

**Minutes of Meeting
Souris River Joint Water Resource Board
Thursday, November 7, 2024**

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 7, 2024, 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, Jason Sorenson and Dan Steinberger.

The Joint Board discussed the proposed Agenda for the meeting. Ryan Ackerman added an Item under Eaton Irrigation Update to include amendment from HDR Engineering for a dam inspection. Jack Dwyer added an item under Mouse River ACM Special Committee meeting dates.

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

The draft minutes of the October 3, 2024 regular meeting were discussed.

Dan Steinberger made a motion to approve the minutes from the October 3, 2024 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 August Board Packet. Brent Burgard explained the Budget Report.

Jason Sorenson 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 reviewed and discussed various bills set forth in the November Board Packet totaling \$2,412,188.68. Chairman Ashley opened it up for questions from the Board on each bill being considered for approval and advised the Verizon bill has been paid per normal process. On The Title Team, Dan Steinberger questioned the charge. Ryan Ackerman advised of the acquisition plan that has been in place since 2012 and all were administered on a voluntary basis. There was an individual within the plan that was not interested in selling but has since passed away. The representatives of his estate reached out and indicated they would be willing to sell.

Dan Steinberger moved to approve the payment of bills totaling \$2,412,188.68. Jason Sorenson 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. Jerry Bents advised MI-1 closeout continues, including a couple of pipe repairs by Park Construction.

Jerry Bents updated on Phase MI-4. A Project Status Report from Houston Engineering is contained in the November Board Packet. Jerry Bents indicated there were 11 properties/structures that were proposed to be added to the acquisition list. Some additional updates have been ongoing with the Minot City Council. After gathering the additional information, the city council did ultimately concur with the recommendation and approve the acquisitions to start. Dan Steinberger asked whether the properties

are all residential. Jerry Bents indicated they are all residential but do include some multi-family duplexes and fourplexes in that area (but no businesses).

Jerry Bents updated on Phase MI-5. A Project Status Report from Houston Engineering is contained in the November Board Packet. A drone video was shown by Jerry Bents to show updates on this phase.

Jerry Bents updated the Joint Board on Phase MI-6. A Project Status Report from Houston Engineering is contained in the November Board Packet. A drone video was shown by Jerry Bents to show updates on this phase. Work is predominantly focused on building a temporary access that would allow people to get into the pool and park. Jerry Bents also indicated that pre-consolidation piles are being worked on to allow the pre-consolidation to work over winter months to start utility installation in the spring.

Jerry Bents advised that of two change orders for the Joint Board's consideration. First, Park Construction is proposing Change Order No. 2 to cover the cost of demolishing the Nok Dak Bar as requested by the SRJB/City of Minot as part of MI-6B.

Jason Sorenson moved to approve Change Order No. 2 in the amount of \$68,000.00 and authorize the Chairman to sign the change order on behalf of the SRJB. Dan Steinberger seconded the motion. A roll call vote was cast. The motion passed without opposition.

Jerry Bents advised that a second change order relates to unforeseen utilities. Specifically, Park Construction is proposing Change Order No. 3 to cover the cost of installing a sanitary sewer bypass on existing lines. An unidentified buried sanitary sewer manhole was located under the pavement when Park Construction was preparing to install Pile G at the proposed pump station. Dan Steinberger asked if there would be traffic on the routing of it. Jerry Bents this area would all be closed down for construction.

Jason Sorenson moved to approve Change Order No. 3 in the amount of \$121,188.00 and authorize the Chairman to sign the change order on behalf of the SRJB. Dan Steinberger seconded the motion. A roll call vote was cast. The motion passed without opposition.

Jerry Bents updated the Joint Board on Phase MI-8/MI-9. Jerry Bents advised that the design phase is still in its early stages, the goal being to reach 30% design in January. Cost estimates will be presented to the Joint Board once more is known.

Jason Westbrook of Barr Engineering provided an update to the Joint Board regarding Phase MI-7 (Roosevelt Park and Zoo). A Project Status Report is contained in the November Board Packet. Mattson Construction (who was contracted for Phases MI-7D and 7E, the building contracts) has been busy. A drone video was shown to provide the Joint Board with a visual of the progress on this phase, including the Teddy statute being moved to its new home. Wagner is getting started with the pre-consolidation pile.

