

**Minutes of Meeting
Souris River Joint Water Resource Board
Thursday, January 2, 2025**

A 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, January 2, 2025, after announcing that a quorum was present. The meeting was held in Room 203 of the Minot Auditorium. Joint Board members in attendance were Tom Klein, Clif Issendorf, Jason Sorenson and Dan Steinberger.

The Joint Board discussed the proposed Agenda for the meeting. Under Other Business, Chairman Ashley added IJC Appointment Support -Lance Yohe and RFP for Banking Service were added.

Dan Steinberger made a motion to approve the amended agenda for the meeting. Jason Sorenson seconded the motion. The motion passed without opposition.

The draft minutes of the December 12, 2024 and December 30, 2024 special meetings were discussed.

Dan Steinberger made a motion to approve the minutes from the special meetings of December 12, 2024, and December 30, 2024. Jason Sorenson seconded the motion. The motion passed without opposition.

Ryan Ackerman presented the Balance Sheet and Budget Report and the Joint Board reviewed the Budget Report included in the January Board Packet. Ryan Ackerman explained the Budget Report.

Clif Issendorf 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. The Joint Board packet contained a copy of the U.S. Department of the Interior’s standard joint-funding agreement for the Dakota Water Science Water Resources Investigations project for the Souris River at Broadway Bridge at Minot River Gage (05117600). The gate 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. This funding arrangement was previously approved by the SRJB prior to the replacement of the gage during the reconstruction of the Broadway bridge. Previously, the cost of the service was split 50/50 between the Souris River Joint Board and the Ward County Water Resource District.

Jason Sorenson moved to approve the funding agreement and authorize the Chairman to sign on behalf of the SRJB and direct the administrator to pursue a 50% cost share for this service from the Ward County Water Resources District. 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 January Board Packet totaling \$2,934,751.10. Chairman Ashley opened it up for questions from the Board on each bill being considered for approval and advised the \$240.30 Verizon bill has been paid per normal process. On the City of Velva, Dan Steinberger asked about whether the change order is a SRJB issue or a City of Velva issue (on Page 176 of the Board Packet). Ryan Ackerman advised the change order relates to elevations of existing sanitary sewer were different compared to the design, so they had to perform work to match elevations

and grades to what they had to connect to underground. Ryan Ackerman explained it is a cost associated with moving a lift station out of the way of the levy, not addressing a separate problem.

Clif Issendorf moved to approve payment of bills totaling \$2,934,751.10. Tom Klein seconded the motion. A roll call vote was cast. The motion passed without opposition.

Jerry Bents of Houston Engineering updated the Joint Board on Phase MI-1. A Project Status Report from Houston Engineering is contained in the January Board Packet. Jerry Bents advised a pay application to Park Construction was approved by the Board. Another may be presented at the February meeting as MI-1 closeout continues to wrap up with Park Construction.

Jerry Bents updated on Phase MI-4 (Maple Diversion). A Project Status Report from Houston Engineering is contained in the January Board Packet. Jerry Bents indicated there is not a lot of activity since the last meeting. Jerry Bents indicated work is ongoing with design components related to submissions looking to do with CPKC on the bridge and finalizing of channel slopes and access roads within the channel itself to address concerns brought forth from BNSF. The goal is to have 60% design by July.

Jerry Bents updated on Phase MI-5. A Project Status Report from Houston Engineering is contained in the January Board Packet. Jerry Bents indicated work in this phase is focused on the pump station as shown on the drone video at the December meeting.

Jerry Bents updated the Joint Board on Phase MI-6. A Project Status Report from Houston Engineering is contained in the January Board Packet. Jerry Bents indicated construction is on hold for winter suspension. The pre-consolidation piles are in place and the temporary access that would allow people to get into the pool and park is in place.

The Joint Board reviewed a Brick & Mortar Memorandum of Agreement and Jerry Bents provided an explanation to the Joint Board, explaining property owners are granting access in exchange for taking care of any damage caused by additional traffic. Specifics of the agreement were reviewed and the agreement was contained in the Joint Board Packet, relating to a temporary construction easement for Cenex Third Addition Lot 2. The SRJB will be responsible for all purchase, construction and restoration related costs of work required for the temporary access as indicated in the agreement.

Tom Klein moved to approve the Brick & Mortar Memorandum of Agreement and authorize the Chairman to sign on behalf of the SRJB. Jason Sorenson seconded the motion. A roll call vote was cast. The motion passed without opposition.

Jerry Bents updated the Joint Board on Phase MI-8/MI-9. Jerry Bents advised that this phase is under design. A Project Status Report from Houston Engineering is contained in the January Board Packet. This phase involves relocation of the Burdick Expressway and reconstruction of the Burdick Expressway Bridge, which is on a roadway that is under the jurisdiction of the NDDOT. Work with the NDDOT has been underway to allow the SRJB to perform improvements. The Engineering, Construction and Maintenance Services Agreement for the bridge replacement and roadway realignment project is contained in the Joint Board Packet.

Jason Sorenson moved to approve the Engineering, Construction and Maintenance Services Agreement and authorize the Chairman to sign on behalf of the SRJB. Tom Klein seconded the motion. A roll call vote was cast. The motion passed without opposition.

