

**Minutes of Meeting
Souris River Joint Water Resource Board
Thursday, May 1, 2025**

A meeting of the board of directors of the Souris River Joint Water Resource District was called to order by Vice Chairman Tom Klein at 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, May 1, 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, Chairman David Ashley, Dan Steinberger and Clif Isendorf.

The Joint Board discussed the proposed Agenda for the meeting. Ryan Ackerman added authorization for advertisement of bids – structure resale under the Rural Program Update and Banking Committee Recommendations – Banking Services under Other Business.

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

The draft minutes of the April 3, 2025 SRJB regular meeting were discussed.

Dan Steinberger made a motion to approve the minutes from the April 3, 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 May 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 reviewed and discussed various bills set forth in the May Board Packet totaling \$4,295,202.87-. Chairman Ashley opened it up for questions from the Board on each bill being considered for approval and advised the Verizon bill has been approved unilaterally and paid. On Wagner Construction, Dan Steinberger asked about reformatting the fine point on a spreadsheet to see month over month to be able to track things a little bit more accurately. Ryan Ackerman indicating that this will be reformatted. On Page 150, Dan Steinberger asked about the rebar purchase and how that is being stored and secured because that is a lot of rebar. Ryan Ackerman indicated as a part of the standard process it is required that all materials are in a secure location and identified conspicuously as for a particular project and accessible to the Joint Board at any time. On Page 157 of the Joint Board Packet, Dan Steinberger asked about the Unconditional Waiver and Release upon Progress Payment. Jason Westbrook explained that the subs cannot come back at the Joint Board if they do not get paid. Dan Steinberger questioned Bismarck sales tax of 7.5% vs. the state sales tax of 7%. Ryan Ackerman indicated it is assessed in the location where the project is installed. Minot is 7.5% (State levies 5%, City levies 2.5% and Ward County levies .5%). On Park Construction, Dan Steinberger questioned the construction format on Page 180. Ryan Ackerman indicated it would be covered by Jerry Bents.

The Joint Board next considered MI-6B Change Order No. 5. Park Construction is proposing Change Order No. 5 to cover the details for structural concrete quantity differences at the 8th Street NE Pump Station. It was determined that a portion of the back wall of the pump station was not accounted for in the structural concrete quantity.

Jason Sorenson moved to approve Change Order No. 5 in the amount of \$176,460.00 and authorize the Chairman to sign the change order on behalf of the SRJB. Dan Steinberger seconded the motion. A roll call vote was cast. The motion passed without opposition.

The Joint Board considered the remaining bills in the May Board Packet.

Dan Steinberger moved to approve payment of bills totaling \$4,295,202.87 Jason Sorenson 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 May Board Packet. Jerry Bents indicated nothing has really changed from the last meeting on this phase.

Jerry Bents updated on Phase MI-4 (Maple Diversion). A Project Status Report from Houston Engineering is contained in the May Board Packet. Jerry Bents advised that work on this phase nearing the 65% design. Borings were completed along the railroad alignment and lab tests are pending on those.

Jerry Bents updated on Phase MI-5. A Project Status Report from Houston Engineering is contained in the May Board Packet. Jerry Bents showed the Joint Board a drone flight to depict updates to this phase.

Jerry Bents updated the Joint Board on Phase MI-6. A Project Status Report from Houston Engineering is contained in the May Board Packet. Jerry Bents showed a drone flight to depict this phase of the project. Dan Steinberger asked if the residents have commented on the increased traffic. Jerry Bents indicated there has actually been less traffic coming from downtown and the residents have been good so far, and so has the contractor (Park Construction).

Jerry Bents provided an update to the Joint Board on Phase MI-8/MI-9. Jerry Bents advised that this phase is in the design phase. A Project Status Report from Houston Engineering is contained in the May Board Packet. Jerry Bents showed the Joint Board the alignment from the 30% design. The 60% design is being finished and the full package should be delivered in about two weeks.

