Minutes of Meeting
Souris River Joint Water Resource Board
Thursday, October 1, 2026

A regular 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, October 1, 2026, after announcing that a quorum was present. The meeting was held in Room 203 of the Minot Auditorium. The Joint Board members in attendance included Jason Sorenson, Tom Klein, Dan Steinberger and Clif Issendorf.

The Joint Board discussed the proposed Agenda for the meeting. Ryan Ackerman made two additions to the agenda, including a late addition to the bills from Goettle Law, PLLC and Work Change Directive for the Mouse River Park Bridge for the Joint Board to consider.

> **Jason Sorenson made a motion to approve the amended Agenda. Dan Steinberger seconded the motion. The motion passed without opposition.**

The draft minutes of the Souris River Joint Board's regular meeting of September 3, 2026 and special meeting of September 14, 2026 were discussed. Dan Steinberger pointed out a correction to the spelling of Pierce County on the last page of the minutes of the September 3, 2026 regular meeting.

> **Jason Sorenson made a motion to approve the amended minutes of the September 3, 2026 regular meeting and draft minutes of the September 14, 2026 meeting. Clif Issendorf seconded the motion. The motion passed without opposition.**

Ryan Ackerman of Ackerman-Estvold presented the Balance Sheet and Budget Report produced as of August 31, 2026, copies of which were included in the October Joint Board Packet.

> **Dan Steinberger moved to approve the Budget Report. Jason Sorenson seconded the motion. A roll call vote was cast. The motion passed without opposition.**

The Joint Board next considered a contract amendment (Agenda Item 5). A Contract Amendment with Houston Engineering was discussed relating to Phase MI-5A. Houston Engineering is proposing Amendment No. 1 to Task Order No. 19 related to the additional engineering services during construction work associated with the prolonged schedule of the general contractor to complete the work and provide closeout documentation. Details are contained in the Joint Board Packet. Dan Steinberger asked whether the contractor could be held responsible for this additional expense. Ryan Ackerman indicated a liquidated damages provision was within the contract but the damages were negotiated along with other considerations to reach a global resolution on the matter.

> **Jason Sorenson moved to approve Amendment No. 1 to Task Order No. 19 with Houston Engineering in the amount not to exceed $300,000.00 and authorize the Chairman to sign the agreement on behalf of the SRJB. Clif 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 October Board Packet totaling $4,610,131.02. Vice Chairman Klein indicated the Verizon has been taken care of by the Chairman. Vice Chairman Klein opened it up for questions from the Joint Board on each bill being considered for approval. On HDR, Dan Steinberger questioned what activities were performed as professional services by Engineers

1, 5 and 6 on Page 235 of the Joint Board Packet. Dennis Reep indicated these were higher than usual due to the overlay redesign work. On TC Nursery (WC-7 Eastside Estates Levee), Dan Steinberger questioned whether the damage was on the levee itself or on private property. Ryan Ackerman indicated the damage was on private property, caused by a drilling rig traversing on the property.

Jason Sorenson moved to approve the payment of bills totaling $4,610,131.02. Dan Steinberger seconded the motion. A roll call vote was cast. The motion passed without opposition.

The Joint Board next considered the monthly retainer bill received from Goettle Law, PLLC in the amount of $1,666.00.

Dan Steinberger moved to approve the payment of the bill to Goettle Law, PLLC in the amount of $1,666.00. Jason Sorenson seconded the motion. A roll call vote was cast. The motion passed without opposition.

Jerry Bents of Houston Engineering updated on Phase MI-4. A Project Status Report is contained in the October Board Packet. Jerry Bents indicated the 95% documents were presented to USACE and USACE is reviewing that, and comments are expected back by the end of December. The target for 100% completion is the end of April of 2027, which would allow work to start. It is anticipated that a couple of smaller projects (removal of the trees along the corridor and replacement of a waterline and small section of sanitary sewer) will be presented to the Joint Board in November.

Jerry Bents of Houston Engineering updated on Phase MI-5. A Project Status Report from Houston Engineering is contained in the October Board Packet. Jerry Bents advised the contractor is still working through punch list items, which deadline to complete is October 9, 2026.

