

**Minutes of Meeting
Souris River Joint Water Resource Board
Thursday, November 6, 2025**

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, November 6, 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 Jason Sorenson, Tom Klein, Clif Issendorf and Dan Steinberger.

The Joint Board discussed the proposed Agenda for the meeting. Ryan Ackerman added the MI-7G Award of Bids and MI-7H Award of Bids under line items 10b and 10c.

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

The draft minutes of the Souris River Joint Board's regular meeting of Thursday, October 2, 2025 were discussed.

Dan Steinberger made a motion to approve the minutes from the October 2, 2025 regular meeting. 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 November Board Packet. Ryan Ackerman explained the Budget Report.

Dan Sorenson moved to approve the Budget Report. Clif Issendorf 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 November Board Packet totaling \$8,788,678.35. Chairman Ashley opened it up for questions from the Joint Board on each bill being considered for approval and advised that the Verizon bill has been approved and paid by usual process.

Jason Sorenson moved to approve the payment of bills totaling \$8,788,678.35. Tom Klein seconded the motion. A roll call vote was cast. The motion passed without opposition.

Jerry Bents updated on Phase MI-4. A Project Status Report from Houston Engineering is contained in the November Board Packet. Jerry Bents indicated the work is ongoing to get from 60% to 90% submittals. Because federal dollars are involved, USACE submits comments. Those comments were received last week. Comments are also coming from the railroads and responses are being produced. Current target for 95% is April of 2026.

Jerry Bents updated on Phase MI-5. A Project Status Report from Houston Engineering is contained in the November Board Packet. Jerry Bents advised this phase reached substantial completion and the final completion date is November 18, 2025. In large, the project should be fully completed by December.

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

Next, Ryan Ackerman discussed a proposal from Duane Brekke regarding a proposal to convert an elevator to housing. The Joint Board is the likely owner of this in the future because the land under the structure is owned by BNSF. The SRJB is negotiating with BNSF and has signed (expired) agreement with GBOGH (a frac sand company) for purchase of the building for \$75,000. Mr. Brekke's proposal would require approval/coordination from the SRJB as the entity purchasing the property from BNSF, the SRJB would need to sell a portion of the property to Mr. Brekke after reserving easements necessary for flood control. Further, BNSF approval coordination would be required as current contract language prohibits the use of the BNSF's property for any residential use for a period of 99 years after the date of sale. The City of Minot would also need to approve due to acquisition funding and planning, zoning and building permit. Finally, ND Department of Water Resources approval/coordination would be required due to acquisition funding and deed restrictions.

Jerry Bents provided an update to the Joint Board on Phase MI-8/MI-9. A Project Status Report from Houston Engineering is contained in the November Board Packet. Jerry Bents indicated that work is ongoing with owners of properties south of Eighth Avenue regarding protection alternatives. The best approach was determined to be entering into an agreement that allows the City of Minot to build an emergency levee on the northwest side of the property in times of emergency.

Jason Westbrook of Barr Engineering updated the Joint Board regarding Phase MI-7. A Project Status Report is contained in the November Board Packet. Jason Westbrook showed a drone video to update the Joint Board on this phase. The flood wall construction is expected to be completed in December.

The Joint Board next considered the Minot Park District dump trailer. Part of the MI-7E project removed the zoo's access across the pedestrian bridge to the north side exhibits. This path was used to transport animal waste to a stockpile at Minot Park's Horticultural Department. The waste stockpile would then be occasionally hauled to a designated area at the landfill. Zoo staff utilize UTVs to move waste. The smaller vehicles are easier to maneuver through the zoo and in exhibits. With the bridge closed for several weeks now, zoo staff has been traveling along Burdick, 14th Street SE and 15th Street SE which requires several trips per day. The smaller UTVs pose a safety risk on the busier roads. Minot Parks is requesting SRJB assistance to purchase a small dump trailer that can be pulled by either a UTV or a vehicle that would allow zoo staff to manage through the tighter spaces in the zoo as well as the busier roadways. A current trailer they are looking to purchase is roughly \$3,600.00. A table in the Joint Board Packet shows what the prices would be if a trailer was rented instead of purchased. Cliff Issendorf questioned whether there is dump feature and Ryan Ackerman indicated that there is a dump feature.

