

**Minutes of Meeting  
Souris River Joint Water Resource Board  
Thursday, March 7, 2024**

A 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 7, 2024, after announcing that a quorum was present. The meeting was held in Room 203 of the Minot Auditorium. Joint Board members in attendance were Tom Klein, Dan Steinberger (online) and Clif Issendorf (online).

The Joint Board discussed the proposed Agenda for the meeting. Ryan Ackerman indicated there were items to add, including Item 11A, authorization to advertise for bids for Phase MI-7B, the Roosevelt Zoo Utility Relocations.

**Tom Klein made a motion to approve the agenda for the meeting. Clif Issendorf seconded the motion. The motion passed without opposition.**

The draft minutes of the February 1, 2024 regular meeting were discussed.

**Dan Steinberger made a motion to approve the minutes from the February 1, 2024 regular meeting. Tom Klein seconded the motion. The motion passed without opposition.**

Ryan Ackerman presented the Budget Report and the Joint Board reviewed the Budget Report included in the March Board Packet. Ryan Ackerman explained the Balance Sheet and Budget Report.

**Clif Issendorf made a motion to approve the Budget Report. Dan Steinberger seconded the motion. The motion passed without opposition.**

The Joint Board reviewed and discussed various bills set forth in the March Board Packet totaling \$2,526,944.56. Chairman Ashley opened it up for questions from the Board on each bill being considered for approval. On Iris Swedlund, Ryan Ackerman explained this expense (as well as Laurence Anderson, Lorrie Sollid, Ruth Keller and Scott Blotter) are payments for a temporary construction easement associated with the Velva bridge. Dan Steinberger questioned who established the parameters of the amount paid for the easements. Dennis Reep indicated that the Right of Way Specialists had negotiations with these individuals to set these amounts. Dan Steinberger asked about duration. Dennis Reep indicated it is for use of their property during construction.

**Tom Klein moved to approve the payment of bills totaling \$2,526,944.56. Clif Issendorf seconded the motion. A roll call vote was cast. The motion passed without opposition.**

The Joint Board considered an Engineering Contract Amendment relative to Phase MI-4: Maple Diversion – Soo Line Railroad Company. The Soo Line Railroad Company (CPKC Railroad) is proposing an amendment to their scope of work included under Phase MI-4: Maple Diversion. The purpose of this amendment is to include the design of the 6<sup>th</sup> Street Bridge and additional project coordination.

**Dan Steinberger moved to approve the Amendment to Service Agreement with Soo Line Railroad Company in an amount not to exceed \$400,000 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 considered an Engineering Contract Amendment with Houston Engineering relative to Phase MI-6: Downtown Levee/Floodwall. Houston Engineering has submitted a proposed contract amendment for engineering services during construction related to Phase MI-6: Downtown Levee/Floodwall.

**Clif Issendorf moved to approve work Order 22 with Houston Engineering for engineering services during construction related to Phase MI-6; Downtown Levee/Floodwall in an amount not to exceed \$7,762,785 and authorize the chairman to execute the contract documents 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 an Engineering Contract Amendment with HDR Engineering for Phase RU-2: Eaton Irrigation Conveyance. HDR Engineering has submitted a proposal for design engineering services related to rural conveyance in the area of the Eaton Irrigation District near Towner. Clif Issendorf asked whether this engineering analysis proceeds into the refuge. Chris Korkowski with HDR Engineering advised the analysis ends at the Bantry Stream Gage (which is the road at the start of the refuge). Dan Steinberger asked whether this is something that is bid out to other engineering firms or if HDR is the selected choice for this type of work. Chairman Ashley indicated HDR has done the preliminary work on this. Ryan Ackerman advised the process that the SRJB went through to procure consulting services was conducted several years ago when a Request for Qualifications was issued. The language of that RFQ was that the Joint Board was procuring consultants under an Indefinite Delivery Indefinite Quantity (IDIQ) Contract. The Board basically has a master agreement with three selected firms, including Houston, Barr and HDR. The Board has the authority to negotiate directly with those three because the required bidding took place through the IDIQ process.

**Dan Steinberger moved to Approve Task Order 17 with HDR for the analysis of the Eaton Irrigation system, in an amount not to exceed \$189,090 and authorize the Chairman to execute the contract 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 considered an Engineering Contract Amendment with Houston Engineering for Phase MI-8/9: Burdick Expressly Bridge/Valker Road Levee (West). With construction beginning on Phases MI-6 and MI-7, the timing is opportune for advancing the next phases of the project through the design process.

**Tom Klein moved to authorize Houston Engineering to develop a scope, schedule and budget for the design of Phase MI-8: Burdick Expressway Bridge Replacement and Phase MI-9: Valker Road Levee (West) to be considered by the SRJB at its April meeting. Clif Issendorf seconded the motion. A roll call vote was cast. The motion passed without opposition.**

The Joint Board considered an Engineering Report Update from Barr Engineering. With construction beginning on Phases MI-6 and MI-7, the timing is opportune for advancing the next phases of the project through the design process. Chairman Ashley clarified that this action is basin wide. Clif Issendorf asked whether the captive water program is still available or whether this is considered an extension of it (as rural is included). Ryan Ackerman indicated the program is still available.