Jason Westbrook of Barr Engineering updated the Joint Board regarding Phase MI-7. A Project Status Report is contained in the May Board Packet. Jason Westbrook indicated there is a lot of activity on this phase. Mattson Construction is working on the zoo with the Discovery Barn and concession stand, as the zoo accreditation inspection is scheduled to take place later this month. Wagner Construction has been moving dirt and installing underground sanitary line. Dan Steinberger asked about public comments on the pool. Ryan Ackerman indicated there is coordination with the Park District and a plan was put together to keep Roosevelt Park open with regard to the swimming pool and pickleball courts. A few weeks ago, the Park Board members were invited on site to observe the equipment and became aware of the safety concerns that could surface with the construction activity. At that meeting, it was decided that it was beneficial to close the pool for the summer. A new filtration system will be installed while the construction is ongoing. Jason Westbrook showed a drone flight to show the updates of this phase of the project.

Jason Westbrook provided an update to the Joint Board regarding WC-1. The Project Status Report is contained in the May Board Packet. Jason Westbrook indicated approval from CPKC is still awaited.

Jason Westbrook provided a PER Update. The final recommendation is not yet ready to report since key staff members have been occupied by the legislative session.

Ryan Ackerman provided the SRJB with a Rural Program Update. After the legislative session concludes, dialogue will continue regarding cost share of the Trapped Water Program. Ryan Ackerman indicated that authorization for advertisement of bids for structure resale is sought from the Joint Board. Four rural structures are ready for resale and have been prepared for bidding. The advertisement for bids are contained in the Joint Board Packet.

Jason Sorenson moved to approve the advertisement for bids for the resale of rural program structures. Dan Steinberger seconded the motion. A roll call vote was cast. The motion passed without opposition

Luke Rogers of HDR Engineering provided an update regarding Rural Bridges. A Project Status Report is contained in the May Board Packet. On Velva, Luke Rogers indicated this has been advertised for several weeks and any submitted bids will be opened Thursday, May 8, 2025 at 2:00 p.m. The permit process is still ongoing, and it is anticipated to have those in hand sometime in June or July. A special meeting will be requested for bid approval if bids are received.

On Mouse River Park Bridge, coordination is taking place between HDR and AECM. Steve Eberle with AECM provided a brief update on the Mouse River Park Bridge. Steve Eberle indicated that the first bid package should be ready for HDR's review in the next couple of weeks and the others should follow quickly thereafter. A task order to eliminate duplicate scope amongst contractors will be brought before the Joint Board at the next meeting. Dan Steinberger has asked about reception and Steve Eberle indicated that the reception with the local campground owner for power and power/utility companies has been good.

An Eaton Irrigation Update was provided by Chris Korkowski of HDR Engineering. An Update Memo Eaton Irrigation is contained in the May Joint Board Packet. Chris Korkowski indicated he planned to finalize and present on the report in person at the June SRJB meeting. Chairman Ashley indicated he felt that would be advantageous.

The Joint Board took note of future meetings and events as set forth in the May Board Packet. The next meeting of the Joint Board is a regular meeting, scheduled for June 5, 2025 at 4:00 p.m. in Room 203 of the Minot Auditorium. Ryan Ackerman presented the Joint Board with some brief legislative updates.

Also in Other Business, Ryan Ackerman presented the Joint Board with the Banking Committee Recommendation for banking services. The Souris River Joint Water Resource Board will consider the recommendations of the banking committee at its May 2025 regular meeting. At that meeting the Souris River Joint Board Water Resource Board may designate one or more financial institutions as depositories of public funds in accordance with N.D.C.C. Ch. 21-04. The banking committee met yesterday morning to finalize their review of banking proposals and recommendations. The Banking Committee Recommendation Memo and scoring sheet is contained in the May Joint Board Packet.

Clif Isendorf moved to continue the primary banking relationship with First Western Bank, to optimize the services received by the SRJB through its relationship with First Western Bank based on the terms listed within their proposal and establish a \$250,000 Certificate of deposit at Bravara Bank. Jason Sorenson seconded the motion. A roll call vote was cast. The motion passed without opposition (David Ashley abstaining).

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

Dan Steinberger made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Jason Steinberger seconded the motion. The motion passed without opposition.

Jack Dwyer
Legal Counsel