

**Minutes of Meeting
Souris River Joint Water Resource Board
Thursday, November 2, 2023**

A meeting of the board of directors of the Souris River Joint Water Resource District was called to order by Chairman David Ashley at 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, November 2, 2023, after announcing that a quorum was present. The meeting was held in Room 203 of the Minot Auditorium. Joint Board members in attendance were Tom Klein, Dan Steinberger, and Jason Sorenson.

The Joint Board discussed the proposed Agenda for the meeting.

Tom Klein made a motion to approve the agenda for the meeting. Dan Steinberger seconded the motion. The motion passed without opposition.

The draft minutes of the October 5, 2023 regular meeting of the SRJB were discussed. Dan Steinberger requested the minutes be amended to include discussion about the Renville County bridge going over the Mille Lacs River.

Dan Steinberger made a motion to approve the revised minutes from October 5, 2023 regular meeting. Jason Sorenson seconded the motion. The motion passed without opposition.

Brent Burgard presented the Budget Report and the Joint Board reviewed the Budget Report included in the November Board Packet. Brent Burgard explained the Balance Sheet and Budget Report.

The Joint Board reviewed and discussed various bills set forth in the November Board Packet totaling \$3,789,606.55. Chairman Ashley opened it up for questions from the Board on each bill being considered for approval. Dan Steinberger questioned a Barr Engineering expense for winterizing. Nathan Amick indicated this expense was for winterizing the rental trailer as part of ending the Burnell lease.

Tom Klein moved to approve the payment of bills totaling \$3,789,606.55. Dan Steinberger seconded the motion. A roll call vote was cast. The motion passed without opposition.

Jerry Bents of Houston Engineering updated the Joint Board on Phase MI-1. A Project Status Report from Houston Engineering is contained in the November Board Packet. The contractor is continuing to work through items associated with closing out the project. Per the settlement agreement, the contractor has through the end of June of 2024 to complete the work and things are on track for that to happen.

Jerry Bents updated on Phase MI-4. A Project Status Report from Houston Engineering is contained in the November Board Packet. A cost estimate was received back from CP Railroad yesterday for modifications to the Sixth Street Bridge. A new bridge over the Maple Division will ultimately need to be built. To allow the new bridge, the existing railroad around it will need to be bypassed. In order to do this without acquiring new homes, CP has asked for modifications to the existing bridge over Sixth Street to have ballast and ties that allow CP to have adjustment laterally for their tracks. CP's plan for the modifications has a cost of approximately \$1.7 million. A coordination met today and decided it was in the best interests of the project to take that direction rather than buying out additional properties. Dan Steinberger asked how many additional properties would be impacted with alignment reset. Jerry Bents estimated 6-7 homes would be impacted, with a total taxable market value of \$1.5 million. This does not include demolition, relocation expenses, etc. With all expenses factored in, it would be closer to \$3 million.

Jerry Bents updated on Phase MI-5. A Project Status Report from Houston Engineering is contained in the November Board Packet. Jerry Bents showed a drone video to show the Joint Board the updates being made to this phase, including the floodwall installation.

Jerry Bents updated the Joint Board on Phase MI-6. A Project Status Report from Houston Engineering is contained in the November Board Packet. This phase is very close to finishing up the 100% submittal. It is expected that 100% submittal will be delivered to the USACE in the next 10 days. Once that happens, the USACE will review, and Houston Engineering will address any comments they have. At this point, Phase MI-6 is planned to bid as one project; however, an early out contract for tree removal will be presented to the Joint Board at a future meeting for authorization to procure a contract for that.

Jason Westbrook of Barr Engineering updated the Joint Board on Phase MI-2C. A Project Status Report from is contained in the November Board Packet. Jason Westbrook advised there is no update from last month. The final pay application is developed and will be presented to the Joint Board at the December meeting.