Ryan Ackerman provided an update to the Joint Board regarding Phase MI-7 (Roosevelt Park and Zoo). A Project Status Report is contained in the January Board Packet. Not much construction is underway. Wagner Construction does intend to place rip rap along the riverbank over the winter months. Some preparatory work has begun but rock hauling has not started yet. Ryan Ackerman indicated it is expected that heavy civil work will begin in January. Several building contracts are underway but waiting for warmer temperatures.

Ryan Ackerman provided an update to the Joint Board regarding WC-1. The Project Status Report is contained in the January Board Packet. Ryan Ackerman indicated some signage is being procured to limit the amount of ATV traffic on the levies. Feedback from CPKC Rail is awaited, as their concurrence is needed on raising the tracks at the levee crossing. Phase WC-1 levee is fully constructed with the exception of that closure at the levee crossing of the railroad tracks.

For a PER Update, Ryan Ackerman indicated work is wrapping up on preliminary design and estimates for the various segments. The intent is to schedule a workshop with the Joint Board to go through recommendations and get input on a system-by-system basis sometime in January.

Ryan Ackerman provided the SRJB with a Rural Program Update. An Update Memo on the Farm Trapped Water Program is contained in the January Joint Board Packet. Ryan Ackerman indicated that a meeting with several staff members of the Department of Natural Resources was held earlier this week. The purpose of the meeting was to review overall program history and go through previous authorizations where the State Water Commission has approved funding related to this request.

The Joint Board next considered City of Velva in-kind tree replacement. The City of Velva is asking the SRJB for an in-kind tree replacement for the trees that were removed for the MREFPP Phase VE-1 Velva Bridge Project. The City has received a quote from TC Nursery for the purchase and planting of 68 pine trees to replace the 1 to 1 ration of the trees that were removed. The cost for delivery is \$150 per tree and the cost for planting is \$75 per tree. Details are contained in the January Joint Board Packet.

Jason Sorenson moved to approve the City of Velva in-kind replacement project in the amount of \$15,300.00. Tom Klein seconded the motion. A roll call vote was cast. The motion passed without opposition.

Dennis Reep of HDR Engineering provided an update regarding Rural Bridges. A Project Status Report is contained in the January Board Packet. Dennis Reep indicated that Luke Rogers will be the new representative of HDR Engineering. Sawyer Bridge is done. Velva Bridge had a bid opening on December 6, 2024 and no bids were received, so options are being reviewed and discussed. Dennis Reep indicated authorization from the Joint Board is being sought to re-bid Velva.

Tom Klein moved to allow the Chairman to open bidding approval for bridges based on timing of permitting approvals for the Velva Bridge. Dan Steinberger seconded the motion. A roll call vote was cast. The motion passed without opposition.

The Joint Board next heard from Jack Dwyer of Dwyer Law Office regarding the Mouse River Park Bridge Project. Jack Dwyer indicated the ACM project delivery method is being used to get better contractor attention. Per North Dakota statutes, the SRJB formed a Selection Committee who developed the RFQ.

The RFQ was publicly advertised and only Ackerman Estvold Construction Management (AECM). Its submission was responsive to the RFQ. The Selection Committee met and adopted a written report in accordance with the statutory process. The ACM Selection Committee interviewed AECM and adopted a written recommendation which is contained in the Joint Board Packet.

Dan Steinberger moved to accept the recommendation to proceed with Ackerman Estvold Construction Management as ACM. Jason Sorenson seconded the motion. A roll call vote was cast. The motion passed without opposition.

Jack Dwyer indicated the next step will be to contact the ACM and negotiate a contract with them that will come back to the Joint Board for approval.

Christopher Korkowski presented an Eaton Irrigation Update to the Joint Board. An update is contained in the January Board Packet. Christopher Korkowski indicated the findings of the dam inspection were discussed at the December meeting. Following that meeting, HDR completed a comprehensive hydraulic evaluation of the Eaton Irrigation District to determine any suitable alternatives that could reduce flooding in the rural reach of the Mouse River near the district. The memo is contained in the January Board Packet. Christopher Korkowski sought approval to send the inspection memo to the Eaton Irrigation District to inform them of the deficiencies discovered on the dam.

Tom Klein moved to send the inspection memo to the Eaton Irrigation District to inform them of the deficiencies discovered on the dam. Jason Sorenson seconded the motion. A roll call vote was cast. The motion passed without opposition.

The Joint Board took note of future meetings and events as set forth in the January Board Packet. The next meeting of the Joint Board is a regular meeting, scheduled for February 6, 2025 at 4:00 p.m. in Room 203 of the Minot Auditorium. Ryan Ackerman indicated the legislative session kicks off next week, so there will be opportunities for engagement and more communication will follow.

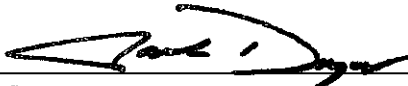
In Other Business, the Joint Board considered Appointment Support for Lance Yohe, a US Commissioner at International Joint Commission (IJC). Chairman Ashley commended the quick response time he has experienced with Lance Yohe.

Tom Klein moved to send a Lance Yohe support letter to our local Senators. Dan Steinberger seconded the motion. A roll call vote was cast. The motion passed without opposition.

Also in Other Business, the Joint Board discussed a potential Request for Proposal for Banking Services. Chairman Ashley advised a RFP should be undertaken to determine if any adjustments should be made to the current banking institution. More information will follow at the next SRJB meeting.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned.

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



Jack Dwyer
Legal Counsel