

MINUTES

STUTSMAN COUNTY WATER RESOURCE BOARD

March 26, 2025

The regular meeting of the Stutsman County Water Resource Board was called to order by Chairman, Joel Lees (appeared via phone) on March 26, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. in the County Commissioner's Room of the Stutsman County Courthouse. Members present were Dennis Clark, Arlyn Schmidt, and John Schock.

Additionally present were Larry Skiftun and Devin Long of Wells County Water Resource Board, Michael Gunsch of Houston Engineering, Dale Thompson, Wendy Thompson, Wendy Widman, landowners, Dustin Krueger of Stutsman County Soil Conservation District, Mike Johnson of N.D. Game and Fish, and Brian Knetter, Steering Commission - Crystal Springs.

Also present was Melissa Magnuson from Dalsted & Ryan, P.C., as the secretary/treasurer of the Stutsman County Water Resource Board.

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The first order of business was to review and approve the minutes of the February 26, 2025, regular meeting minutes and site visit March 5, 2025, minutes. Dennis Clark moved and Arlyn Schmidt seconded a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Motion passed.

WELLS COUNTY WATER RESOURCE BOARD

First, the board listened to Larry Skiftun of the Wells County Water Resource Board regarding a pipe that is located in Stutsman County. There has been water build up, with nowhere for the water to go. A pipe that has been put in about 50 years ago and is starting to fail and is slowing drainage. There are multiple property owners and land that could be affected from the decrease of drainage. Different options were discussed with property owners at the Wells County Water Resource Board and the pipe that is located in Stutsman County will not be a quick and easy fix. The pipe is a 24 inch diameter pipe, about 1,400 feet long, and the pipe has been underground for almost 50 years.

The question Larry Skiftun brought before the board is if this is a project the Stutsman County Water Resource Board would be interested in and if so, there would be a need for a joint

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water board. There could also be a need to get Easements from present landowners. The Stutsman County Water Resource Board liked the idea of having a joint board and is interested in being a part of the project. There was no formal motion and Larry Skiftun told the Stutsman County Water Resource Board that he will let them know about the type of drain access that will be needed and will stay in touch after he gets more information on the project.

CRYSTAL SPRINGS

Next, the board heard from Michael Gunsch, the engineer from Houston Engineering. Michael Gunsch spoke to the Stutsman County Water Resource Board regarding an update on the feasibility study at Crystal Springs. Michael Gunsch advised that local funding is in place and currently in the bank and that a grant is approved. He also is working with Abbigail Geroux to get an e-mail chain going.

After the initial research, they are finding that the Crystal Springs is increasing to a tenth of a foot increase a year and they had not anticipated the high amount of underground water that has been contributing to the increase.

For removal of water using pipes, they will need to know what size pipe is needed and to know that, they will need to know how much water is coming from the underground water. The underground water is causing a pause to figure out how much of the water level increase is from ground water.

The feasibility study has looked at different outlets and their current favorite choice is near the north side of the Interstate. Current projections would take about 62 days to pump out how much water comes in a year, but would take a year to catch up from all the previous years of increasing water.

They also did a culvert analysis. Most culverts near the railroad are covered because of raising the railroad tracks. As of right now, it sounds like the railroad tracks will be raised two feet to give them a three year cushion with a 7/10 of a foot increase of water a year that has been occurring. The cost to raise the railroad tracks two feet will be a minimum of \$3,000,000.00.

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The feasibility study has also looked at when draining, how low would they drain the water. They would not be draining any lower than the natural water drainage and this will help keep the cost of removing water less expensive.

Michael Gunsch also mentioned an additional \$40,000.00 in costs for the feasibility study to help them with understanding the ground water situation and to figure out exactly how much water is coming up through underground. Regarding the additional \$40,000.00 in costs, they are looking to get a request in by April to the Department of Water Resource to get the funds needed.

Michael Gunsch did say the budget is looking good right now and the \$40,000.00 would be there in case they needed additional funds to complete the project.

The question did come up regarding the power required to run a pump to remove the water and Michael Gunsch's response is that they currently do not have a power source large enough to run a pump, so they would have to bring in a power source to pump the water out. There was also a request to extend the date of completing the feasibility to July of 2025.

Joel Lees moved and Dennis Clark second a motion to extend the feasibility study date to July, 2025. Motion passed.

FINANCIALS

Next the board addressed the bills and financials. Arlyn Schmidt moved and Dennis Clark seconded a motion to approve bills and financials. Motion passed.

CHECK NUMBERS

1. Dalsted & Ryan, P.C. - \$2,107.50	#2968
2. Arlyn Schmidt - \$453.00	#2969
3. John Schock - \$259.53	#2970
4. Anthony Roorda - \$433.45	#2971
5. Dennis Clark - \$764.02	#2972

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Seeing no further business before the board, Arlyn Schmidt moved and John Schock seconded a motion to adjourn. Motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:15 a.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

MELISSA P. MAGNUSON
Secretary

BOARD APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The board approved the minutes this ____ day of _____,
2025.

JOEL LEES, Chairman, or
ANTHONY ROORDA, Vice-Chairman