

**BOTTINEAU COUNTY WATER RESOURCE DISTRICT
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON FEBRUARY 16, 2026
BOTTINEAU COUNTY COURTHOUSE**

1. ATTENDANCES

PRESENT: Clifford Issendorf, Chair
Wayne Drangsholt, Treasurer (via video conference)
Jared Abernathey, Manager (via video conference)
Paxton Engelhard, Manager (via video conference) (Joined at 9:10 A.M.)

IN ATTENDANCE: Jennifer Malloy, Administrator/Engineer
Sean Meginness, Designated Secretary/Counsel
Stacy Lorenz, Chad Strand Agency, P.C. (via video conference) – left at 9:12 a.m.

APOLOGIES: Mitch Opdahl, Vice Chair

2. COMMENCEMENT The meeting was called to order at 9:05 a.m.

3. 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.

4. APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL REPORT/APPROPRIATIONS

4.1 Financial Report & Proposed Appropriations Stacy Lorenz (Chad Strand, P.C.) presented the financial report for February 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.

Moved Manager Issendorf/Seconded Manager Engelhard

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

Carried.

Stacy Lorenz left at 9:12 A.M.

5. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES The Board reviewed the draft minutes from the January 19, 2026, regularly scheduled Board meeting.

Moved Manager Wayne/Seconded Manager Jared

That the minutes of the regular Board meeting held on January 19, 2026, be approved as presented.

Carried.

6. 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:

6.1 Haas Coulee Drain

6.1.1 Haas Coulee Improvement (2026-1) Engineer Malloy reported that the engineer's report is underway and will continue to update the board as it progresses.

6.2 LaPorte Coulee Drain

6.2.1 Easement 01 (Kersten et al.) Attorney Sean Meginness reported that one of the Easement 01 grantors, Mac Kersten, contacted Attorney Kale Van Bruggen with concerns relating to the final scope of the project approved by the Board and described in the easement. Mr. Kersten expressed disappointment that the project did not include the assessment district taking over responsibility for rehabilitation and ongoing inspection and maintenance of the Kersten dam. Mr. Kersten requested a copy of the Board's minutes and record of proceedings for the project, which Attorney Van Bruggen provided to Mr. Kersten electronically on February 11, 2026. Van Bruggen recommends that Engineer Malloy and one or two representatives of the Board meet with the Easement 01 grantors to discuss their concerns. The Board consensus was that Engineer Malloy, Managers Opdahl & Drangsholt, and Attorney Van Bruggen will coordinate to meet with the Easement 01 grantors.

6.3 White Spur Drain Attorney Sean Meginness (Rinke Noonan, Ltd.) delivered the report of Attorney Van Bruggen that the District has not yet received any responses from landowners on Easements 01 through 04.

7. OLD BUSINESS

7.1 2027 Legislative Issues Attorney Sean Meginness (Rinke Noonan Law Firm) delivered the report of Attorney Van Bruggen that there have been no updates and no new draft bills to discuss since the January meeting.

7.2 Hellick Lake – Leroy Rude Idle Speed Application to Game & Fish The consensus of the Board with the support of the Chair was to remove this item from future Board agendas as the District's role in this request from Mr. Rude is complete.

8. NEW BUSINESS

8.1 2027-2029 DWR/SWC Water Development Plan Administrator/Engineer Jennifer Malloy (Apex Engineering) reported on the communication from the Department of Water Resources (DWR) and the State Water Commissioner (SWC) soliciting information about potential water development projects, the timing of their implementation, and estimated costs for the 2027-2029 Water Development Plan biennium. Project sponsors who have new projects that may request DWR/SWC cost-share in the future should submit these projects as part of the planning process. In addition, unfunded projects submitted to the 2025 or previous Water Development Plan must re-submit updated information to be included in the 2027 Plan. Projects that are identified in the state's Water Development Plan are considered for funding ahead of those that are not. Project information is collected electronically through the DWR website. Projects must be submitted by April 30, 2026. **Engineer Malloy advised that it is important that the board be on the Water Development Plan so there is no delay in cost share funding.**

8.2 Mowing Services Request

Engineer Malloy reported that a proposal has been put together for mowing services for assessment drains. Malloy believes that the Board should be put a request for Assessment Drain Mowing Services in the Bottineau Courant. Manager Issendorf asked that some changes be made to the language of the advertisement before it is sent to the Bottineau Courant.

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

10. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION & INFORMATION

10.1 Staff Reports

DRAFT/UNOFFICIAL MEETING MINUTES

10.1.1 Engineer/Administrator No report.

10.1.2 Attorney Report No report.

10.2 Upcoming Events

10.2.1 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.

10.2.2 April Board Meeting The April Board Meeting will be held at 9:00 a.m. on April 20, 2026, in the Community Room of the Bottineau County Courthouse.

10.3 Managers' Updates

10.3.1 Souris River Joint Board No report.

11. CLOSE OF MEETING Having completed all business on the noticed agenda, the Chair declared the meeting adjourned at 9:42 a.m.

Minutes approved by the Board on March 16, 2026.

Clifford Issendorf, Chair

Sean M. Meginness, Designated Secretary