Cliff Issendorf moved to approve purchase of the dump trailer for the Minot Park District. Jason Sorenson seconded the motion. A roll call vote was cast. The motion passed without opposition.

The Joint Board next considered the MI-7G Award of Bids. A bid opening was held on Tuesday, November 4, 2025 for the MREFPP Phase MI-7G. Three bids were received for the single prime bid alternative. There was no separate prime electrical construction submittal and therefore only the single prime bids were evaluated for recommendation. The lowest responsible bid was submitted by Rolac Contracting, Inc. in the amount of \$3,693,000. Bid tabs are contained in the SRJB Board Packet.

Tom Klein moved to accept the low bid of Rolac Contracting, Inc. in the amount of \$3,693,000.00 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.

The Joint Board next considered the MI-7H Award of Bids. A bid opening was held on Tuesday, November 4, 2025 for the MREFPP Phase MI-7H NAE Demolition. Five bids were received with the lowest responsible bid submitted by DL Barkie Construction, Inc. in the amount of \$318,575.00. Bid tabs were provided in the SRJB Board Packet.

Jason Sorenson moved to accept the low bid of DL Barkie Construction, Inc. in the amount of \$318,575.00 and authorize the chairman to sign the agreements on behalf of the SRJB. Dan Steinberger seconded the motion. A roll call vote was cast. Tom Klein abstained from the vote. The motion passed without opposition.

Jason Westbrook provided an update to the Joint Board regarding WC-1. The Project Status Report is contained in the November Board Packet. Jason Westbrook indicated an agreement on the construction and maintenance side is getting close.

On the PER update, Jason Westbrook indicated another dialogue with the full board will be needed. Chairman Ashley suggested a special meeting (preferably in-person) around December 4, 2025. The Joint Board will tentatively plan on that date for a special meeting, as regular topics will take place at the annual water convention on December 11, 2025.

Ryan Ackerman provided the SRJB with a Rural Program Update. A PER Update Memo is contained within the November Joint Board Packet. Ryan Ackerman indicated a meeting was held with McHenry County on October 30, 2025 and they are proceeding with coordination with their NRCS contacts for compliance review. A follow-up with Clif Issendorf took place regarding proposed plans for Wendell Hall's property and as a result there is a request to review the operation of Dam 341 on J. Clark and how it would impact Mr. Hall's property. Contacts were made with John Takala with Fish and Wildlife Services regarding Dams 342 and 341. Coordination with additional landowners is also ongoing. The plan is to bring the plan to execution mode at the special meeting.

Dennis Reep of HDR Engineering provided an update regarding Rural Bridges. A Project Status Report is contained in the November Board Packet. On Velva, permits from the state were received October 21, 2025 and a notice to proceed was issued to IBI effective Tuesday. A construction schedule from IBI will be forthcoming and substantial completion is expected for November of 2027.

On Mouse River Park, Steven Eberle provided an update to the Joint Board on work completed over the past month on the Mouse River Park Bridge and showed a drone video of the progress. An Update Memo Rural Bridges is contained in the November Joint Board Packet.

The Joint Board took note of future meetings and events as set forth in the November Board Packet. The next (special) meeting of the Joint Board is scheduled to commence on December 11, 2025 at 12:00 p.m. in Bismarck, North Dakota as part of the 62nd annual Joint North Dakota Water Convention and Irrigation Workshop and Upper Missouri Water Association Conference.

In Personal Appearances, Chairman Ashley invited any personal appearances. Billi Gunderson appeared before the Joint Board as a public appearance participant. Ms. Gunderson expressed her concerns about safety and accessibility and ADA accommodations.

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

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

Jack Dwyer
Legal Counsel