

**Minutes of Meeting  
Souris River Joint Water Resource Board  
Thursday, February 6, 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, February 6, 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 Vice Chairman Tom Klein, Cliff Issendorf, Jason Sorenson, Dan Steinberger and Chairman David Ashley.

The Joint Board discussed the proposed Agenda for the meeting. Ryan Ackerman added the Floodplain Management Assistance Program under Other Business.

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

The draft minutes of the January 2, 2025 regular meeting was discussed.

**Cliff Issendorf made a motion to approve the minutes from the January 2, 2025 regular meeting. Jason Sorenson seconded the motion. The motion passed without opposition.**

Ryan Ackerman presented the December 31, 2024 Balance Sheet and Budget Report and the Joint Board reviewed the Budget Report included in the February Board Packet. Ryan Ackerman explained the Budget Report.

**Dan Steinberger moved to approve the Budget Report. Cliff Issendorf 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 February Board Packet totaling \$1,537,627.50. Vice Chairman Klein opened it up for questions from the Board on each bill being considered for approval. On Canadian Pacific Railway, Dan Steinberger questioned the HDR Engineering service overhead of \$4,200. Ryan Ackerman indicated the railroad marks up their contractors by 20% and passes that on to the Joint Board.

**Jason Sorenson moved to approve payment of bills totaling \$1,537,627.50. Dan Steinberger 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 February Board Packet. Jerry Bents advised that the final pay application to Park Construction was approved by the Joint Board and all remaining punch list items are closed out.

Jerry Bents updated on Phase MI-4 (Maple Diversion). A Project Status Report from Houston Engineering is contained in the February Board Packet. Jerry Bents indicated design continues to proceed on this phase, including working through schedule updates. The 60% design is expected by July 31, 2025. Some preliminary bridge design should be passed over to CP Rail tomorrow.

Jerry Bents updated the Joint Board on Phase MI-5. A Project Status Report from Houston Engineering is contained in the February Board Packet. Jerry Bents indicated work in this phase is on winter suspension with the exception of work at the pump station. Substantial and final completion are Summer and Fall of 2025.

Jerry Bents next updated the Joint Board on Phase MI-6. A Project Status Report from Houston Engineering is contained in the February Board Packet. Jerry Bents indicated construction is also on hold for winter suspension, but work to get submittals in is underway and preconsolidation piles are in place. Negotiations for the acquisition with BNSF are ongoing. Dan Steinberger asked for an estimation for components of the project in advance pending tariffs. Jerry Bents indicated the Joint Board is not at risk because unit prices were secured based on the bid.

Jerry Bents next updated the Joint Board on Phase MI-8/MI-9. A Project Status Report from Houston Engineering is contained in the February Board Packet. Jerry Bents advised that this phase has had more activity over the last couple of months. A 30% design report was submitted in the last month. This project provides protection that ties in on the north side at the zoo and continues down and south of 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue. In order to get Burdick Expressway up and over the protection, there will be a raised roadway and a new bridge on Burdick. And there will be some levee work on the opposite side of the river so that Milestone 3 project can be built without impacting the work done to raise the road in that area. That submittal came in and estimated construction cost is \$50.4 million.

Jason Westbrook of Barr Engineering provided an update to the Joint Board regarding Phase MI-7 (Roosevelt Park and Zoo). A Project Status Report is contained in the February Board Packet. The big news on this phase is that the discovery barn has been moved to its new location and is out of the way so that the utility work and pre-consolidation can get moving. Wagner Construction has been busy with rip rap placement.

Jason Westbrook of Barr Engineering provided an update to the Joint Board regarding WC-1. The Project Status Report is contained in the February Board Packet. Jason Westbrook indicated there are indications of activity on the CPKC side to get agreements in place so that there is closure. Information relative to those agreements is expected soon per the joint railroad coordination call on Tuesday.

For a PER Update, Jason Westbrook indicated a draft report is ready and a special meeting is set next week, on February 13, 2025. That special meeting will be held to deliver that draft report, walk through the recommendations, and talk about what the remaining work and costs.

The Joint Board next considered a BU-1E Balancing Change Order presented by Jason Westbrook. Blue Construction, Inc, is proposing a balancing change order for their final accounting of all quantity underruns and overruns required to determine the final contract price. All adjustments to original bid quantities have been reviewed by the Engineer and agreed to by the Contractor. This revision results in an increase to the original contract price.

**Clif Issendorf moved to approve Change Order No. 1 in the amount of \$18,952.00 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 provided the SRJB with a Rural Program Update. An Update Memo on the Farm Trapped Water Program is contained in the February Joint Board Packet. Ryan Ackerman indicated that there is

not a lot to report. There is ongoing dialogue with the Department of Natural Resources cost share staff to determine eligibility and their response is awaited.

Luke Rogers of HDR Engineering provided an update regarding Rural Bridges. A Project Status Report is contained in the February Board Packet. On Velva Bridge, work is ongoing to get permit approvals (including 408 and CLOMR by FEMA). In January, the team resubmitted the requested materials. Otherwise, the project is ready for re-bidding when the time is right.

On Mouse River Park, the ACM proposal and contractor is still ongoing. Jack Dwyer is leading that work. Jack Dwyer indicated no comments were received to the contract language other than the professional liability language and work to clean up the contract for execution is underway. Jack Dwyer advised the board that the contract should be ready to present to the Joint Board for final approval soon.

Christopher Korkowski presented an Eaton Irrigation Update to the Joint Board. An update is contained in the February Board Packet. Christopher Korkowski indicated work on alternatives analysis is underway to look at alternatives to reduce flooding along the entire reach. Due to lack of channel gradient and other constraints, the focus shifted to looking at inundation times and finding solutions that have marginal progress in reducing the amount of irrigation in the spring and summertime. Those alternatives are being explored at this time.

The Joint Board took note of future meetings and events as set forth in the February Board Packet. A special meeting is scheduled for February 13, 2025 at 9:00 a.m. at the Public Works Building and the next regular meeting of the Joint Board is scheduled for March 6, 2025 at 4:00 p.m. in Room.203 of the Minot Auditorium.

In Other Business, the Joint Board considered a Request for Proposal on SRJB Banking. The SRJB is interested in seeking proposals from qualified financial institutions for the deposit of public funds.

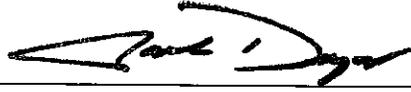
**Jason Sorenson moved to approve the SRJB to request proposals for deposit of funds from institutions that meet the qualifications outlined in the memo in the Joint Board Packet. Dan Steinberger seconded the motion. A roll call vote was cast. The motion passed without opposition.**

Ryan Ackerman addressed the item added to the agenda, namely the framework for a Floodplain Management Assistance Program. Ryan Ackerman indicated that the most effective path forward may be to offer services to local jurisdictions where the SRJB technical team could evaluate things on a voluntary basis if other local jurisdictions would like a review of something proposed within the river valley. A draft letter was presented to the Joint Board for review and feedback in terms of whether this is the direction the Joint Board would like to go with this. Clif Issendorf questioned how many people know this is available and who the letter would be sent to. Ryan Ackerman responded that the people who know it is available is likely currently limited to those present at today's meeting. The intent is to send it to the local floodplain managers.

**Clif Issendorf moved to approve the letter being placed on Joint Board letterhead, signed by Chairman Ashley and sent out. Dan Steinberger seconded the motion. A roll call vote was cast. The motion passed without opposition.**

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

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jack Dwyer", is written above a horizontal line.

Jack Dwyer  
Legal Counsel