

**Minutes of Meeting
Souris River Joint Water Resource Board
Thursday, May 7, 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, May 7, 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, Chairman David Ashley, Dan Steinberger and Clif Issendorf.

The Joint Board discussed the proposed Agenda for the meeting. Under Item 6, Ryan Ackerman added the Industrial Builders pay Application for VE-1. Also, Item 13 (PER Update) was eliminated.

Jason Sorenson 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 regular meeting of April 2, 2026 were discussed.

Jason Sorenson made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 2, 2026 regular meeting. Dan Steinberger seconded the motion. The motion passed without opposition.

Ryan Ackerman of Ackerman-Estvold presented the Balance Sheet and Budget Report developed as of March 31, 2026, copies of which were included in the April 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 six different contract amendments:

1. Barr Engineering is proposing Task Order No. 20 related to design and permitting services for MREFPP Phase WC-2. This task order provides a scope of services, anticipated budget, project schedule, and USACE 408 efforts. Full details were included in the May Joint Board Packet.
2. Barr Engineering is proposing Task Order No. 22 related to design and permitting services for MREFPP Phase WC-4 Segment. This task order provides a scope of services, anticipated budget, project schedule, and USACE coordination. Full details were included in the May Joint Board Packet.
3. Houston Engineering is proposing Task Order No. 24 related to design and permitting services for MREFPP Phase WC-6 Chaparelle Levee. This task order provides scope of work, project schedule, and anticipated budget. Full details were included in the May Joint Board Packet.
4. Houston Engineering is proposing Task Order No. 25 related to design and permitting services for MREFPP Phase WC-5 Apple Grove Levee. This task order provides scope of work, project schedule, and anticipated budget. Full details were included in the May Joint Board Packet.
5. Houston Engineering is proposing Task Order No. 26 related to design and permitting services for MREFPP Phase WC-7 Eastside Estates Levee. This task order provides scope of work, project schedule, and anticipated budget. Full details were included in the May Joint Board Packet.

6. Dwyer Law Office is proposing a 2025-2027 work plan for providing rural (non-Minot) acquisition services support. The scope of services is intended to support ongoing project development and coordination across multiple project areas where acquisition needs are expected to evolve as design progresses. Full details were included in the May Joint Board Packet.

Dan Steinberger moved for the following approvals:

1. ***Approve Task Order No. 20 with Barr Engineering in the amount not to exceed \$6,546,000.00 and authorize the chairman to sign the agreement on behalf of the SRJB.***
2. ***Approve Task Order No. 22 with Barr Engineering in the amount not to exceed \$143,000.00 and authorize the chairman to sign the agreement on behalf of the SRJB.***
3. ***Approve Task Order No. 24 with Houston Engineering in the amount not to exceed \$242,000.00 and authorize the chairman to sign the agreement on behalf of the SRJB.***
4. ***Approve Task Order No. 25 with Houston Engineering in the amount not to exceed \$2,095,000.00 and authorize the chairman to sign the agreement on behalf of the SRJB.***
5. ***Approve Task Order No. 26 with Houston Engineering in the amount not to exceed \$2,984,000.00 and authorize the chairman to sign the agreement on behalf of the SRJB.***
6. ***Approve the 2025-2027 work plan for rural property acquisitions with Dwyer Law Office in an amount not to exceed \$300,000.00 and authorize the chairman to sign the agreement on behalf of the SRJB.***

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 May Board Packet totaling \$1,728,417.69. Vice Chairman Klein opened it up for questions from the Joint Board on each bill being considered for approval. On TC Nursery, Dan Steinberger asked where the tree location is located. Jerry Bents of Houston Engineering indicated this is the relocation of trees that were located on the MI-5 reach on the north side of the roadway on the east end of the project.

Dan Steinberger moved to approve the payment of bills totaling \$1,728,417.69. Jason Sorenson seconded the motion. A roll call vote was cast. The motion passed without opposition.

The bill to Industrial Builders, Inc. totaling \$765,823.39 for VE-1 Velva bridge was also presented for approval (same was added due to be submitted late).

Jason Sorenson moved to approve the payment of the Industrial Builders bill totaling \$765,823.39. Dan Steinberger seconded the motion. A roll call vote was cast. The motion passed without opposition.

Ryan Ackerman updated on Phase MI-4. A Project Status Report is contained in the May Board Packet. Ryan Ackerman indicated Lieutenant General William H. Graham of USACE recently visited the Minot neighborhood and wanted a briefing on flood control. Ryan Ackerman indicated the meeting was heavily

focused on cost control and additional dialogue will be forthcoming for securing additional appropriation federally for fulfilling the Maple Diversion project.

