

**Minutes of Meeting
Souris River Joint Water Resource Board
Thursday, June 6, 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, June 6, 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 Jason Sorenson, Dan Steinberger and Clif Issendorf.

The Joint Board discussed the proposed Agenda for the meeting.

Jason Sorenson 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 May 2, 2024 regular meeting and May 15, 2024 special meeting were discussed.

Jason Sorenson made a motion to approve the minutes from the May 2, 2024 regular meeting and May 14, 2024 special meeting. Dan Steinberger seconded the motion. The motion passed without opposition.

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

Clif Issendorf moved to approve the Budget Report. Jason Sorenson 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 June Board Packet totaling \$1,838,421.29. 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.

Jason Sorenson moved to approve the payment of bills totaling \$1,838,421.29. 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 June Board Packet. Jerry Bents advised that there are no substantial updates. The contractor is working on warranty items as part of the mediated agreement. Work is ongoing as expected.

Jerry Bents updated on Phase MI-4. A Project Status Report from Houston Engineering is contained in the June Board Packet. Jerry Bents indicated the last month has involved seeking concurrence from the railroads on the proposed alignment and shoring plan. The last review is from operations staff of CP with respect to grades and a formal response is anticipated in the next month.

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

Jerry Bents updated the Joint Board on Phase MI-6. A Project Status Report from Houston Engineering is contained in the June Board Packet. Phase MI-6B has been bid. Phase MI-6A was the tree clearing that is completely done. Phase MI-6B bids opened on May 17, 2024. It was broken into two projects (MI-6B.1 and MI-6B.2). The statutes in North Dakota allow an opportunity for mechanical or electrical contractors to bid individually, so individual prime bids and combined bids are allowed. All bids are shown in the Joint Board Packet. The lowest bid (Pak Construction combined general, mechanical and electrical construction bid of \$54,034,687.05) is approximately 38% over the Engineer's Estimate (\$38,956,433.50), so Jerry Bents indicated some evaluation needs to be done before recommending an award of the bid.

Jason Westbrook of Barr Engineering provided an update to the Joint Board regarding Phase MI-7. A Project Status Report is contained in the June Board Packet. Bids opened on MI-7 on May 10, 2024. One bid was received, and it was 45% over Engineer's Estimate. With the lack of competition and data, it was rejected. Since that time, an approach has been developed for better competition and pricing. One of the steps will be to take the main bid package from May and make some minor adjustments to that in the form of removing some structures from the scope of work. A longer schedule has been considered. Another option is to split into 15-20 smaller packages that the local contracting community might be better suited for. After receiving feedback, moving forward with a rebid and longer schedule is the direction decided upon for the main flood control work. At a future meeting, bidding the structures that are pulled out of that bid (Magic City Express and a couple of zoo exhibits) will be sought.

The Joint Board next considered an advertisement for Bids for Phase MI-7D, which includes various projects, as follows: (1) relocation and improvements to the Children's Barn Exhibit; (2) construction of a new concessions building; and (3) demolition work and improvements to the camel exhibit.

Dan Steinberger moved to approve the advertisement for bids on Phase MI-7D. Jason Sorenson seconded the motion. A roll call vote was cast. The motion passed without opposition.

Jason Westbrook provided an update to the Joint Board regarding WC-1. The Project Status Report is contained in the June Board Packet. Jason Westbrook indicated that the construction work is done there with the exception of the rail closure that still needs to be completed. The process for getting agreements from CPKC in place is underway.

Brent Burggaard provided the SRJB with a Rural Program Update. The StARR Program is in the process of continuing closeout. With respect to the Farm Trapped Water Program, Brent Burggaard indicated that the team went back and identified 20 structures that would meet the 10-acre requirement and an addition 22 structures that were connected to larger parcels that they could potentially tie into the program based on the recommendations. The subcommittee is waiting for more direction before reaching out to those landowners.

Troy Borchard of HDR Engineering provided an update regarding Rural Bridges. A Project Status Report is contained in the June Board Packet. On the Mouse River site, an ACM scope and contract and being written as an alternative method of bidding the project. Once completed, it will be presented to Jack Dwyer to see if it meets legal requirements. Dan Steinberger questioned whether re-evaluating the scope of the project would be helpful. Chairman Ashley indicated a re-design for a less labor-intensive method of installing the bridge have been worked through and there may not be much more to improve the scenario.

With respect to the Sawyer site, Troy Borchard indicated that an asphalt plant will be contacted to repair the bump on the south end of Velva. Once that is completed and accepted, that project can be closed out.

On the Velva site, Troy Borchard advised that CLOMR is in internal reviews and by next week that should be sent out to FEMA for their review.

Christopher Korkowski presented in Eaton Irrigation Update to the Joint Board. Christopher Korkowski indicated the survey of the structures is being worked on, which should be completed by late June or early July. As far as the hydraulic modeling is concerned, events have been tested to run alternative analysis with and the existing conditions analysis with. Those events will be brought to the Joint Board at the next meeting.

The Joint Board took note of future meetings and events as set forth in the June Board Packet. Phase MI-5A Construction Meetings are scheduled on June 13, 2024, June 27, 2024, and July 11, 2024. The SRJB Special Meeting (in conjunction with the ND Water Resource Districts) will be held at 4:00 p.m. on July 11, 2024 at the Sleep Inn in Minot, ND. The NDWEF Summer Water Tour is on July 11, 2024 (Lake Darling, Burlington and Minot). Water Day at the North Dakota State Fair is on July 25, 2024.

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

Jason Sorenson made a motion to adjourn. Dan Steinberger seconded the motion. The motion passed without opposition.

Jack Dwyer
Legal Counsel