

**BOTTINEAU COUNTY WATER RESOURCE DISTRICT  
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON JANUARY 19, 2026  
BOTTINEAU COUNTY COURTHOUSE**

**1. ATTENDANCES**

**PRESENT:** Clifford Issendorf, Chair  
Wayne Drangsholt, Treasurer – arrived at 9:03 a.m. (via video conference)  
Jared Abernathey, Manager  
Mitch Opdahl, Vice Chair

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Jennifer Malloy, Administrator/Engineer  
Kale Van Bruggen, Secretary/Counsel (via video conference)  
Stacy Lorenz, Chad Strand Agency, P.C. – left at 9:15 a.m.

**APOLOGIES:** Paxton Engelhard, Manager

**2. COMMENCEMENT** The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m.

**3. ELECTION & APPOINTMENT OF OFFICERS** Attorney Van Bruggen (Rinke Noonan, Ltd.) reported that the Board needs to elect the positions of Chair, Vice Chair, Treasurer, and appoint the position of Secretary for 2026. Chair Issendorf delegated the duties of Chair to Attorney Van Bruggen to call for nominations for the position of Chair for 2026. Van Bruggen called for nominations for the positions of Chair, Vice Chair, Treasurer, and Secretary.

Moved Manager Opdahl/Seconded Manager Abernathey  
To nominate Clifford Issendorf as Chair, to cease nominations, and to cast a unanimous ballot.

Carried.

Moved Manager Abernathey/Seconded Manager Issendorf  
To nominate Mitch Opdahl as Vice Chair, to cease nominations, and to cast a unanimous ballot.

Carried.

Wayne Drangsholt joined the meeting at 9:03 a.m.

Moved Manager Opdahl/Seconded Manager Abernathey  
To nominate Wayne Drangsholt as Treasurer, to cease nominations, and to cast a unanimous ballot.

Carried.

Moved Manager Opdahl/Seconded Manager Abernathey  
To nominate Kale Van Bruggen as Secretary, to cease nominations, and to cast a unanimous ballot.

Carried.

**4. SETTING OF THE AGENDA** Chair Issendorf called for corrections or additions to the agenda. Hearing no objections, corrections, or further additions, Chair Issendorf declared the agenda approved as presented.

**5. APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL REPORT/APPROPRIATIONS**

- 5.1 Financial Report & Proposed Appropriations** Stacy Lorenz (Chad Strand, P.C.) presented the financial report for January 2026 and proposed appropriations. The report and proposed appropriations were made available to the Board and the public in advance of the meeting and were reviewed and discussed by the Board.

Administrator Jennifer Malloy (Apex Engineering) reported that cost-share applications will be submitted before the February meeting. When those are received, they will be contributed to the construction loan at the Bank of North Dakota.

Moved Manager Opdahl/Seconded Manager Abernathey

That the financial reports be taken and confirmed as presented, and that the monthly bills due be paid as presented.

Carried.

Stacy Lorenz left the meeting at 9:15 a.m.

- 6. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES** The Board reviewed the draft minutes from the December 15, 2025, regularly scheduled Board meeting.

Moved Manager Abernathey/Seconded Manager Opdahl

That the minutes of the regular Board meeting held on December 15, 2025, be approved as presented.

Carried.

- 7. ASSESSMENT DRAINS** Discussion was held on the status of all the District's existing assessment drains and proposed assessment drain projects. Special discussion was held on the following items:

- 7.1 Haas Coulee Drain Stead Drain Phase II** Engineer Jennifer Malloy (Apex Engineering) reported on the response of Farden Construction & Mikkelsen Aggregates, LLC to her request for quote for construction of Stead Drain Phase II. Mikkelsen Aggregates, LLC submitted a quote for \$51,590.50 and Farden Construction submitted a quote for \$89,227.50. With the assistance of Engineer Malloy, the Board reviewed the quotes.

Moved Manager Opdahl/Seconded Manager Abernathey

That the quote for construction by Mikkelsen Aggregates be accepted and that Apex Engineering and Chair Issendorf be authorized to contract with Mikkelsen Aggregates for construction of Stead Drain Phase II.

Carried.

- 7.1.1 Haas Coulee Improvement (2026-1)** Attorney Kale Van Bruggen (Rinke Noonan, Ltd.) reviewed the draft Resolution Initiating Proceedings for Construction & Maintenance of the Haas Coulee Improvement Project (2026-1).

