast. The motion passed without opposition.

On Phase VE-2 (Velva Levee), Barr Engineering is proposing Task Order No. 25 related to the design and permitting services for the MREFPP Phase VE-2 (Velva Levee) project which includes addressing levee deficiencies. This task order provides scope of services, anticipated budget, and project schedule. Full details are contained in the September Joint Board Packet.

Jason Sorenson moved to approve Task Order No. 25 with Barr Engineering in the amount not to exceed $4,925,000 and authorize the chairman to sign the agreement on behalf of the SRJB. Dan Steinberger seconded the motion. A roll call vote was cast. The motion passed without opposition.

On Phase SA-2 (Sawyer Levee), Houston Engineering is proposing Task Order No. 27 related to the design and related services for the MREFPP Phase SA-2 (Sawyer Levee) project. This task order provides scope of services, anticipated budget and schedule. Full details are contained in the September Joint Board Packet.

Tom Klein moved to approve Task Order No. 27 with Houston Engineering in the amount not to exceed $6,587,000 and authorize the chairman to sign the agreement on behalf of the SRJB. Dan Steinberger seconded the motion. A roll call vote was cast. The motion passed without opposition.

The Joint Board reviewed and discussed various bills set forth in the September Board Packet totaling $6,763,044.50. Chairman Ashley indicated Verizon has been taken care of. Chairman Ashley opened it up for questions from the Joint Board on each bill being considered for approval.

Jason Sorenson moved to approve the payment of bills totaling $6,763,044.50. Dan Steinberger seconded the motion. A roll call vote was cast. The motion passed without opposition.

The Joint Board next considered additional bill approval, including Industrial Builders, Inc. ($405,708.20), Ward Title ($1,504.52), and Ruth Black ($324.94). Ryan Ackerman explained each of these bills for which board approval was requested.

Tom Klein moved to approve the payment of the additional bills totaling $407,537.66. Dan Steinberger seconded the motion. A roll call vote was cast. The motion passed without opposition.

Jerry Bents of Houston Engineering updated on Phase MI-4. A Project Status Report is contained in the September Board Packet. Jerry Bents indicated the 95% submittal was submitted to USACE last night and review will be now conducted by multiple levels of review.

Jerry Bents of Houston Engineering updated on Phase MI-5. A Project Status Report from Houston Engineering is contained in the September Board Packet. Jerry Bents advised final warranty and punch list items are being worked through. Final completion date on the project is October 9, 2026.

Jerry Bents of Houston Engineering updated the Joint Board on Phase MI-6. A Project Status Report from Houston Engineering is contained in the September Board Packet. Jerry Bents showed a drone video to update the Joint Board.

Jerry Bents of Houston Engineering provided an update to the Joint Board on Phase MI-8/MI-9. A Project Status Report from Houston Engineering is contained in the September Board Packet. Jerry Bents indicated there has not been any advancement on this phase in the past month.

Jerry Bents of Houston Engineering provided an update to the Joint Board on Phase WC-5 (Apple Grove), WC-6 (Chapparelle) and WC-7 (Eastside Estates). Jerry Bents indicated all three phases are undergoing background data research (geotechnical review, boring, survey, locating utilities, etc.). An Update Memo on these three phases is included in the September Joint Board Packet.

Jason Westbrock of Barr Engineering updated the Joint Board regarding Phase MI-7. A Project Status Report is contained in the September Board Packet. Jason Westbrock showed a drone video to update the Joint Board on this phase.

Jason Westbrock provided an update to the Joint Board regarding WC-1. The Project Status Report is contained in the September Board Packet. Jason Westbrock indicated he has been working with Jack Dwyer of Dwyer Law Office to firm up an agreement with CPKC for the crossing, specifically a land license versus an easement. CPKC has indicated they would rather move forward with a license and Dwyer Law is working on getting this drafted.

Jason Westbrock provided the Joint Board with an update regarding WC-2 (Books Robinwood). The Project Status Report is contained in the September Board Packet. Jason Westbrock indicated some geotechnical investigations are ongoing with this phase.

Jason Westbrock provided the Joint Board with an update on WC-4. An Update Memo was included in the September Joint Board Packet. Jason Westbrock indicated a grading plan is put together and next steps involve getting in touch with adjacent landowners and Ward County to get feedback before finalizing a plan.

Jason Westbrock provided the Joint Board with the PER Update. A PER Update Memo was included in the September Joint Board Packet. Jason Westbrock indicated the main thing happening under this contract is a relook on the 27th Street Diversion and information will be forthcoming.

Ryan Ackerman provided the Joint Board with a Rural Program Update. An update memo summarizing the updates is contained within the September Joint Board Packet. Ryan Ackerman the activities ongoing now include landowner coordination permitting through DWR (hoping to have the packages ready to roll out this Fall for bidding).

Luke Rogers of HDR Engineering provided an update regarding Rural Bridges. A Project Status Report is contained in the September Board Packet. On Velva, Luke Rogers provided a drone flight to the Joint Board. On Mouse River Park, Steve Eberle of Ackerman-Estvold Construction Management showed a drone video to the Joint Board. Dan Steinberger indicated a concerned citizen questioned how long the road is going to be closed. Steve Eberle said the projection right now is another three weeks.

The Joint Board took note of future meetings and events as set forth in the September Board Packet. The next meeting of the Joint Board is Thursday, October 1, 2026.

In Personal Appearances, Chairman Ashley invited any personal appearances to speak to the board. Billi Gunderson appeared to express concerns about blocked walking paths.

In Other Business, Dan Steinberger questioned whether a course of action needs to be discussed relative to an email from Pearce County on flooding. Ryan Ackerman indicated he reached out to Representative Nelson regarding recovery resources and left a voicemail directing him to follow up with Department of Emergency Services and the Governor's office to request a Presidential Disaster Declaration to unlock federal funding and Governor Armstrong announced recently that he was able to do that.

There being no further business to discuss, Chairman David Ashley entertained a motion to adjourn.

> **Tom Klein made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Jason Sorenson seconded the motion. The motion passed without opposition.**

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Jack Dwyer
Legal Counsel