

**BOTTINEAU COUNTY WATER RESOURCE DISTRICT
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON MARCH 17, 2025
BOTTINEAU COUNTY COURTHOUSE**

1. ATTENDANCES

PRESENT: Clifford Issendorf, Chair
Mitch Opdahl, Vice Chair – via video conference
Wayne Drangsholt, Treasurer – via video conference
Jared Abernathey, Manager
Paxton Engelhard, Manager

IN ATTENDANCE: Jennifer Malloy, Administrator/Engineer
Kale Van Bruggen, Secretary/Counsel (via video conference)
Stacy Lorenz, Chad Strand Agency, P.C. – left at 9:25 a.m.

APOLOGIES:

- 2. COMMENCEMENT** The meeting was called to order at 9:21 a.m.
- 3. SETTING OF THE AGENDA** Chair Issendorf called for corrections or additions to the agenda. Hearing no corrections or additions, the Chair 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 March 2025 and proposed appropriations. The report and proposed appropriations were reviewed and discussed by the Board. Lorenz reported that \$80,000 was paid on the line of credit.

Moved Manager Drangsholt/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 (Chad Strand, P.C.) left the meeting at 9:25 a.m.

5. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The Board reviewed the draft minutes from February 17, 2025. Chair Issendorf noted that on page 3, 4, and 5 of 7 of the draft February 17, 2025, meeting minutes, “Eugene Kersten” should be changed to “Gene Kersten.”

Moved Manager Drangsholt/Seconded Manager Abernathey

That the minutes of the regular Board meeting held on February 17, 2025, be approved as amended.

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 **Stead Drain Phase II** Engineer Jennifer Malloy (Apex Engineering) reported that Apex Engineering is close to completing the final construction plans and specifications which will be stamped and then sent out to landowners with the initial draft of easements.
- 6.1.2 **Haas Coulee Phase V** Engineer Jennifer Malloy (Apex Engineering) reported on preliminary plans and specifications for Haas Coulee Phase V and recommended easements for construction and future inspection and maintenance. Malloy reported that Apex Engineering received the easement acres from the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and will coordinate with the agency on impact avoidance to waterfowl production area easements.

Moved Manager Abernathey/Seconded Manager Engelhard

That the Preliminary Construction Plans for Haas Coulee Phase V shall be approved, and that Rinke Noonan Law Firm and Apex Engineering shall coordinate to prepare offers of the Bottineau County Water Resource District for easements for construction and future inspection and maintenance of Haas Coulee Phase V.

Carried. Manager Drangsholt abstained.

- 6.2 **Overgaard Lateral Drain** Engineer Jennifer Malloy (Apex Engineering) reported that Carolyn Mjoen called her with concerns about her \$70 operation & maintenance assessment and reported that she will be attending a future Board meeting.
- 6.3 **Russell Drain** Engineer Jennifer Malloy (Apex Engineering) reported on a change order from the contractor for \$8,900 and a change order for a new subcontractor for reseeding in the amount of \$2,600 which will be reviewed for approval at the April Board meeting. Malloy reported that the ND State Water Commission will review the District's request for an extension at its meeting Thursday.
- 6.4 **North Landa Drain** Manager Engelhard reported he will be visiting with petitioners and landowners affected by the proposed assessment drain for additional bond money to complete the preliminary work on the project.
- 6.5 **South Landa Drain** Attorney Van Bruggen (Rinke Noonan Law Firm) provided an update on the acquisition of easements for the right-of-way of the assessment drain. Eminent domain proceedings were initiated to acquire Easement 19 (Tennysons) and Easement 26 (Martinsons). Easement 19 (Tennysons & Fiala) was sent off for recording. Default judgment motions are being filed this week on Easement 26 (Martinsons).
- 6.6 **White Spur Drain** Engineer Jennifer Malloy (Apex Engineering) reported that the permitting process is starting on the proposed reroute.

7. OLD BUSINESS

- 7.1 **Oak Creek Water Resource District Boundary** Chair Issendorf and Attorney Kale Van Bruggen (Rinke Noonan Law Firm) reported that the hearing was conducted March 13 by Matt Lindsay, Water Resource Engineer Manager at the ND Department of Water Resources in the Commissioners' Room of the Bottineau County Courthouse.

8. NEW BUSINESS

- 8.1 **Mowing Service Advertisement** Engineer Jennifer Malloy (Apex Engineering) reported that the Board had previously approved a quote from Eric Blada to mow assessment drains last fall. Due to medical issues, Blada was not able to complete that work before it snowed. The Board discussed advertising for services. Malloy will contact Blada to see if he will complete the mowing in 2025 and to obtain a quote for services.

9. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION & INFORMATION

10. CLOSE OF MEETING Having completed all business on the noticed agenda, the Chair declared the meeting adjourned at 10:31 a.m.

Minutes approved by the Board on April 21, 2025.

Clifford Issendorf, Chair

Kale R. Van Bruggen, Secretary

Draft