Minutes of Meeting
Souris River Joint Water Resource Board
Thursday, November 5, 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, November 5, 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. There were no requested additions to the proposed Agenda.

> **Dan Steinberger made a motion to approve the proposed Agenda. Tom Klein seconded the motion. The motion passed without opposition.**

The draft minutes of the Souris River Joint Board's regular meeting of October 1, 2026 and special meeting of November 2, 2026 were discussed. Dan Steinberger pointed out a correction to the spelling of plant.

> **Jason Sorenson made a motion to approve the minutes of the October 1, 2026 regular meeting and the November 2, 2026 special meeting. Dan Steinberger seconded the motion. The motion passed without opposition.**

Ryan Ackerman of Ackerman-Estvold presented the Budget Report, copies of which were included in the November Joint Board Packet.

> **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 next discussed the annual financial audit and whether to accept a proposal from Brady Martz and Associates. The financial audit report for the SRJB for fiscal year 2025 was included in the November Joint Board Packet.

> **Jason Sorenson moved to accept and authorize the chairman to sign the management representation letter and financial audit report for 2025 and also to authorize Brady Martz and Associates to submit the final audit report to the State of North Dakota on behalf of the Souris River Joint Board. 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 November Board Packet totaling $5,214,129.12. Chairman Ashley indicated the Verizon bill has been taken care of. On Integrity Outdoor Living, Dan Steinberger questioned whether the subject damage was on private property. Ryan Ackerman indicated the damage was primarily on private property.

> **Dan Steinberger moved to approve the payment of bills totaling $5,214,129.12. 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 November Board Packet. Jerry Bents indicated the project is sitting at 95% design, and it is going through

review by USACE. Comments are expected to be received after January 1, 2027. Jerry Bents indicated the bid packages for early phases (such as clearing trees from the corridor and relocation of utility lines) are being worked on.

Jerry Bents of Houston Engineering updated on Phase MI-5. A Project Status Report from Houston Engineering is contained in the November Board Packet. Jerry Bents advised the contractor has completed all of the work required contractually with the exception of some submittals owed over the next month. A final pay application is anticipated to be presented at the December meeting to close out the project.

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

Jerry Bents of Houston Engineering provided an update to the Joint Board on Phase WC-5 (Apple Grove), Jerry Bents indicated initial design work has been underway, so wetland delineations are complete, all of the ground survey for utilities is complete, and geotechnical borings are complete. Jerry Bents indicated that the various alternatives on the value engineering are being developed and will be presented to the Joint Board at a future meeting prior to going to the 30% design.

Jerry Bents of Houston Engineering provided an update to the Joint Board on Phase WC-6 (Chapparelle), which is largely the same as Apple Grove. Dan Steinberger asked about Highway 52 and which direction the water flows. Jerry Bents indicated there is a pipe through the highway so water from the north comes south and crosses through. Jerry Bents indicated part of the concept for Eastside Estates is to extend a levee to catch water and force it into the Mouse River instead of letting it break to the South toward Chapparelle.

Jerry Bents of Houston Engineering provided an update to the Joint Board on Phase WC-7 (Eastside Estates). Jerry Bents indicated the updates on this phase are also similar to Apple Grove.

Jerry Bents of Houston Engineering provided n update to the Joint Board on Phase SA-2 (Sawyer). Jerry Bents indicated things are just beginning to kick off with this phase. Jerry Bents indicated a meeting with city council was held about three weeks ago to let the council know that SRJB had authorized design to start in Sawyer and crews would need to get on property owned by residents within the city to do borings and other work.

Jason Westbrock of Barr Engineering updated the Joint Board regarding Phase MI-7. A Project Status Report is contained in the November Board Packet. Jason Westbrock showed a drone video to update the Joint Board on this phase with video footage taken last week.

Ryan Ackerman updated the Joint Board about an MDU utilities authorization. The SRJB received an agreement from MDU to provide natural gas services to five new buildings located in Roosevelt Park and Zoo related to the MI7F,G,I Phases. MDU is requesting the agreement and costs be approved prior to construction. MDU is preparing to complete this work in November if approved. The cost is $92,228.00. Details were contained in the November Joint Board Packet.

Tom Klein moved to approve the agreement 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.

Jason Westbrock provided the Joint Board with an update regarding Phase WC-2 (Brooks Robinwood). The Project Status Report is contained in the November Board Packet. Jason Westbrock indicated there have been different environmental studies and geotechnical drilling has commenced. Jason Westbrock indicated that there was a confrontation with a resident while doing this drilling. The accessing of the drill rig created some tension with the Varden, so Jason Westbrock indicated he called to demobilize the drill rig and redeploy them to Velva pending a conversation with the Varden.