Jerry Bents of Houston Engineering updated the Joint Board on Phase MI-6. A Project Status Report from Houston Engineering is contained in the October Board Packet. Jerry Bents showed a drone video to update the Joint Board.

Jerry Bents 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 October Board Packet. Jerry Bents indicated the last comments from USACE were received and work to finish will take place over the upcoming months. Jerry Bents advised that the funding for construction of this project was not allocated on this last biennium so there is no rush to get to final completion on this project.

Jerry Bents of Houston Engineering provided an update to the Joint Board on Phase WC-5 (Apple Grove), WC-6 (Chapparelle) and WC-7 (Eastside Estates). Jerry Bents indicated all three phases are still undergoing background data research (geotechnical and data collection). An Update Memo on these three phases is included in the October Joint Board Packet.

Ryan Ackerman updated the Joint Board regarding Phase MI-7. A Project Status Report is contained in the October Board Packet. Ryan Ackerman showed a drone video to update the Joint Board on this phase.

Ryan Ackerman provided an update to the Joint Board regarding WC-1. The Project Status Report is contained in the October Board Packet. Ryan Ackerman indicated work is ongoing with CPKC on the final verbiage to the construction and maintenance agreement for the crossing.

Ryan Ackerman provided the Joint Board with an update regarding WC-2 (Brooks Robinwood). The Project Status Report is contained in the October Board Packet. Ryan Ackerman indicated soil and topographic information is being gathered with this phase and evaluation for early alternatives for value engineering.

Ryan Ackerman provided the Joint Board with an update on WC-4 (Talbotts). An Update Memo was included in the October Joint Board Packet. Ryan Ackerman indicated a plan is in place for levee removal, and the Joint Board will be asked to approve and advertise for bids in the next couple of months.

Ryan Ackerman provided the Joint Board with the PER Update. A PER Update Memo was included in the October Joint Board Packet. Ryan Ackerman indicated different alignments are being evaluated and will be presented to the Joint Board in the coming months. Ryan Ackerman indicated alignments that reduce costs are being evaluated, but those come with a tradeoff of potential acquisitions. It is anticipated that the Joint Board will review options within the next couple of months.

Ryan Ackerman provided the Joint Board with a Rural Program Update. An update memo summarizing the updates is contained within the October Joint Board Packet.

Luke Rogers of HDR Engineering provided an update the Velva Bridge. A Project Status Report is contained in the October Board Packet. Luke Rogers showed a drone video to update the Joint Board on this phase. Luke Rogers indicated work on the approach slabs have been completed in the past month on both the north and south sides of the bridge, as well as roadway prep and grading and utility conduits.

On Mouse River Park Bridge, Steve Eberle of Ackerman-Estvold Construction Management updated the Joint Board on the status of the project. An update report is contained in the October Joint Board packet. Steve Eberle indicated Bluestone Construction has been working on continuing removals and roadway preparation.

Steve Eberle presented the Joint Board with a Work Change Directive No. 2. This involves a new road profile which has incorporated several design changes. The purpose of the work change directive is to move forward without delay while unit pricing for the changed work scope is figured out by the contractor. Dan Steinberger indicated he was disappointed with the bridge itself when visiting the site recently, specifically the long-term maintenance foreseen with the waterproof membrane becoming a burden to the County. Ryan Ackerman responded by discussing the approaches contemplated for this bridge and indicated the objective is to give the County a goal product and if something is not performing as expected with the overlay, SRJB will be available to address those issues.

> **Jason Sorenson moved to authorize the Chairman to sign Work Change Directive No. 2 on behalf of the SRJB. Clif Issendorf 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 October Board Packet. The next meeting of the Joint Board is a regular meeting on Thursday, November 5, 2026.

In Personal Appearances, Vice Chairman Klein invited any personal appearances to speak before the board. There were no personal appearances made at the meeting.

There being no further business to discuss, Vice Chairman Tom Klein entertained a motion to adjourn.

Clif Issendorf made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Jason Sorenson seconded the motion. The motion passed without opposition.



Jack Dwyer
Legal Counsel