Jason Westbrook provided an update to the Joint Board regarding Phase MI-7. A Project Status Report is contained in the November Board Packet. Late next week or early next is expected for 100% submittal to be delivered to USACE. Members of the team met with the entire Minot Park District Board on October 24, 2023. Feedback from the board was that they understood better why so many trees would be impacted through the park. There was discussions about other alternatives and how trees would be impacted by other alternatives. Bid packages for the work in the park will likely be in 2024 and in the zoo in the next construction season following. Approval for plans and specifications for tree removal will likely come before the Joint Board at the December board meeting. The sanitary sewer will get replaced with a deeper one. The sewer is on the critical path for both projects, so the plan is to develop plans and specs for another early out segment for the sanitary sewer replacement that would position both projects to move faster once full scale production goes into place next spring. This was just discussed today with the coordination team and the package should be presented to the Joint Board in December. Dan Steinberger questioned whether the sanitary sewer is on a parallel path. Jason Westbrook explained it is a parallel line and the existing one would be abandoned.

Jason Westbrook provided an update to the Joint Board regarding Phase WC-1. A Project Status Report is contained in the November Board Packet. Wagner Construction is working on completing the warranty item checklist. Otherwise, that project is wrapped up and complete.

Jason Westbrook provided an update on Phase BU-1. A Project Status Report is contained in the November Board Packet. Some punch list items are being worked on with Bluestone. Chairman Ashley expressed that the cooperation shown on this project is a shining example for flood control projects.

Nathan Amick provided the SRJB with a Rural Program Update. The program for the StARR demolition properties continues to close out. The farm trapped water program is a work in progress – a couple of meetings have been held.

Troy Borchard from HDR Engineering provided an update regarding Rural Bridges. A Project Status Report is contained in the November Board Packet. For the Sawyer project, the contractor had some punch list items, including asphalt settlement on the south end and rip rap to complete before final submittal to the USACE. The contractor's intent is to get the rip rap completed this year; however, the asphalt patching

will be completed next season. The county did put a small wedge in, so they do not catch their plows in it this winter. Otter Tail Power was getting a permit to bore under the river but they were advised that HDR needed plans for that to keep all records for the levee; until then, they have a temporary overhead wire strung across the river.

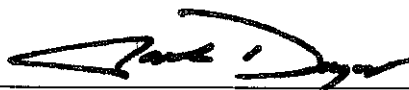
Troy Borchard updated the Joint Board on the Velva bridge. On that project, plans were submitted to the DOT. They were called 50% plans but were more like 90% (plans, specifications and design calculations). A November 27, 2023 date was put on the plans to receive comments back. Environmental compliance documents have been sent in for sovereign lands. Landowners have been provided temporary easement documents and some have been signed.

Troy Borchard provided a report on the Mouse River Park bridge. A bid opening was held on October 30, 2023. No bidders were at the opening. IBI and Swingen were contacted to question why they had not submitted a bid. Swingen was ready to go and build but they reached out to Wagner about the dirt work but Wagner had some reservations and did not have a whole lot of time to look at the bid. Wagner and Swingen still want to let it but Wagner needed more time. Troy Borchard plans to reach out next week to talk through concerns. IBI (who also did not bid) had not reached out to a dirt contractor because they thought that their haul distance for concrete was too far but on further discussion they may reconsider after learning that their longest concrete pour would only be 35 yards. IBI's biggest reservation was the construction time frame (trying to build it in one season). IBI's ask would be to extend the construction season from 2024 into 2025 to give time so that after seasonal restrictions are off, they could do the substructure work next year and do super structure work in the spring of 2025. IBI also had a very large cost for removing and salvaging the existing box culverts (almost half a million dollars). The intent is to make minor changes to the plans (including removing the culvert salvage), have a short advertising period for bids, and accept rebids toward the end of November. Dan Steinberger questioned whether there was coordination with the contractors when completing the redesign. Chairman Ashley indicated we now have two contracting firms that may be interested in bidding now that issues have been worked through.

The Joint Board took note of future meetings and events as set forth in the November Board Packet. The next meeting of the SRJB will be at 12:00 p.m. on December 7, 2023 at the Bismarck Hotel & Conference Center – Governor's Room, Bismarck, ND (Special Meeting).

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

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



Jack Dwyer
Legal Counsel