Jason Westbrock provided the Joint Board with an update on Phase WC-3 (Talbotts). An Update Memo was included in the November Joint Board Packet. Jason Westbrock indicated the levee system has been decommissioned so it is just a grading plan and a draft is ready and going through the Q&A process.

Jason Westbrock provided the Joint Board with an update on Phase WC-4 (Kings Court). An Update Memo was included in the November Joint Board Packet. Jason Westbrock indicated geotechnical drilling is slated to begin shortly and letters have gone out to landowners, so field work will begin shortly.

Jason Westbrock provided the Joint Board with an update on Phase RC-2 (Mouse River Park Levee). An Update Memo was included in the November Joint Board Packet. Jason Westbrock indicated the drilling is ongoing on this phase. Jason Westbrock advised the Joint Board that a borrow source is needed and outreach to neighboring property owners is ongoing about a potential for borrow. Dan Steinberger asked whether there is any progress with a land swap. Jason Westbrock indicated that conversation still needs to be initiated with Fish and Wildlife Services.

Jason Westbrock provided the Joint Board with an update on VE-2 (Velva Levee). An Update Memo was included in the November Joint Board Packet. Jason Westbrock indicated the drill rigs are on site collecting the requested data and things are moving along as expected.

Ryan Ackerman provided the Joint Board with a Rural Program Update. An update memo summarizing the updates is contained within the November Joint Board Packet. Ryan Ackerman indicated the permitting process is ongoing so there is not a lot new to report but that should wrap up in the coming weeks.

Luke Rogers of HDR Engineering provided an update the Velva Bridge. A Project Status Report is contained in the November Board Packet. Luke Rogers showed a drone video with footage from last week to update the Joint Board on this phase. Director Steinberger asked the distance between distance between edge of roadway to the light posts. Luke Rogers indicated that is typically two feet (or more). Dan Steinberger expressed concern with it being a rural area where potential wide loads traverse the bridge. Luke Rogers indicated roadway designers followed all DOT guidelines and the bridge will be wider than the old one.

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 November Joint Board packet. Steve Eberle showed a drone video and indicated the roadway is now open to traffic.

Ryan Ackerman presented an overview of conversations with state representatives regarding future funding for the project. In the 2025 legislative session, a 14-year plan was completed to fund the project to completion. Ultimately that plan did not get adopted and the appropriation was instead $81.1 million. We are two years later, so 12 years are remaining. Appropriations increased to $115 million per biennium

for five successive biennia. Final appropriation of $104 million in 37-39 Biennium. The proposal has been shared with Executive Brach, legislators (including local candidates).

Ryan Ackerman indicated a local financing strategy with sales tax projections was put together. There is a linear trend (lower projection) utilized with assumed constant population of 47,000. Approximately $300,000 growth per year per penny sales tax growth projected. $6,38 growth per year per penny per resident. Building that into a pro forma, the take home message shared with the city council last week was flood control sales tax remains consistent at 0.68% through 2031. Flood control sales tax increases beginning in 2032 and increases 0.05% per year from 2032 to 2036 and 0.07% from 2036 to 2037. Peak sales tax collected for flood control is from 2037 through 2046, then collections can tail off as debt is retired. The issue will be officially taken up by the Minot City Council on November 16, 2026.

The Joint Board took note of future meetings and events as set forth in the November Board Packet. The next meeting of the Joint Board is a special meeting at noon on Thursday, December 10, 2026 in Bismarck, North Dakota.

In Personal Appearances, Chairman Ashley invited any personal appearances to speak before the board. A personal appearance was made by Billi Gunderson. Ms. Gunderson had comments on MDU boring for gas lines. Ms. Gunderson expressed her position that ADA requirements are not met on various portions of the project and offered photographic evidence. Also in public appearances, Rilie Domres appeared before the Joint Board and read a memo from Evergreen residents regarding Brooks Addition Robinwood Countrywood. Mr. Domres expressed various concern, including lack of information provided to residents on this phase regarding project activities, lack of input from residents, and potential impact on property values as a result of the project.

There being no further business to discuss, Chairman Ashley entertained a motion to adjourn.

Tom Klein made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Clif Issendorf seconded the motion. The motion passed without opposition.

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Jack Dwyer
Legal Counsel