

**Minutes of Special Meeting
Souris River Joint Water Resource Board
Friday, July 11, 2025**

A special meeting of the board of directors of the Souris River Joint Water Resource District was called to order by Chairman David Ashley at 9:30 a.m. on Friday, July 11, 2025, after announcing that a quorum was present. The meeting was via Microsoft Teams/Teleconference. Joint Board members in attendance were Clif Issendorf, Jason Sorenson and Dan Steinberger.

The Joint Board discussed the proposed Agenda for the meeting.

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

The draft minutes of the July 5, 2025 SRJB regular meeting were discussed. Clif Issendorf indicated that on Page 3 where they go to the Jay Clark Salyer Wildlife Refuge, should be Refuge. Clif Issendorf indicated his comment was no localized effects but he explained his challenge to that.

Jason Sorenson made a motion to approve the corrected minutes from the June 5, 2025 regular meeting. Dan Steinberger 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 July Board Packet. Ryan Ackerman explained the Budget Report.

Clif Issendorf 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 July Board Packet totaling \$12,920,595.83. Chairman Ashley opened it up for questions from the Board on each bill being considered for approval and advised the Verizon and Ward County bills have been approved unilaterally and paid. On William Stolt, Dan Steinberger questioned publishing a social security number in public documents, which the board agreed should not be included.

Dan Steinberger moved to approve payment of bills totaling \$12,920,595.83. Jason Sorenson seconded the motion. A roll call vote was cast. The motion passed without opposition.

Jerry Bents updated on Phase MI-4 (Maple Diversion). A Project Status Report from Houston Engineering is contained in the July Board Packet. Jerry Bents advised that this phase is on track to get to 65% design by early August. At that point, that will be shared with the USACE and an estimated cost estimate will be shared with the board.

Jerry Bents updated on Phase MI-5. A Project Status Report from Houston Engineering is contained in the July Board Packet. Jerry Bents indicated work in this phase is actively in construction. They are nearing the end and the substantial completion deadline is July 28, 2025. Wagner Construction expects to meet that deadline. Remaining work is largely cleanup-related items. Upon receiving the request for substantial completion, a walkthrough will be completed to identify a punch list of anything outstanding prior to closing the contract.

Jerry Bents updated the Joint Board on Phase MI-6. A Project Status Report from Houston Engineering is contained in the July Board Packet. Jerry Bents showed a drone video of updates on this phase that was taken on June 25, 2025.

Jerry Bents updated the Joint Board on Phase MI-8/MI-9. Jerry Bents advised that this phase is under design. A Project Status Report from Houston Engineering is contained in the July Board Packet. Jerry Bents advised that 60% percent was submitted back in May. A meeting with the city council was held on the proposed alignment on Monday of this week to ask for concurrence on the proposed alignment and add four additional properties to the acquisition list. A property owner on the south side of Eighth Avenue whose property was protected under the original plan but not the new plan attended the meeting. The council requested to table their decision and asked that the SRJB go through additional negotiations with the property owner to see if middle ground can be reached that is acceptable to both parties. This is set to be taken up by the city council on July 21, 2025. Additional dialogue with the property owner to the south is underway and an update will be shared with the SRJB regarding any changes at a future meeting. Dan Steinberger questioned the value of the property that is being talked about. Jerry Bents indicated the tax value is \$860,000. The replacement value would be higher (albeit much less than the \$4.5 million difference in alignments). Dan Steinberger questioned if the SRJB is better off purchasing the property instead. Chairman Ashley indicated this option has been reviewed and a close look is being taken on this. The decision to leave that property outside was financial and it is not at risk until a flood greater than the 100-year. More time is needed to reach a final solution.

Ryan Ackerman provided an update to the Joint Board regarding Phase MI-7. A Project Status Report is contained in the July Board Packet. Ryan Ackerman advised there is a lot of activity happening with this phase. Ryan Ackerman showed a drone video with footage from Monday, July 7, 2025, which showed the activity underway with this phase.

Ryan Ackerman provided an update to the Joint Board regarding WC-1. The Project Status Report is contained in the July Board Packet. Ryan Ackerman advised that final coordination with CPKC is underway on the track raise and construction of the closure. It is hoped that a tangible path forward will be presented to the Joint Board soon.

For a PER Update, Ryan Ackerman indicated that that 2025-2027 biennium work plan is tangentially related to this. The intent is to finalize some of the recommendations and get the Joint Board to take action on the recommendations discussed at the workshop a few months ago. More will come on this within the next 30 days or so.

Ryan Ackerman provided the SRJB with a Rural Program Update. Ryan Ackerman indicated that the Department of Water Resources advised that the Trapped Water Program is going to be ineligible for state funding. Alternative options are being reviewed to move the program forward.

Dennis Reep of HDR Engineering provided an update regarding Rural Bridges. A Project Status Report is contained in the July Board Packet. On Velva, the 408 permissions and permit were received from the USACE on June 9, 2025. All of the documentation is in to FEMA for the CLOMR. The contract with Industrial Builders was signed June 30, 2025. Once permits are in hand, notice to proceed will be delivered to the contractor.

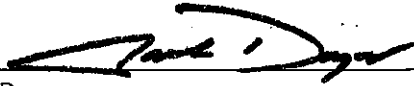
Dennis Reep of HDR Engineering provided an update on Mouse River Park. The bid opening was scheduled for July 15, 2025, but that was pushed back to July 22, 2025, at the request of a construction contractor. Ryan Ackerman showed the Joint Board the planholder's list.

The Joint Board next discussed the biennium work plan for 2025-2027. Ryan Ackerman advised that the SRJB was appropriated \$81.1 million in state funds at the legislative session that concluded this Spring. The typical arrangement has been to take an overall look at the program between design, acquisition and construction and come up with a balanced approach to decide which items on that list to advance. There is also a responsibility share between acquisitions led by SRJB and led by the City of Minot. Ryan Ackerman explained and showed the Joint Board an overview regarding funding.

Jason Sorenson made a motion to approve the workplan and authorize the submittal of the cost share authorization to the Department of Water Resources. Dan Steinberger 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 July Board Packet. The next meeting of the Joint Board is a regular meeting, scheduled for August 7, 2025 at 4:00 p.m. in Room 203 of the Minot Auditorium.

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



Jack Dwyer
Legal Counsel