

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

1. ATTENDANCES

PRESENT: Clifford Issendorf, Chair
Wayne Drangsholt, Treasurer
Jared Abernathey, Manager
Paxton Engelhard, 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 9:06 a.m.

2. COMMENCEMENT The meeting was called to order at 9:00 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 March 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 Drangsholt/Seconded Manager Opdahl

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 9:06 A.M.

5. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES The Board reviewed the draft minutes from the February 16, 2026, regularly scheduled Board meeting.

Administrator Malloy (Apex Engineering) noted that Stacy Lorenz was present at the February 16, 2026, meeting in person and the draft minutes note she was present via video conference.

Moved Manager Drangsholt/Seconded Manager Opdahl

That the minutes of the regular Board meeting held on February 16, 2026, be approved as corrected, with the correction being that Stacy Lorenz was present in person, not video conference.

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 Brander Drain

6.1.1 Brander Drain West Extension

6.2 LaPorte Coulee Drain

6.2.1 Easement 01 (Kersten et al.) Attorney Van Bruggen (Rinke Noonan Law Firm) reported on electronic communications from Mac Kersten regarding the easement and the scope of the project. Van Bruggen will send responses to Mac's questions and comments to all grantors on Easement 01 and further action will be presented at the April meeting on the next steps dictated by N.D. Century Code for easement acquisition. If grantors agree to meet and discuss the proposed easement, Van Bruggen will coordinate the meeting with Engineer Malloy (Apex Engineering) and one or more representatives of the Board.

6.3 Stone Creek Lateral (Elysian)

6.3.1 Gardena Lateral to Stone Creek Lateral

6.4 White Spur Drain

6.4.1 White Spur Drain Reroute Attorney Van Bruggen (Rinke Noonan Law Firm) provided an update on the acquisition of easements for the White Spur Drain Reroute. Van Bruggen reviewed Easement 04 by Grantor Jeff & Nancy Boettcher Family LLLP in the S1/2SE1/4 Section 13, Township 160 North, Range 77 West (Wheaton Township) signed by Grantors on February 10, 2026.

Moved Manager Opdahl/Seconded Manager Drangsholt

That the Easement for the White Spur Drain Reroute signed by Grantor Jeff & Nancy Boettcher Family LLLP across the South Half of the Southeast Quarter of Section 13, Township 160 North, Range 77 West (Wheaton Township), be approved; that Chair Issendorf be authorized to sign the Easement on behalf of the District; and that Rinke Noonan Law Firm be directed to record the fully executed Easement.

Carried.

Attorney Van Bruggen reported that signatures have been received by the District from Grantors Rodney & Faye Kersten, but not from Stuart and Erin Kersten, for Easement 03 across the South Half of the Southwest Quarter of Section 13, Township 160 North, Range 77 West (Wheaton Township). Following up on all easements presently scheduled for March 18.

Engineer Jennifer Malloy (Apex Engineering) reported that Apex Engineering will be requesting a renewed permit since the 2-year construction period in the original permit has expired.

7. OLD BUSINESS

7.1 2027 Legislative Issues No report.

7.2 2027-2029 DWR/SWC Water Development Plan Administrator/Engineer Jennifer Malloy (Apex Engineering) presented a list of potential projects recommended for inclusion in the Department of Water Resources (DWR) and the State Water Commissioner (SWC) 2027-2029 Water Development Plan. The list of potential projects include Elms Drain, Gardena Lateral, Hulse Coulee, North Landa Drain, Serguis Drain, Spring Creek Drain, Stone Creek Lateral C, Stone Creek Extension, and Brander Drain Extension. The Board reviewed preliminary alignment maps prepared by Apex Engineering for each potential project. Apex Engineering will file the response with the DWR & SWC by the deadline of April 30.

- 8. **NEW BUSINESS** No New Business was presented.
- 9. **OPEN MIC** No members of the public were present to address the Board.

10. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION & INFORMATION

10.1 Staff Reports

10.1.1 Engineer/Administrator Jennifer Malloy, Administrator (Apex Engineering) reported that the ND Water Resource District Association is hosting a virtual manager training on drain tile permit processes on Monday, March 23 at 10:00 a.m.

Administrator Malloy reported that the Mowing Services publication, which includes spraying and other maintenance work, was in last week's newspaper and will appear again in this week's newspaper. Interested providers will be invited to the April Board meeting to discuss services with the Board.

10.1.2 Attorney Report Kale Van Bruggen (Rinke Noonan Law Firm) provided general information on certification of NRCS wetland technical determinations and efforts by general farm organization and commodity groups to engage with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service on waterfowl production area easements.

10.2 Upcoming Events

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

10.2.2 May Board Meeting The May Board Meeting will be held at 9:00 a.m. on May 18, 2026, in the Commissioners 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 10:00 a.m.

Minutes approved by the Board on April 20, 2026.

Clifford Issendorf, Chair

Kale R. Van Bruggen, Secretary