

**Minutes of Meeting  
Souris River Joint Water Resource Board  
Thursday, June 5, 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, June 5, 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 Jason Sorenson, Chairman David Ashley, Dan Steinberger and Clif Issendorf.

The Joint Board discussed the proposed Agenda for the meeting. Ryan Ackerman added Task Order No. 1 for the rural bridges update for the Mouse River Park ACM services. David Ashley added an item under Other Business of public address to meetings which is becoming a state law shortly.

**Tom Klein made a motion to approve the revised agenda for the meeting. Jason Sorenson seconded the motion. The motion passed without opposition.**

The draft minutes of the May 1, 2025 SRJB regular meeting were discussed.

**Jason Sorenson made a motion to approve the minutes from the May 1, 2025 regular meeting. Tom Klein 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 June Board Packet. Ryan Ackerman explained the Budget Report.

**Clif Issendorf 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 reviewed and discussed various bills set forth in the June Board Packet totaling \$5,423,410.35. Chairman Ashley opened it up for questions from the Board on each bill being considered for approval and advised the Verizon bill has been approved unilaterally and paid.

**Jason Sorenson moved to approve payment of bills totaling \$5,423,410.35. Tom Klein seconded the motion. A roll call vote was cast. The motion passed without opposition.**

Jerry Bents updated on Phase MI-4 (Maple Diversion). Jerry Bents indicated the design process continues to move forward. The target is to submit 60% by the end of July. A Project Status Report from Houston Engineering is contained in the June Board Packet.

Jerry Bents updated on Phase MI-5. A Project Status Report from Houston Engineering is contained in the June Board Packet. Jerry Bents advised construction is nearing the end. This week there was a start up or commissioning of the pump station. The substantial completion deadline is July 1, 2025. Final completion is scheduled for September 1, 2025.

Jerry Bents updated the Joint Board on Phase MI-6. A Project Status Report from Houston Engineering is contained in the June Board Packet. Jerry Bents showed a drone flight to update the Joint Board on progress on this phase.

Jerry Bents provided an update to the Joint Board on Phase MI-8/MI-9. A Project Status Report from Houston Engineering is contained in the June Board Packet. Jerry Bents advised that the 60% design was delivered in May. The predominant change from 30% to 60% was the alignment change to tie the alignment back on the north side of 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue and from there allow an emergency levee to be constructed along the north side of 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue in the event that there is a flood. A public meeting is scheduled for tonight for the residents to see the project.

Jason Westbrook of Barr Engineering updated the Joint Board regarding Phase MI-7. A Project Status Report is contained in the June Board Packet. Jason Westbrook showed a drone video to update the Joint Board on this phase. Jason Westbrook indicated the slurry cutoff wall had parts of alignment were out of tolerance, so a nonconformance report was issued this morning.

Jason Westbrook indicated there is a change order with respect to Phase MI-7. Wagner Construction is proposing Change Order No. 1 for grading, utility, and floodwall modifications for the installation of additional formliner pattern and increase rebar size for both major and minor columns within station ranges. Details of the change order were contained in the Joint Board Packet.

**Tom Klein moved to approve Change Order No. 1 in the amount of \$56,045.89 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.**

Jason Westbrook provided an update to the Joint Board regarding WC-1. The Project Status Report is contained in the June Board Packet. Jason Westbrook indicated there is no change on this phase, as approval is needed from CP to finish the closure going across their tracks.

Jason Westbrook provided a PER Update, indicating discussions are underway on next steps with this to adopt a final plan. A PER Update Memo is contained in the June Board Packet.

Ryan Ackerman provided the SRJB with a Rural Program Update. Ryan Ackerman advised of the results of a meeting last week regarding funding for the Farm Trapped Water Program. The Department of Water Resources staff feels that the proposed improvements would not be eligible for state cost share. Follow up dialogue will be taking place. An Update Memo is contained in the June Board Packet.

Ryan Ackerman advised that a bid opening for the Structure Resale was conducted on May 27, 2025. One bid was received for all 4 structures. The bid report is contained in the Board Packet.

**Jason Sorenson moved to accept the only bid from Gaylin Schmidt in the amount of \$750.00 and authorize the chairman to sign the resale agreement on behalf of the SRJB. Tom Klein seconded the motion. A roll call vote was cast. The motion passed without opposition.**

Ryan Ackerman next notified the Joint Board that a quote from DL Barkie Construction to complete the mowing and spraying at several properties owned by the SRJB is contained in the Joint Board Packet. DL Darkie is under contract with the Ward County Water Board and will be starting that work in a few weeks, they would like to do this work concurrently. They have previously maintained these properties. A map of those properties is contained in the Joint Board Packet.

