

**Minutes of Meeting**  
**Souris River Joint Water Resource Board**  
**Thursday, June 4, 2020**

A meeting of the board of directors of the Souris River Joint Water Resource Board was called to order by Chairman David Ashley at 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, June 4, 2020, by way of a WebEx conference call. The speakerphone was located in the Broadway Conference Room at Ackerman-Estvold located at 1907 17<sup>th</sup> Street SE, Minot, North Dakota, and call in information was provided on the public notice for the meeting. Joint Board members attending the meeting were Chairman David Ashley, Dan Steinberger, Dan Jonasson, and Tom Klein. Chairman David Ashley called the meeting to order and announced that a quorum was present.

The Joint Board discussed the proposed Agenda for the meeting. Ryan Ackerman requested that a technology update and a discussion regarding the transition back to regular in-person meetings be added to the agenda.

**Tom Klein made a motion to approve the agenda, as amended. Dan Jonasson seconded the motion. The motion passed without opposition.**

The draft Minutes from the May 7, 2020, meeting were discussed.

**Dan Jonasson made a motion to approve the Minutes from the May 7, 2020, Joint Board meeting. Tom Klein seconded the motion. The motion passed without opposition.**

The Joint Board discussed the Budget Report included in the June Board Packet. Ryan Ackerman explained the Balance Sheet included in the Board Packet.

**Dan Jonasson moved to approve the Budget Report included in the June Board Packet. Tom Klein seconded the motion. The motion passed without opposition.**

Ryan Ackerman gave an overview of the Water Topics Overview Committee meeting held on June 4, 2020. At the meeting, Minot Mayor Sipma gave an overview on how the \$82.5 million dollars of state funding allocated to the Mouse River Project is being used on both urban and rural portions of the Project. As requested by Chairman Schmidt, a plan to make a 40% cut to the current biennium budget, totaling \$33 million dollars, was also presented. These cuts were done by deferring two projects into the next biennium, the partial construction of Phase MI-5 and a partial deferment of Phase WC-1. Dan Jonasson added that there was a total of approximately \$130 million dollars in savings across all state funded water projects. Dennis Reep added that the Water Topics Overview Committee recommended the State Water Commission only fund critical projects, such as rural water supply projects, at their next meeting on June 9, 2020.

Ryan Ackerman gave an overview of the proposed engineering contract amendments. Barr Engineering encountered additional effort that was out of scope during the design phase of the Burlington Levee project. The additional efforts included geotechnical work associated with the four crossings of the CP Rail

**Dan Steinberger seconded the motion. A roll call vote was cast. The motion passed without opposition.**

Jason Westbrook provided an update to the Joint Board regarding construction of Phase BU-1. USACE Section 408 permit has been granted, but the Joint Board is still waiting on two state permits. A pre-construction meeting has been scheduled for June 12, 2020. Acquisitions and easements needed for Phase BU-1C are not complete and negotiations are ongoing.

Jason Westbrook provided an update to the Joint Board regarding construction of Phase WC-1. Section 408 permit has been submitted to the USACE. Coordination is needed with CP Rail for the crossing. Acquisitions and easements needed for Phase WC-1 are not complete, and negotiations are ongoing.

Ryan Ackerman provided the Joint Board with an update regarding the StARR Program. Demolition contracts from last fall are wrapping up, and structure resales are moving forward, which are expected to wrap up by mid-summer. Tom Klein asked the status of maintaining the acquired lots. Ryan Ackerman stated that quotes were requested from several contractors, but he would need to follow up.

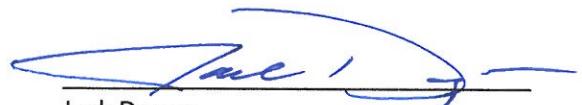
Troy Borchard from HDR Engineering provided an update regarding Rural Bridges. A Project Status Report is contained in the June Board Packet. Sawyer site is working on getting right of ways and easements from landowners. Plans are being finalized for review. The Velva site is working on environmental compliance. The Mouse River Park site is working with the NDDOT to be classified as a transportation project, not a water project. David Ashley asked whether there were any public meetings scheduled. Troy Borchard explained that he was going to attempt to schedule both the Velva and Mouse River Park meetings concurrently.

Ryan Ackerman provided the Joint Board with an update regarding the technology expense approved during the April 2020 meeting. The LTE cards for the computers have arrived and are currently being installed in the laptops. The laptops should be distributed to the board within the next week.

Ryan Ackerman proposed to the Joint Board a plan to transition back to in-person meetings in August, pending the anticipated decline of COVID-19 cases in the state. Social distancing measures would be followed.

The Joint Board took note of future meetings as set forth in the June Board Packet. Several important upcoming meetings were noted and discussed.

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



Jack Dwyer  
Legal Counsel