Minutes of Special Meeting
Souris River Joint Water Resource Board
Thursday, July 16, 2026

A special meeting of the board of directors of the Souris River Joint Water Resource District was called to order by Chairman David Ashley at 8:00 a.m. on Thursday, July 16, 2026, after announcing that a quorum was present. The meeting was held at the Rough Rider Center in Watford City, North Dakota. Joint Board members in attendance were Jason Sorenson, Clif Issendorf, Tom Klein and Dan Steinberger.

The Joint Board discussed the proposed Agenda for the meeting.

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

The draft minutes of the Souris River Joint Board's regular meeting of June 4, 2026 and special meeting of July 13, 2026 were discussed.

> **Tom Klein motioned to approve the June 4, 2026 regular meeting and July 13, 2026 special meeting minutes. Clif Issendorf seconded the motion. The motion passed without opposition.**

Ryan Ackerman of Ackerman-Estvold presented the Balance Sheet and Budget Report produced as of the end of April, copies of which were included in the July Joint Board Packet.

> **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 next considered a contract amendments. The first was Task Order 21 IERP Phase WC-2- HDR Engineering. HDR Engineering is proposing Task Order No. 21 related to the Independent External Peer Review services for the design of Phase WC-2. Details were included in the Joint Board Packet.

> **Tom Klein moved to approve Task Order No. 21 with HDR in the amount not to exceed $117,700.00 and authorize the chairman to sign the agreement on behalf of the SRJB. Clif Issendorf seconded the motion. A roll call vote was cast. The motion passed without opposition.**

The Joint Board next reviewed Minot Area Chamber EDC Borrow Agreement Amendment. The amendment proposed by the Minot Chamber EDC would extend the current agreement signed back on March 28, 2024 with excavation operations no later than December 2026 and completion of all restoration by June 15, 2027 unless terminated by the MACEDC due to sale or repurpose of property. The details were included in the Joint Board Packet.

> **Jason Sorenson moved to approve the amendment with the Minot Area Chamber EDC 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.**

The Joint Board next reviewed Task Order 18 Phase MI-7 – Barr Engineering. Ryan Acjerman indicated that Barr Engineering is proposing Amendment No. 1 to Task Order No. 18 related to the increase in the initial scope of services. The details were included in the Joint Board Packet.

Clif Issendorf moved to approve Amendment No. 1 to Task Order 18 in an amount not to exceed $1,700,000.00 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.

Jerry Bents of Houston Engineering updated on Phase MI-4. A Project Status Report is contained in the July Board Packet. Jerry Bents indicated the two teams are working to advance to 95% and the due date for that is August 18, 2026.

Jerry Bents of Houston Engineering updated on Phase MI-5. A Project Status Report from Houston Engineering is contained in the July Board Packet. Jerry Bents indicated final closeout with Wagner Construction is approaching. Wagner has until August 18, 2026 to finish punch list items.

Jerry Bents of Houston Engineering updated the Joint Board on Phase MI-6. A Project Status Report from Houston Engineering is contained in the July Board Packet. Jerry Bents indicated this phase has had a lot of movement and showed a drone video to update the Joint Board.

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 July Board Packet. Jerry Bents indicated comments on the 90% submittal are awaited.

Jerry Bents of Houton Engineering updated the Joint Board on Phases WC-5, WC-6 and WC-7. A Project Status Report from Houston Engineering is contained in the July Board Packet. Jerry Bents indicated that these three phases are at data gathering stage at this point to start developing design from there.

Jason Westbrock of Barr Engineering updated the Joint Board regarding Phase MI-7. A Project Status Report is contained in the July Board Packet. Jason Westbrock indicated the parking lot for the pickleball courts is in. Jason Westbrock showed a new drone video to update the Joint Board on this phase.

Ryan Ackerman presented the Joint Board with information on Phase MI-7D Change Order No. 9. Mattson Construction is proposing Change Order No. 9 for costs associated with revisions to the camel building as it was discovered during demolition that the existing walls did not have suitable lateral support for the proposed building. Full details were contained in the Joint Board packet.

Dan Steinberger moved to approve Change Order No. 9 in the amount of $115,298.78 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 of Barr Engineering provided an update to the Joint Board regarding WC-1. The Project Status Report is contained in the July Board Packet. Jason Westbrock indicated there has been some active engagement with CPKC regarding the closure structure.

Jason Westbrock of Barr Engineering provided an update to the Joint Board regarding WC-2 (Brooks Robinwood). The Project Status Report is contained in the July Board Packet. Scoping and contracting for geotechnical investigations is in progress; an internal kickoff meeting with Barr and Ackerman teams was held; topographic and bathymetric surveys are being completed and processed; and wetland, OHWM, and Raptor surveys are in progress.

Jason Westbrock of Barr Engineering provided an update to the Joint Board regarding WC-4 (Talbots). A Project Status Report is contained in the July Board Packet. Jason Westbrock advised that the grading plan is nearly to a point where discussions can take place with the Ward County Water Board and adjacent property owners to present intentions and get feedback to ensure long term objectives are being met.

Jason Westbrock of Barr Engineering next updated the Joint Board on a Memorandum of Understanding with Peace Lutheran Church. Peace Lutheran Church is proposing a memorandum of understanding to perform grading along the fence line and make the necessary repairs to the irrigation line running under the parking lot and the SRJB will pay the Church a lump sum to cover the cost of the necessary improvements. A copy of the MOU is contained in the Joint Board Packet.

> **Clif Issendorf moved to approve the memorandum of understanding 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.**

The Joint Board considered the BU-1D Award of Bid, presented by Ryan Ackerman. In September 2025, quotes were solicited to repair the road surfaces damaged during construction, but the timing of the work resulted in higher than anticipated costs. In June, local paving companies were contacted for quotes to make the necessary repairs. One quote was received in the amount of $33,510.00 and was approximately $9,000.00 lower than the bid received in 2025. Full details are contained in the Joint Board Packet.

> **Clif Issendorf moved to accept the bid of Bechtold Paving in the amount of $33,510.00 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 Westbrock of Barr Engineering provided the Joint Board with a PER Update. A PER Update Memo was included in the July Joint Board Packet. Jason Westbrock indicated one alternative has been developing on the 27th Street diversion area (milestone 3 of downstream into Minot) and anticipate having figures and graphics to share with the Joint Board at the next project coordination meeting.

Ryan Ackerman provided the Joint Board with a Rural Program Update. A written report summarizing the current work of the FARM-TW is contained within the July Joint Board Packet.

Luke Rogers of HDR Engineering provided an update regarding Rural Bridges. An Update Memo is contained in the July Board Packet. On Velva, Luke Rogers provided a drone flight to the Joint Board. Steve Eberle of Ackerman-Estvold Construction Management provided an update to the Joint Board on the Mouse River Park Bridge. An Update Memo is contained in the July Joint Board Packet.

The Joint Board took note of future meetings and events as set forth in the July Board Packet.

Chairman Ashley invited any members of the public wishing to make personal appearances to speak to the board. There were no personal appearances made at the hearing.

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

Jack Dwyer
Jack Dwyer
Legal Counsel