**Jason Sorenson moved to accept the quote from DL Barkie Construction in the amount of \$6,843.71. Dan Steinberger seconded the motion. A roll call vote was cast. The motion passed without opposition.**

Luke Rogers of HDR Engineering provided an update regarding Rural Bridges. A Project Status Report is contained in the June Board Packet. On Velva, Luke Rogers indicated that a bid opening for the VE-1 Bridge was conducted on May 15, 2025. Two bids were received, and a summary of bids was contained at Pages 340-341 of the Board Packet. Luke Rogers advised on the differences between the bids between Industrial Buildings, Inc. and Swingen Construction.

**Jason Sorenson moved to accept the low bid of Industrial Builders, Inc in the amount of \$9,889,769.18 and authorize the chairman to sign the agreements on behalf of the SRJB. Tom Klein seconded the motion. A roll call vote was cast. The motion passed without opposition.**

On Mouse River Park Bridge, Steve Eberle explained a task order (RC-1 Task Order No. 1) to the Joint Board. Ackerman-Estvold Construction Management is proposing Task Order No. 1 for the RC-1 Bridge project. The scope of services to be provided under this task order shall be construction related surveying services, jobsite mobile office and utilities, jobsite sanitation, trash collection, cameras for security and documentation, testing quality control, and prep/post roadway inspections. Full task order details are contained in the June Board Packet.

**Dan Steinberger moved approve Task Order No. 1 in the amount of \$210,703 and authorize the chairman to sign the task order on behalf of the SRJB. Clif Issendorf seconded the motion. A roll call vote was cast. The motion passed without opposition.**

Steve Eberle updated the Joint Board that work is ongoing with respect to preconstruction services. All onsite inspections are complete, and work has been underway to break down the project, schedule the project and prepare estimates. With respect to RC-1 Bridge advertisement for bids, the plans and specifications were approved at the October 2023 meeting and are ready for re-bidding. There are nine bid packages to separate out various scopes of work along with a single combined bid package.

**Dan Steinberger moved to authorize advertising of bids for the RC-1 bridge project. Clif Issendorf seconded the motion. A roll call vote was cast. The motion passed without opposition.**

An Eaton Irrigation Update was provided by Chris Korkowski of HDR Engineering. An Update Memo Eaton Irrigation is contained in the June Joint Board Packet. Chris Korkowski indicated the study goals are to evaluate existing hydraulic infrastructure within Eaton Irrigation District and try to identify improvements that could potentially provide flood reduction benefits. The survey data was collected at 19 key structures. They also looked at the as-builts within the district. Another key item is the Eaton Dam inspection, which was completed in November of 2024. This resulted in a sink hole being found in the middle of the structure. This was all summarized in a dam inspection memo previously provided to the Joint Board and Eaton Irrigation District. The USACE HEC-RAS model of the Souris River was used for hydraulic modeling. The model was updated to accurately reflect the Eaton Dam District. Peak stage reduction alternatives and drawdown alternatives were evaluated. The recommendations presented by Chris Korkowski were (1) continue existing infrastructure maintenance; (2) repair or replace Eaton Dam; (3) discuss implementation of alternatives; and (4) in-kind replacement of infrastructure. Clif Issendorf asked whether the reason why the dams were raised six feet was addressed with respect to the J. Clark Salyer National Wildlife Refuge. Chris Korkowski responded that the evaluation noted no localized effects. Clif

Issendorf further questioned whether there are records on the last improvements to the dam and any cost share. Chris Korkowski responded that the dam is owned by the Eaton Irrigation District and there are state cost share options. KJL was involved with the last improvements back in the 1970s.

The Joint Board took note of future meetings and events as set forth in the June Board Packet. Ryan Ackerman indicated there is a public input meeting today on MI-8/MI-9 at the Roosevelt Park Zoo Visitor Center. The next meeting of the Joint Board was TBD, July 9-10, 2025 (Special Meeting) in conjunction with the Joint Summer Water Meetings (Spirit Lake Casino & Resort - Devils Lake, ND), but the Joint Board agreed to schedule this for the morning of July 11, 2025 instead, due to invoicing constraints/timing.

In Other Business, Chairman Ashley indicated legislation has passed mandating that time be set aside for public input at any public meeting of an organization. A procedure is being developed to adopt this and should be prepared to the Joint Board at a future meeting.

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

**Clif Issendorf 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