

**Minutes of Meeting  
Souris River Joint Water Resource Board  
Thursday, January 8, 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, January 8, 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, Clif Issendorf and Dan Steinberger.

The Joint Board discussed the proposed Agenda for the meeting. Ryan Ackerman added Senate Bill 2027/Regional Floodplain Management under Other Business.

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

The draft minutes of the Souris River Joint Board's special meeting of December 11, 2026 were discussed.

**Dan Steinberger made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 11, 2026 special meeting. Jason Sorenson seconded the motion. The motion passed without opposition.**

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

**Dan Steinberger moved to approve the Budget Report and Balance Sheet. 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 January Board Packet totaling \$4,453,665.35. 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. On HDR, Dan Steinberger asked about Jack & Jill item that is not itemized on Page 51 of the Board Packet. It was explained that this charge was for the purchase of sandwich material at a grocery store for the day.

**Jason Sorenson moved to approve the payment of bills totaling \$4,453,665.35. Tom Klein seconded the motion. A roll call vote was cast. The motion passed without opposition.**

Jason Westbrook of Barr Engineering updated on Phase MI-4. A Project Status Report is contained in the January Board Packet. Jason Westbrook indicated work is underway to march forward to the 95% design submittal. Other recent work has included investigating another borrow site that is a bit closer to the project that could accept the excavated material. There has not been a lot of activity with the railroads.

Rusten Roteliuk of Houston Engineering updated on Phase MI-5. A Project Status Report from Houston Engineering is contained in the January Board Packet. Rusten Roteliuk advised that Wagner Construction reached substantial completion and that there are items that need to be addressed (defective work on concrete and 7<sup>th</sup> Street Bridge rip rap) before the final completion date of July 31, 2026.

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

Rusten Roteliuk 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 January Board Packet. Rusten Roteliuk indicated that there has not been a lot of movement done on this project, but work is ongoing to get to the 95% submittal (originally anticipated being ready for submittal in January but there have been some delays making this likely to be February).

Jason Westbrook of Barr Engineering updated the Joint Board regarding Phase MI-7. A Project Status Report is contained in the January Board Packet. Jason Westbrook showed a drone video to update the Joint Board on this phase. Dan Steinberger asked about the potential damage to the pool with the heavy construction. Jason Westbrook indicated the pool was filled to the winter fill level in October and held water and there were no issues. Jason Westbrook indicated that the sidewalk barriers on Burdick were removed and the sidewalk is open for public usage.

Jason Westbrook provided an update to the Joint Board regarding WC-1. The Project Status Report is contained in the January Board Packet. Jason Westbrook indicated that with the holidays there was no activity on the agreements that are circulating. Dan Steinberger asked about whether people are staying off of the site with their ETVs or other off-road vehicles. Jason Westbrook indicated he has not been made aware of any complaints.

On the PER update, Jason Westbrook indicated the final document for the PER plan is being put together with recommendations, including an implementation section that the SRJB to take an economic feasibility look at each reach that was authorized as part of the design work to be done and that if a final footprint or approach to alignment would be approved upon. This may include engineering recommendations from two summers ago and guidance to look at property acquisition and economics of each individual reach. The goal is to have a draft for the SRJB to review prior to the February meeting. A PER Update Memo is included in the Joint Board Packet.

Ryan Ackerman provided the SRJB with a Rural Program Update. A PER Update Memo is contained within the January Joint Board Packet. Ryan Ackerman indicated there is an action item for the Joint Board's consideration. The Joint Board contains a member summarizing the current work being completed by the Ackerman-Estvold Team.

**Jason Sorenson made a motion to implement the FARM-TW program using the following cost share funding formula: SRJB Local Funds 55%; City of Minot Local Funds 35%; Landowner Cost Share 10%. Tom Klein seconded the motion. A roll call vote was cast. Chairman Ashley abstained. The motion passed without opposition.**

Luke Rogers of HDR Engineering provided an update regarding Rural Bridges. A Project Status Report is contained in the January Board Packet. On Velva, Luke Rogers indicated there has not been a lot of activity due to the holidays. The contractor wants to start cutting trees in March. A pay application may be coming soon for stockpile material on site.

On Mouse River Park, Steven Eberle provided an update to the Joint Board on work completed over the past month on the Mouse River Park Bridge. An Update Memo regarding Rural Bridges is contained in the

January Joint Board Packet. Steven Eberle indicated that Pier Number 5 has been completed. Pier Numbers 1 and 2 have been poured and are going through the curing process. The Pier 4 dam has been installed and work is underway to establish grade. Steven Eberle indicated a new schedule update from IBI was provided before the holidays and they are showing a completion date of July 2, 2026, which is substantially ahead of the contract completion date of October 3, 2026, so things are progressing well.

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 addressed the issue to the Joint Board and a legal memo was provided in the January Joint Board Packet. Jack Dwyer indicated that providing public access exposes the Joint Board to very little liability, as detailed in the memo. Dan Steinberger asked about the hunting access agreement and whether it would be necessary to be notarized. Jack Dwyer provided a legal opinion that this would not need to be notarized. The Joint Board agreed to take the analysis within the Dwyer Law Office memo under consideration before adopting an official policy and take further action at the February meeting.

The Joint Board took note of future meetings and events as set forth in the January Board Packet. The next meeting of the Joint Board is scheduled to commence on Thursday, February 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 updated the Joint Board on Senate Bill 2027/Regional Floodplain Management. Ryan Ackerman indicated that the bill essentially clarifies the jurisdictions that are responsible for floodplain management. Ryan Ackerman indicated that a city is the entity responsible for floodplain management inside the city and everything else essentially defers to the county level unless a township wishes to take on the floodplain management responsibility and there is concurrence. Ryan Ackerman indicated that every political subdivision that does floodplain management is required to update their ordinance before July of 2026.

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

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

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Jack Dwyer  
Legal Counsel