

**Minutes of Meeting
Souris River Joint Water Resource Board
Thursday, October 2, 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, October 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 Jason Sorenson, Tom Klein, and Dan Steinberger.

The Joint Board discussed the proposed Agenda for the meeting.

Chairman Ashley asked if there were any oppositions to the approval of the Agenda. There being no objections, the agenda was adopted as presented.

The draft minutes of the Thursday, September 4, 2025 regular meeting of the Joint Board were discussed.

Dan Steinberger made a motion to approve the minutes from the September 4, 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 October Board Packet. Ryan Ackerman explained the Budget Report.

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 considered Houston Engineering's Task Order No. 14 Amendment. Houston Engineering is proposing an amendment to Task Order No. 14 (MREFPP Maple Diversion Project). The objective of this scope is to provide continued project management and detailed design services for the above referenced project based on the 65% alignment recently submitted to the SRJB and USACE under the preceding task order. Full scope and details are contained in the October Joint Board Packet.

Jason Sorenson moved to approve Amendment 3 to Task Order No. 14 with Houston Engineering in the amount of \$2,400,000.00 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 October Board Packet totaling \$6,615,956.31. Chairman Ashley opened it up for questions from the Joint Board on each bill being considered for approval and advised the Verizon bill has been approved unilaterally and paid.

Jason Sorenson moved to approve the payment of bills totaling \$6,615,956.31. 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 October Board Packet. Jerry Bents indicated the 65% submission has been completed and comments have been received from USACE in St. Paul and nearly all of the independent external peer review comments have been received. Jerry Bents indicated work is ongoing with responses to the comments. The goal is to be at 90% by April of 2026.

Jerry Bents updated on Phase MI-5. A Project Status Report from Houston Engineering is contained in the October Board Packet. Jerry Bents advised this phase reached substantial completion and a punch list has been put together for the contractor to complete going forward.

Jerry Bents updated the Joint Board on Phase MI-6. A Project Status Report from Houston Engineering is contained in the October Board Packet. Jerry Bents showed a drone video to show updates of this phase. Chairman Ashley questioned if there was a resolution with the individual with a coffee warehouse. Jerry Bents indicated the individual has expressed concerns about damage from vibration from equipment as well as potential for some flooding impacts during rainstorm events. Those concerns were passed along to the contractor and the contractor's insurance adjuster have met with the individual and a decision is awaited from the insurance company. Dan Steinberger asked whether there are plans to prevent erosion over the winter on the dike that has been constructed. Jerry Bents indicated the levee will be addressed via a temporary mulch or hydroseed during the winter months.

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 October Board Packet. Jerry Bents indicated that the 90% plans are approaching on this phase. A few more options have been looked at regarding the properties south of Eighth Avenue. A meeting will be scheduled with that property owner in the upcoming weeks.

Jason Westbrook of Barr Engineering updated the Joint Board regarding Phase MI-7. A Project Status Report is contained in the October Board Packet. Jason Westbrook showed a drone video to update the Joint Board on this phase. Jason Westbrook indicated Park Construction was instructed to pour an asphalt patch to connect the sidewalk on Burdick Expressway with regard to ADA access.

The Joint Board next considered Mattson Construction's Change Order No. 6. Mattson Construction is proposing Change Order No. 6 for costs associated with modifications to the electrical services as directed by Field Order FO.05 and Work Change Directive WCD.01. This work was previously approved as work change order Directive WCD.01 with an estimated price of \$163,459.97. The price for the electrical work was slightly reduced; however, the electrical service impacts an existing landscaping bed along the Aviary that includes restoration upon completion of construction. Details of the change order are included in the October Joint Board Packet.

Tom Klein moved to approve Change Order No. 6 in the amount of \$180,771.62 and authorize the Chairman to sign the change order on behalf of the SRJB. Jason Sorenson seconded the motion. A roll call vote was cast. The motion passed without opposition.

Ryan Ackerman next presented information to seek authorization from the Joint Board to Bid Phase MI-7G. The plans, specifications, and engineer's estimate for Phase MI-7G are ready for review and approval. The engineer's estimate is included in the October Joint Board Packet.

Dan Steinberger moved to approve plans and specifications for the Phase MI-7G project and authorize advertisement for bids. Jason Sorenson seconded the motion. A roll call vote was cast. The motion passed without opposition.

The Joint Board next considered authorization to Bid Phase MI-7H. The plans, specifications, and engineer's estimate for Phase MI-7H are ready for review and approval. The engineer's estimate is contained in the October Joint Board Packet.

Tom Klein moved to approve plans and specifications for the Phase MI-7H project and authorize advertisement for bids. 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 October Board Packet. Jason Westbrook indicated discussions are ongoing with the railroad are ongoing.

On the PER update, Jason Westbrook indicated there have been several meetings in the last month to come up with recommendations for the Joint Board. More information is to come.

Ryan Ackerman provided the SRJB with a Rural Program Update. A PER Update Memo is contained within the October Joint Board Packet.

Luke Rogers of HDR Engineering provided an update regarding Rural Bridges. A Project Status Report is contained in the October Board Packet. On Velva, the construction permit and sovereign lands permit are awaited and those are still under review. On Mouse River Park, shop drawings are being reviewed and R5s are being answered. Steven Eberle from AECM provided the Joint Board with an additional update on the Mouse River Park bridge. Steven Eberle indicated mobilization by the contractor has been underway over the last month. An Update Memo Rural Bridges is contained in the October Joint Board Packet.

The Joint Board next considered an RC-1 Work Change Directive No. 1. Industrial Builders is proposing Work Change Directive No. 1 for the unsuitable soils that were encountered at the project site. The purpose of this directive will allow the project to move forward without delay while unit pricing for the changed work scope is figured out by the contractor for final pricing and/or adjustment of quantities. The estimated maximum project impact would be \$75,836.75.

Dan Steinberger moved to approve Work Change Directive No. 1 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 took note of future meetings and events as set forth in the October Board Packet. The next regular meeting of the Joint Board is scheduled to commence on November 6, 2025 at 4:00 p.m. in Minot, North Dakota.

In Personal Appearances, Chairman Ashley invited any personal appearances. Nobody stepped forward for public appearances.

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