

**Minutes of Special Meeting
Souris River Joint Water Resource Board
Thursday, December 12, 2024**

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 12:00 p.m. on Thursday, December 12, 2024, after announcing that a quorum was present. The meeting was held in the Governor's Room at the Bismarck Hotel & Conference Center in Bismarck, North Dakota. Joint Board members in attendance were Tom Klein, Jason Sorenson, Clif Issendorf, and Dan Steinberger.

The Joint Board discussed the proposed Agenda for the meeting.

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

The draft minutes of the November 7, 2024 regular meeting and November 20, 2024 special meeting were discussed.

Jason Sorenson made a motion to approve the minutes from the November 7, 2024 regular meeting and November 20, 2024 special meeting. Tom Klein seconded the motion. The motion passed without opposition.

Chairman Ashley presented the Joint Board with the proposed 2025 SRJB Regular Meeting Schedule.

Tom Klein made a motion to approve the proposed 2025 SRJB Regular Meeting Schedule. Clif Issendorf 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 December Board Packet.

Jason Sorenson moved to approve the Budget Report. Clif Issendorf 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 December Board Packet totaling \$5,954,385.28. 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 Park Construction, Dan Steinberger asked about mediation. Jerry Bents of Houston Engineering advised there was a mediated settlement with Park Constructions on how they would address defective work items. As corrective work has been completed, funds are being released to Park Construction. On CP Rail, Ryan Ackerman indicated there are engineer review and design costs for the Maple Diversion Project that relate primarily to geotechnical and structural design work relative to the Sixth Street Bridge. Dan Steinberger asked about certain line items and sought more description. Ryan Ackerman agreed to provide additional information and advised that Terracon is a subcontractor to HDR who was responsible for geotechnical drilling. On the Ward County Highway Department bill, Ryan Ackerman identified that this is associated with repair work on the south side of the bridge in Sawyer due to settlement. Dennis Reep confirmed that the contractor did fix an inch and a half of settlement one year after bridge completion but there was additional settlement, and this work was outside the warranty period.

Dan Steinberger moved to approve the payment of bills totaling \$5,954,385.28. Jason Sorenson seconded the motion. A roll call vote was cast. The motion passed without opposition.

There were introductions conducted prior to the engineering updates.

Jerry Bents of Houston Engineering updated the Joint Board on Phase MI-1. A Project Status Report from Houston Engineering is contained in the December Board Packet. Jerry Bents advised MI-1 closeout continues, including Park Construction's punch list items.

Jerry Bents updated on Phase MI-4. A Project Status Report from Houston Engineering is contained in the December Board Packet. Jerry Bents explained this phase of the project has closure structures on the river and during flood events (exceeding 3,000 cfs), they will close the gate systems and bypass water through the high flow diversion. There has been a lot of coordination with the railroad entities.

Jerry Bents updated on Phase MI-5. A Project Status Report from Houston Engineering is contained in the December 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 December Board Packet. Work on this project just started this fall and was largely focused on starting to put a pre-consolidation pile in place and building a bypass road to provide access to Roosevelt Park and the pool during the construction phase. Work is basically closed down now and will resume in the Spring of 2025. Dan Steinberger asked if a compaction difference in the piles is expected with a dry Fall. Jerry Bents showed a drone video to depict the piles and explained nothing is done to condition the soils underneath.

Jerry Bents updated the Joint Board on Phase MI-8/MI-9. Jerry Bents advised that the design is still underway for these phases. Jerry Bents indicated things are on track to deliver 30% design in January.

Ryan Ackerman provided an update to the Joint Board regarding Phase MI-7 (Roosevelt Park and Zoo). A Project Status Report is contained in the December Board Packet. Wagner Construction is the contractor on this phase. A lot of the activity is shut down for the winter on this phase, but Wagner will still plan to place rip rap along the river bank. A drone video was shown to review this phase.

Ryan Ackerman provided an update to the Joint Board regarding WC-1. The Project Status Report is contained in the December Board Packet. Remaining work with this project is the raise of the CPKC Rail, and comments are awaited from CPKC.

For a PER Update, Ryan Ackerman indicated this effort is being undertaken to update the master plan for the project, and it is in the final stages of that process right now. Ultimately, a workshop is being proposed in January (to be organized like a special meeting) to work through this with the SRJB before adopting any recommendations.

The Joint Board next considered a BI-1C Balancing Change Order. Blue Stone Construction, Inc. is proposing a balancing change order for their final accounting of all quantity underruns and overruns required to determine the final contract price. All adjustments to original bid quantities have been reviewed by the Engineer and agreed to by the Contractor. This revision results in a decrease to the original contract price.

Tom Klein moved to approve Change Order No. 13 in the amount of (\$641,165.35) and authorize the Chairman to sign the change order on behalf of the SRJB. Clif Issendorf seconded the motion. A roll call vote was cast. The motion passed without opposition.

Ryan Ackerman provided the SRJB with a Rural Program Update. Ryan Ackerman indicated that work continues on the Trapped Water Program, and contacts have been made with additional landowners who have interest in the program.

Troy Borchard of HDR Engineering provided an update regarding Rural Bridges. A Project Status Report is contained in the December Board Packet. With the last payment going out to Ward County, the Sawyer bridge project should be closed out and completed.

On the Velva site, a bid opening was held on December 6, 2024, and there were no bidders again. One contractor reached out and stated that they had interest in bidding, but they could not find a bridge building company willing to go in on the project with them. Dennis Reep indicated that names of companies in Minnesota were provided. The project may need to be rebidding or the ACM method.

On the Mouse River site, Troy Borchard indicated the ACM documents are put together and the selection committee process is complete, and it is out and advertised. Jack Dwyer indicated there was an issue getting the RFQ on the Builder's Exchange, so a new submission date needs to be selected. The soonest date would be December 27, 2024 to open the submissions, and a meeting could take place the next day. Jack Dwyer indicated the selection committee meeting could be the week of December 30, 2024.

Jason Sorenson moved to set the ACM submission deadline on December 27, 2024 and the committee meeting on December 30, 2024 at 9:00 a.m. Tom Klein seconded the motion. A roll call vote was cast. The motion passed without opposition.

Christopher Korkowski presented an Eaton Irrigation Update to the Joint Board. An update is contained in the December Board Packet. Christopher Korkowski indicated that the Board approved a task order to complete a visual inspection and an evaluation from the engineer's perspective to present to the Eaton Irrigation Board. After a photo was collected during the survey of the dam, it showed some erosion. Work is ongoing to get the erosion documented in a memo. As for the study, the existing condition hydraulics have been completed. Quality control of the hydraulics was completed last week.

The Joint Board took note of future meetings and events as set forth in the December Board Packet. The next meeting of the Joint Board is a regular meeting, scheduled for January 2, 2025 at 4:00 p.m. in Minot, North Dakota.

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

Jack Dwyer
Legal Counsel