Jerry Bents of Houston Engineering updated on Phase MI-5. A Project Status Report from Houston Engineering is contained in the May Board Packet. Jerry Bents indicated construction close out on this phase goes through the end of July, so the remaining punch list items should be completed by that time.

Jerry Bents of Houston Engineering updated the Joint Board on Phase MI-6. A Project Status Report from Houston Engineering is contained in the May Board Packet. Jerry Bents indicated work is back running in full effect and played a drone video to show the Joint Board updates on this phase. On the Phase MI-6C contract, plans and specs are being worked on so that is ready to bid. Dan Steinberger asked whether fuel prices spiking has had any impact. Jerry Bents indicated there are no new claims or requests and contractually it is not permitted.

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 May Board Packet. Jerry Bents indicated this phase is nearing the end of design.

Jason Westbrook of Barr Engineering updated the Joint Board regarding Phase MI-7. A Project Status Report is contained in the May Board Packet. Jason Westbrook showed a new drone video to update the Joint Board on this phase.

The Joint Board next considered a MI-7F Xcel Energy Utilities Authorization. The SRJB received a statement of work request from Xcel Energy for approval to proceed with installation. The SOWR includes the electrical service to the new MI-7F restroom and establishes lighting in the northern portion of Roosevelt Park similar to the existing lighting prior to project construction. The SOWR is an estimate of preliminary cost in the amount of \$15,402.91, with no billing at this time. Full details were included in the May Joint Board Packet.

The Joint Board further considered MI-7G Xcel Energy Utilities Authorization. The SRJB received a statement of work request from Xcel Energy for approval to proceed with installation. The SOWR includes the installation of electric to serve the new zoo exhibits. Xcel will bring single phase electrical from an existing line located on the south side of Burdick Expressway. Three new transformers will be set in the new zoo area to be utilized by the new exhibits. Electrical in the zoo area will be underground. The SOWR is an estimate of preliminary cost in the amount of \$35,492.29, with no billing at this time. Full details were included in the May Joint Board Packet.

Jason Sorenson moved to approve the statement of work request (SOWR) and authorize the chairman to sign the agreement on behalf of the SRJB and approve the statement of work request (SOWR) and authorize the chairman to sign the agreement on behalf of the SRJB. Dan Steinberger seconded the motion. A roll call vote was cast. The motion passed without opposition.

Jason Westbrook of Barr Engineering provided an update to the Joint Board regarding WC-1. The Project Status Report is contained in the May Board Packet. Jason Westbrook indicated discussions are continuing with CP on finalizing the agreements with them and no recent responses have been received.

Ryan Ackerman provided the Joint Board with a Rural Program Update. An update memo summarizing the current work of the FARM-TW is contained within the May Joint Board Packet. Ryan Ackerman indicated the team has been working to get smaller scale projects designed and agreed to by the property owners and that work continues. Clif Issendorf asked whether with engineering done on Mr. Hall's property, was that taken into consideration when they are going to back water up for spring runoff, summer and fall, which could put water over the dike. Ryan Ackerman indicated he will need to get an update on that as he does not know the particulars of that particular site.

Luke Rogers of HDR Engineering provided an update regarding Rural Bridges. A Project Status Report is contained in the May Board Packet. On Velva, Luke Rogers provided a drone flight from two weeks ago.


On Mouse River Park, Steven Eberle of Ackerman-Estvold Construction Management provided an update to the Joint Board on the Mouse River Park Bridge. An Update Memo regarding Rural Bridges is contained in the May Joint Board Packet. Steven Eberle showed a drone flight updating the Joint Board on progress on the Mouse River Park Bridge. Dan Steinberger asked about timing. Steven Eberle indicated they are still looking at the September timeframe.

The Joint Board took note of future meetings and events as set forth in the May Board Packet. The next meeting of the Joint Board is scheduled to commence on Thursday, June 4, 2026 at 4:00 p.m. in Room 203 of the Minot Auditorium.

In Personal Appearances, Vice Chairman Tom Klein invited any personal appearances to speak to the board. Billi Gunderson appeared before the Joint Board to indicate she will no longer be asking for Joint Board support. Ms. Gunderson showed photographs of absence of a guard rail, "use at your own risk" signage, and other alleged failures to meet ADA requirements. Ms. Gunderson contended safety is not being made a priority. Ms. Gunderson provided the Attorney General with evidence that records provided were modified on April 28, 2026 after close at city hall where payment was required to receive inspection documents. Ms. Gunderson indicated she is invoking her right to fee waiver under N.D.C.C. 44-04-18(2)(g). Ms. Gunderson indicated she expects the missing permits for excavation and closing of the sidewalks, daily logs for 6 and 7 and the April 10, 2026 records to be released immediately without the illegal surcharge. Vice Chairman Tom Klein thanked Ms. Gunderson for her concern.

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

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



Jack Dwyer
Legal Counsel