

**Minutes of Meeting
Souris River Joint Water Resource Board
Thursday, February 5, 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, February 5, 2026, 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, Dan Steinberger and Cliff Issendorf (late join).

The Joint Board discussed the proposed Agenda for the meeting. Ryan Ackerman added Item 11(c), Award of Bid for Phase MI-7j.

Dan Steinberger 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 January 8, 2026 were discussed.

Jason Sorenson made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 8, 2026 regular meeting. Dan Steinberger seconded the motion. The motion passed without opposition.

Ryan Ackerman presented the Balance Sheet and Budget Report (through December 31, 2025), a copy of which was included in the February Joint Board Packet. Ryan Ackerman explained the Budget Report and Balance Sheet.

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

The Joint Board next considered an engineering contract amendment presented by Ryan Ackerman. Barr Engineering is proposing an amendment to Task Order No. 19 (MREFPP PER Update Project). This contract amendment accounts for additional work associated with the PER Update and ongoing hydraulic modeling. The full scope and details are contained in the February Joint Board Packet.

Dan Steinberger moved to approve Amendment 2 to Task Order No. 19 in the amount of \$250,000.00 and authorize the chairman to sign the agreement on behalf of the SRJB. Tom Klein 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 February Board Packet totaling \$1,804,292.59. 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 \$1,804,292.59. Tom Klein 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 February Board Packet. A Project Status Report from Houston Engineering is contained in the February Board Packet. Jerry Bents indicated the designs team are working toward 90% and the goal for submittal is late July. Jerry Bents indicated work is ongoing regarding negotiations for the property in the downtown area from BNSF.

Jerry Bents of Houston Engineering updated on Phase MI-5. A Project Status Report from Houston Engineering is contained in the February Board Packet. The contractor has decided to start doing the work under Seventh Street and that is anticipated to be completed in the next three weeks. The other milestone that remains is concrete issues with the scaling concrete and funds are being retained for that work until a satisfactory resolution to that issue is reached. Dan Steinberger asked if there is any advanced initiative that should be taken with regard the concrete. Jerry Bents indicated Braun Intertec, a specialty concrete company, to conduct an analysis to identify what has led to the issue.

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

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 February Board Packet. Jerry Bents indicated that the design is at 90% complete, so the report for that is complete and ready to go to USACE and IPR for review.

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

The Joint Board next considered an MI-7D Change Order and Certificates of Substantial Completion. Mattson Construction is proposing Change Order No. 7 for additional contract time as a result of increased project scope and unforeseen coordination. Several additional items include: backfill requirements, utility work, electrical service, and interior additions to both the Discovery Barn and Concession Stand. The change order also sets a completion date for the camel exhibit, which previously did not have a completion date and that is why the proposed change order is for 349 days added to the contract time. The Discovery Barn and Concession Stand were considered substantially complete on October 10, 2025. Full details of the change order are contained in the February Joint Board Packet.

Jason Sorenson moved to approve Change Order No. 7 for the change in contract time and the certificates of substantial completion and authorize the chairman to sign the agreements on behalf of the SRJB. Tom Klein seconded the motion. A roll call vote was cast. The motion passed without opposition.

The Joint Board next discussed authorization to bid Phase MI-7I, which is ready for bidding. The engineer's estimate and advertisement for bids are contained in the February Joint Board Packet.

Dan Steinberger moved to authorize the advertisement of bids for Phase MI-7I. Jason Sorenson seconded the motion. A roll call vote was cast. The motion passed without opposition.

The Joint board also considered an award of Bid for Phase MI-7J – Roosevelt Zoon Exhibits, including Giraffe Boardwalk and PTZ Restroom. Two bids were received and the information on bids submitted are contained in the February Joint Board Packet, with Rolac Contracting Inc. being the low bidder, with a bid of \$1,327,500 on general construction and \$310,600 for Bid Alternate 1 (adds a constructed canopy over the top of the board walk, which is not an eligible flood control expense).

Tom Klein moved to award the bid for Phase MI-7J to Rolac Contracting Inc. for the base bid \$1,327,500, with an understanding that Alternate 1 can be added if the Minot Park District is able to secure funding for that. Dan Steinberger seconded the motion. A roll call vote was cast. 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 February Board Packet. Jason Westbrook indicated that a Schedule B contract attachment to the closure agreement was received. Jack Dwyer of Dwyer Law Office has reviewed and provided comment and it will now be sent back to CP for consideration.

On the PER update, Jason Westbrook introduced a plan. Barr Engineering has substantially completed its work on the update to the Preliminary Engineering Reports. Comments from two SRJB workshops have been incorporated. The final document is contained in the February Joint Board Packet.

Jason Sorenson moved to adopt the PER Update. Dan Steinberger seconded the motion. A roll call vote was cast. The motion passed without opposition.

Ryan Ackerman provided the SRJB with a Rural Program Update. A memo summarizing the current work being completed by the Ackerman-Estvold Team and a floodplain management letter are contained within the February Joint Board Packet. Ryan Ackerman walked the Joint Board through details of the draft letter to local government partners and suggested that the SRJB offer the service for an initial one-year period after which the SRJB would be able to assess costs and determine if a request for cost share from local government partners would be warranted. Dan Steinberger questioned who the letter would be sent to. Ryan Ackerman indicated it would be sent to all persons listed as flood plain managers in their associated jurisdictions (but some may not have someone identified), so it also may need to be sent to all four county auditors, townships and all of the cities. Clif Issendorf asked whether the J. Clark Salyer Refuge is on the list. Ryan Ackerman indicated no, as they are not a flood plain management organization in the context of the national flood insurance program. Clif Issendorf concurred.

Luke Rogers of HDR Engineering provided an update regarding Rural Bridges. A Project Status Report is contained in the February Board Packet. On Velva, Luke Rogers indicated the contract indicated they will have their pre-construction later this month and will start with tree removal soon. The construction schedule is expected next week.

On Mouse River Park, Steven Eberle provided an update to the Joint Board on the Mouse River Park Bridge. An Update Memo regarding Rural Bridges is contained in the February Joint Board Packet.

The Joint Board next discussed Public Access Policy regarding accessing one of the leftover rural parcels for hunting access. Jack Dwyer of Dwyer Law Office, PLLC indicated the memo presented in January contained three options: (1) take no action and leave all land open to public use; (2) post land and implement additional use conditions; or (3) post land and allow access to only those who execute waivers. The recommendation from Mr. Dwyer in light of the strong liability protections as a political subdivision would be either Option 1 or Option 2.

Clif Issendorf moved to adopt Option 2 along with adoption of the recreation and public use policy. 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 February Board Packet. The next meeting of the Joint Board is scheduled to commence on Thursday, March 5, 2026 at 4:00 p.m. in Room 203 of the Minot Auditorium.

In Personal Appearances, Chairman Ashley invited any personal appearances to speak to the board. There were no public appearances at the meeting.

In Other Business, Ryan Ackerman indicated the final audit report for the Souris River Joint Board for fiscal years 2023 and 2024 is contained in the February Joint Board Packet. Ryan Ackerman asked the Board to go through the audit in detail and take further action at the March SRJB meeting.

There being no further business to discuss, Chairman 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.



Jack Dwyer
Legal Counsel