Moved Manager Opdahl/Seconded Manager Abernathey

That the Resolution Initiating Proceedings for Construction and Maintenance of the Haas Coulee Assessment Drain Improvement Project No. 2026-1 be approved and that Chair Issendorf be authorized to sign the Resolution on behalf of the District.

Carried.

- 7.2 LaPorte Coulee Drain** Attorney Kale Van Bruggen (Rinke Noonan, Ltd.) reported that the easement and temporary construction easement for the LaPorte Coulee Assessment Drain and related spillway maintenance (Easement 01) were mailed to Gene & Linda Kersten, Mac & Jerilyn Kersten, Chad & Elizabeth Tofteland, Terrence & Karla Eissinger, and Kendall & Erin Sorum, the landowners of the W1/2NW1/4 of Section 2, Tacoma Township, on January 12, 2026. Rinke Noonan Law Firm will follow up with any landowners that have not signed within 60 days of the letter being sent.
- 7.3 South Landa Drain** Engineer Jennifer Malloy (Apex Engineering) reported that Apex Engineering is working on the as-constructed drawings and cost-share applications. Malloy anticipates the project can be closed out by May.
- 7.4 Stone Creek Drain**
- 7.4.1 Lateral B** Engineer Jennifer Malloy (Apex Engineering) will request an extension on the four-year timeline imposed by the North Dakota State Water Commission for cost-share applications.
- 7.5 White Spur Drain** Attorney Kale Van Bruggen (Rinke Noonan, Ltd.) reported that the easements and temporary construction easements for the White Spur Assessment Drain Reroute were mailed to Matthew & Heather Kersten, landowners of the NE1/4 of Section 14 (Easement 01); Daniel L. Bullinger, landowner of the SE1/4 of Section 14 (Easement 02); Stuart Kersten, Rodney & Faye Kersten Life Estate, landowners of the S1/2SW1/4 of Section 13 (Easement 03); and the Jeff & Nancy Boettcher Family, LLLP, landowner of the S1/2SE1/4 of Section 13 (Easement 04) on January 16, 2026. Rinke Noonan Law Firm will follow up with any landowners that have not signed within 60 days of the letter being sent.
- 7.6 Brandt Drain** Engineer Jennifer Malloy (Apex Engineering) reported that she will be requesting quotes for the Brandt Drain repair in the next several months.

## 8. OLD BUSINESS

- 8.1 2027 Legislative Issues** Attorney Kale Van Bruggen (Rinke Noonan Law Firm) reported on a preliminary draft of a bill shared with the ND Water Resource District Association which proposes to amend the maintenance of drainage projects statute, Century Code § 61-16.1-45. The proposed changes clarify that cleaning out and repairing an assessment drain can be funded through maintenance levy assessments. The bill proposes to allow water resource boards to bond for the maximum levy that may be levied in any six-year period without first conducting a vote of the assessment district regardless of the funds previously accumulated in the operation and maintenance fund.

## 9. NEW BUSINESS

- 9.1 Hellick Lake – Leroy Rude Idle Speed Application to Game & Fish** Chair Issendorf reported that Leroy Rude is coordinating with the North Dakota Game & Fish Department on considering applying an Idle Speed restriction on Hellick Lake. An application form was provided to Rude by Game & Fish. Rude requested assistance from the District on completing the application.

Moved Manager Opdahl/Seconded Manager Abernathey

That Apex Engineering be authorized and directed to provide up to 1.0 hour of aid Leroy Rude in completing the North Dakota Game & Fish Application for the Idle Speed regulation on Hellick Lake.

Carried.

**10. OPEN MIC** No members of the public were present to address the Board.

**11. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION & INFORMATION**

**11.1 Staff Reports**

**11.1.1 Engineer/Administrator** No report.

**11.1.2 Attorney Report** No report.

**11.2 Upcoming Events**

**11.2.1 February Board Meeting** The February Board Meeting will be held at 9:00 a.m. on February 16, 2026, in the Community Room of the Bottineau County Courthouse.

**11.2.2 March Board Meeting** The March Board Meeting will be held at 9:00 a.m. on March 16, 2026, in the Commissioners Room of the Bottineau County Courthouse.

**11.3 Managers' Updates**

**11.3.1 Souris River Joint Board** No report.

**12. CLOSE OF MEETING** Having completed all business on the noticed agenda, the Chair declared the meeting adjourned at 10:18 a.m.

Minutes approved by the Board on February 16, 2026.

---

Clifford Issendorf, Chair

---

Kale R. Van Bruggen, Secretary