Jason Westbrook provided an update to the Joint Board regarding WC-1. The Project Status Report is contained in the November Board Packet. A coordination call with the railroad took place earlier this week. There has been no movement from CP Rail.

For a PER Update, Jason Westbrook indicated he and Ryan Ackerman met with the Evergreen neighborhood last month. Dan Steinberger asked what resistance is being faced by the property owners in the neighborhood. Jason Westbrook indicated this particular neighborhood was developed after the flood of 2011. They developed along the frontage to the country club, so they are faced with the options

of (1) flood protection and lose my view of the course; (2) pay for flood insurance and not have flood protection; or (3) an expensive option involving some river closures and diversion for their benefit. Jason Westbrook indicated the approach is to protect the most amount of homes for the least amount of money and make that the recommendation to move forward with. Tom Klein indicated that development was developed before 2011. Jason Sorenson indicated it was maybe half developed at that time.

Ryan Ackerman provided the SRJB with a Rural Program Update. Preliminary design packets were sent out to participating landowners. This resulted in a meeting with two of the landowners to discuss those designs and got feedback that has resulted in some changes. Another meeting is scheduled this week with a third landowner and additional meetings are expected to follow. Surveys crews have been sent out to verify information and collect data on certain properties where LIDAR does not have accuracy needed. A letter will be sent to the Department of Water Resources tomorrow setting forth history of the Farm Trapped Water Program and setting forth justification for why this program is for flood control.

Troy Borchard of HDR Engineering provided an update regarding Rural Bridges. A Project Status Report is contained in the November Board Packet. On the Mouse River Park, work is ongoing with Dwyer Law Office to determine the alternative bidding method. Once this legal opinion is received, Joint Board approval will be sought to get bidding started on the project.

On the Sawyer site, Troy Borchard advised that the final billing should be submitted soon and that should close out the project.

On the Velva site, the plans, specifications, and engineer's estimate for the Velva Bridge replacement are ready for review and approval. The plans, specs, and engineers estimate are included in the November Joint Board packet. A construction estimate for the MREFPP Phase VE-1 Velva Bridge Replacement 3-Span Prestress girder includes \$8,066,764.82 for construction and \$1,353,000.00 for construction engineering, for a total project cost of \$9,419,764.82. The construction engineering fee was submitted and approved on February 1, 2024, so that is already authorized funding.

Tom Klein moved to approve plans and specifications for the Velva Bridge project and authorize advertisement for bids. Jason Sorenson seconded the motion. The motion passed without opposition.

Troy Borchard of HDR Engineering announced that he will be retiring and Luke Rogers will be handling the rural bridge program. Luke Rogers and Matthew Robinson have been involved heavily in the design side. Luke will attend the January SRJB meeting in person for the Joint Board to meet him in person.

Jack Dwyer indicated a draft contract for the ACM and RFQ document nearly ready and suggested that a date be selected to schedule a meeting date for the ACM subcommittee to meet and provide feedback. Jack Dwyer suggested Friday, November 15, 2024 would be the earliest available date. The meeting was scheduled for 8:00 a.m. on November 15, 2024 via Teams.

Christopher Korkowski presented an Eaton Irrigation Update to the Joint Board. An update is contained in the November Board Packet. Christopher Korkowski indicated the existing condition hydraulics is ready to be quality controlled. Christopher Korkowski updated that all three of the events and all structures are modeled and things appear to be running smoothly with that.

Chairman Ashley indicated some issues have arisen with the Eaton Dam itself. A proposed change order is for a visual inspection and an evaluation from the engineer's perspective to present to the Eaton Irrigation Board. Dan Steinberger questioned jurisdiction. Ryan Ackerman explained it is the jurisdiction of the Eaton Irrigation District, but the infrastructure condition needs to be evaluated for flood control reasons.

Tom Klein moved to approve the change order in the amount of \$6,145 for a visual inspection and an evaluation from the engineer's perspective to present to the Eaton Irrigation Board. Jason Sorenson seconded the motion. A roll call vote was cast. The motion passed without opposition.

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, scheduled for December 12, 2024 at 12:00 p.m. at the Bismarck Hotel & Conference Center in Bismarck, North Dakota.

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

Tom Klein made a motion to adjourn. Jason Sorenson seconded the motion. The motion passed without opposition.

Jack Dwyer
Legal Counsel