**Dan Steinberger moved to authorize Barr Engineering to develop a scope, schedule and budget for an update to the Preliminary Engineering Report to serve as the basis for design for the remaining levee/floodwall /diversion phases of the project to be considered by the SRJB at its**

**April meeting. Clif Issendorf seconded the motion. A roll call vote was cast. The motion passed without opposition.**

Jerry Bents updated the Joint Board on Phase MI-1. A Project Status Report from Houston Engineering is contained in the March Board Packet. Jerry Bents advised that Phase MI-1 continues to work toward closeout with Park Construction. Three items are having an engineering analysis performed as part of the settlement agreement because a few things were built out of spec relating to the floodwall. As far as warranty work is concerned, Park Construction is scheduled to begin work on that next month. Dan Steinberger asked about the definition of "out of spec" by Park Construction. Jerry Bents indicated they included rebar placement within the flood wall footing that did not meet the cover requirements that had been specified.

Jerry Bents updated on Phase MI-4. A Project Status Report from Houston Engineering is contained in the March Board Packet. The Joint Board approved the service agreement with CP, so work will begin for construction-related design for the Sixth Street Bridge.

Jerry Bents updated on Phase MI-5. A Project Status Report from Houston Engineering is contained in the March Board Packet. Construction is moving along with this phase. With the payment approved today, Phase MI-5A is at 70% completion (by cost) and 80-90% completion on the flood wall.

Jerry Bents updated the Joint Board on Phase MI-6. A Project Status Report from Houston Engineering is contained in the March Board Packet. Jerry Bents advised that the design is complete on this stage. Work is ongoing to determine how to divide the project up from a bidding standpoint. The decision made today was to divide the project into three parts – (1) West of Third Street, (2) East of Third Street (except for the pump station), or (3) the pump station only. Bidders can bid on all three or separate portions. Keller was awarded the job for tree removal along the corridor and all of the trees are down. Property owners were notified in anticipation of the tree removal.

Jason Westbrook of Barr Engineering provided an update to the Joint Board regarding Phase MI-7. A Project Status Report is contained in the March Board Packet. In an effort to promote competition for the bidding environment, the project may be divided into multiple phases. The tree removal, cleanup and pickup are being worked on by DL Barkie Construction Inc. There is a phase that involves moving water main and storm sewer within the zoo proper that bidding will be sought for first, as once that is complete the zoo's perimeter fence can go up and the giraffe exhibit and concession hall will no longer be impacted.

**Tom Klein moved to authorize advertising for bids for Phase MI-7B, the Roosevelt Zoo Utility Relocations. 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 March Board Packet. Jason Westbrook indicated that there has not been any construction over the winter.

Ryan Ackerman advised the Joint Board that there has been significant feedback regarding tree removal and there is a fair amount of public angst about tree removal. There were 1,000 mature trees taken down in the past three weeks. Many people are upset about this.

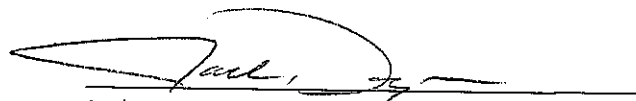
Ryan Ackerman provided the SRJB with a Rural Program Update. Ryan Ackerman indicated that a total of 22 landowners have expressed interest in constructing conveyance improvements on their properties through the Flood Assistance and Risk Mitigation – Trapped Water (FARM-TW) Program. Areas of benefit range from approximately 4 acres to nearly 700 acres. Some of the trapped water areas extend beyond the property boundaries of the interested landowners. If the adjacent landowners are included in the total, the number grows from 22 to 28 landowners. In other words, there are 22 potential sites that affect 28 different landowners. The initial meetings have taken place with these landowners to understand their proposed vision for improvements. In addition, preliminary wetland delineations have been made to identify the 'floor' of the drainage improvements that can be implemented, because the FARM-TW Program is not a wetland drainage program. Schematic designs have been completed for approximately one half of the properties. Two examples of the schematic designs are included in the March Board Packet to give the SRJB additional context regarding the potential cost share arrangements through this program. For the last rural improvements program, the StARR Program, a committee was formed to consider policy changes associated with the program and to work through policy nuances that may be unique to each site. It was recommended that the Chairman appoint a policy committee for the FARM-TW Program to provide recommendations for the SRJB to consider. Dan Steinberger asked for a breakdown per county and Ryan Ackerman agreed to provide same to Dan Steinberger. Chairman Ashley indicated he felt it is appropriate to appoint a policy committee and he intends to do so.

Dennis Reep from HDR Engineering provided an update regarding Rural Bridges. A Project Status Report is contained in the March Board Packet. On the Sawyer Bridge, Dennis Reep indicated that the as built plan specifications O&M manual for review and approval. And there is one spot to go back and fix this spring. On the Velva Bridge, LOMAR will be submitted to FEMA for their review as part of the project and a storm drain analysis is being conducted. On Mouse River Bridge, Dennis Reep indicated that bid opening took place on March 1, 2024 but there were no bids. This was the fourth round of bidding on Mouse River Bridge. The plan is to wait a few weeks and come back at the next meeting with ideas on what the next steps might be for Mouse River.

The Joint Board took note of future meetings and events as set forth in the March Board Packet. The next regular meeting of the SRJB will be at 4:00 p.m. on April 4, 2024 in Room 203 of the Minot Auditorium.

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

**Tom Klein made a motion to adjourn. Clif Issendorf seconded the motion. The motion passed without opposition.**



Jack Dwyer  
Legal Counsel