

**Minutes of Meeting
Souris River Joint Water Resource Board
Thursday, March 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, March 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 Clif Issendorf (late join).

The Joint Board discussed the proposed Agenda for the meeting.

Tom Klein made a motion to approve the Agenda. Dan Steinberger seconded the motion. The motion passed without opposition.

The draft minutes of the Souris River Joint Board's regular meeting of February 5, 2026 were discussed.

Dan Steinberger made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 5, 2026 regular meeting. Jason Sorenson seconded the motion. The motion passed without opposition.

Ashley Hammer of Ackerman-Estvold presented the Balance Sheet and Budget Report, copies of which were included in the March Joint Board Packet.

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 the Agreement for Cost-Share Reimbursement for the 25-27 Biennium MREFPP. The Joint Board packet contains a copy of the agreement regarding cost-share for construction and acquisition costs for the 2025-2027 Biennium Mouse River Enhanced Flood Protection Project.

Tom Klein moved to approve the Agreement for Cost-Share Reimbursement for the 25-27 Biennium MREFPP in the amount of \$66,250,000.00 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 reviewed and discussed various bills set forth in the March Board Packet totaling \$1,917,341.19. 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.

Dan Steinberger moved to approve the payment of bills totaling \$1,917,341.19. Jason Sorenson 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 from Houston Engineering is contained in the March Board Packet. Jerry Bents indicated the designs team are working toward 95% submittal and targeting a late summer date for that.

Jerry Bents of Houston Engineering updated on Phase MI-5. A Project Status Report from Houston Engineering is contained in the March Board Packet. Jerry Bents indicated construction is complete. The

contractor completed the rip rap under Seventh Street. Jerry Bents indicated a completion date on everything relative to the defective work notice is in July.

Jerry Bents of Houston Engineering updated the Joint Board on Phase MI-6. A Project Status Report from Houston Engineering is contained in the March Board Packet. Jerry Bents played a drone video to show the Joint Board updates on this phase. Jerry Bents indicated the bid package is being prepared for MI-6C.

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 March Board Packet. Jerry Bents indicated that the design is 90% complete. Jerry Bents indicated negotiations with Precise Transport to stop the protection north of 8th Avenue resulted in an agreement signed by both parties at a recent city council meeting. The agreement involves emergency protection being provided for their facility by the City in the event of a flood in excess of the 100-year. Dan Steinberger questioned whether the agreement gets recorded and Jerry Bents indicated it will be recorded and be transferrable to future owners.

Jason Westbrook of Barr Engineering updated the Joint Board regarding Phase MI-7. A Project Status Report is contained in the March Board Packet. Jason Westbrook showed a new drone video to update the Joint Board on this phase. Jason Westbrook indicated there are seven open contracts with Phase MI-7 and an eighth that is opening for bid, so a lot of work is underway.

The Joint Board next considered Change Order No. 10 for Phase MI-7E. Patrick Samson of Ackerman-Estvold indicated that during the design of the otter exhibit there was concern about differential settlement, so a preconsolidation pile was proposed. To expediate the process, a construction budget was requested from Wagner Construction. Wagner Construction is proposing Change Order No. 10 to expedite construction of the proposed Phase MI-7I otter exhibit, a preconsolidation pile is to be added to the Phase MI-7E contract. The preconsolidation pile will be placed to consolidate an area where the future otter exhibit will be located, to alleviate any future concerns on settlement. Full details of the change order are contained in the March Joint Board Packet.

Jason Sorenson moved to approve the Change Order No. 10 in the amount of \$119,000 and authorize the chairman to sign the documents 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 Change Order No. 11 Phase MI-7E. Patrick Samson of Ackerman-Estvold indicated Wagner Construction is proposing Change Order No. 11 as the proposed sanitary sewer plug valves required modification in order to be installed on the existing sanitary sewer. The existing slope of the sanitary sewer did not allow for the plug valves to be installed horizontally. Both locations on the north and south side of the river required fittings to allow for proper installation of the plug valves. Full details of the change order are contained in the March Joint Board Packet.

Tom Klein moved to approve Change Order No. 11 in the amount of \$57,783.67 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.

Jason Westbrook provided an update to the Joint Board regarding WC-1. The Project Status Report is contained in the March Board Packet. Jason Westbrook indicated comments were received from Dwyer Law Office on the agreements provided by CP Rail and the plan is to counter back.

On the PER update, Jason Westbrook introduced the plan was approved. The work plan has now been approved by the State Water Commission, so things are in place for next steps.

Kevin Ploof of Ackerman-Estvold provided the Joint Board with a Rural Program Update. An update memo summarizing the current work of the FARM-TW is contained within the March Joint Board Packet.

Luke Rogers of HDR Engineering provided an update regarding Rural Bridges. A Project Status Report is contained in the March Board Packet. On Velva, Luke Rogers indicated they continue to receive drawing and submittals from the contractor. A pre-construction meeting is scheduled for March 9, 2026. A public information meeting is planned for March 19, 2026 at 6:30 p.m. in Velva. Construction is still planned to start on April 1, 2026.

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 March Joint Board Packet. Steven Eberle showed a drone flight updating the Joint Board on progress on the Mouse River Park Bridge.

The Joint Board took note of future meetings and events as set forth in the March Board Packet. The next meeting of the Joint Board is scheduled to commence on Thursday, April 2, 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, Annual Financial Audit (2023-2024) approval was tabled from last month for the Joint Board to ask any questions. If there are no questions, Ashley Hammer indicated the recommendation was to authorize the audits and write the letter.

Tom Klein moved to accept and authorize the chairman to sign the management representation letter and financial audit report for 2023 and 2024; further, to authorized Brady, Martz & Associates to submit a final report to the State of North Dakota on behalf of the Souris River Joint Board. Clif Issendorf seconded the motion. A roll call vote was cast. The motion passed without opposition.

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

Jason Sorenson made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Clif Issendorf seconded the motion. The motion passed without opposition.



Jack Dwyer
Legal Counsel