

MINUTES

STUTSMAN COUNTY WATER RESOURCE BOARD

May 28, 2025

The regular meeting of the Stutsman County Water Resource Board was called to order by Chairman, Joel Lees, on May 28, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. in the County Commissioner's Room of the Stutsman County Courthouse. Members present were Joel Lees, Arlyn Schmidt, Dennis Clark, Anthony Roorda, and John Schock.

Additionally present was Abbagail C. Geroux from Dalsted & Ryan, P.C., as the secretary/treasurer of the Stutsman County Water Resource Board.

In addition, Jerry Orn and Robert Joos appeared approximately 20 minutes into the meeting.

MINUTES

The first order of business was to review and approve the minutes of the April 30, 2025, regular meeting minutes and the April 30, 2025, special meeting minutes. Upon review, a motion was made by Anthony Roorda and seconded by Arlyn Schmidt to approve the minutes as presented. Motion passed.

W-659-COMPLAINT OF UNAUTHORIZED DRAINAGE SUBMITTED BY JERALD ORN IN THE SOUTH HALF OF SECTION 25/143/62, STUTSMAN COUNTY, NORTH DAKOTA

Next, the board addressed the filling in on the South Half of Section 25. Jerry Orn expressed his concern that work to be completed by Mr. Wolsky was not properly filled in. Jerry complained that he felt that the board's decision should have found more unauthorized drainage. Jerry also complained about the complaint process and the actions the board took in coming to its decision.

Anthony Roorda indicated that he reviewed photographs received from Mr. Wolsky and felt confident with the work Mr. Wolsky did in filling in the areas identified. Anthony Roorda moved and Dennis Clark seconded a motion to find that Chad Wolsky fulfilled his obligations under the Water Resource Board's Order. Joel Lees indicated that he intended to abstain from the vote since he did not participate in the meetings when this matter was discussed. However, Joel Lees requested a roll

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call vote. Arlyn Schmidt, Dennis Clark, Anthony Roorda, and John Schock all voted in favor of the motion. Motion passed. Joel Lees explained to Mr. Orn and Mr. Joos that if they had concerns about any other drainage or concerns that the drainage Mr. Wolsky filled in was inadequate, they can file a complaint with the board, but that they would likely not take any action or conduct any site investigation while the crop was in the ground.

2026 Budget

The next item on the agenda was to discuss the 2026 budget. Ms. Geroux noted that typically this time of year, she receives a request from Jessica Alonge for the 2026 budget, however, because of the recent legislative changes, the county has withheld with moving forward with any budgeting timelines until after they have participated in a training in early June. She explained that the county now has a 3% cap on the total dollars that they may budget for each year, however, this cap does not apply to the Water Resource Board.

Ms. Geroux requested the board to provide her with any suggested budgeting. The board instructed Ms. Geroux to prepare a budget similar to prior years' budget and incorporate a 3% increase on the dollars over last year. A new budget will be presented to the board at an upcoming meeting.

MISCELLANEOUS

Next, the board addressed various general business. It was noted that the lake in the City of Napoleon, where they are currently pumping where the water goes into Apple Creek, the city made the decision to no longer pump because the cost of electricity is now too expensive to continue pumping the water into Apple Creek.

The current status of the feasibility study for the Reule Lake and Crystal Springs Lake is that they are still waiting on funding decisions, which will be happening soon. If it is preliminarily approved, the additional request will go on to the full meeting later this summer.

Dennis Morlock from Kidder County expressed his concern that the proposed plan would require draining water on land in

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Kidder County and that he felt that landowners would not be willing to allow this water to drain through their land.

Dennis Clark then noted that the Upper Sheyenne Board conducted a review of the work that was completed. Dennis Clark indicated that the work that was done looked very good and that they had a meeting scheduled to authorize payment of the work that was completed.

Ms. Geroux noted various potential complaints that may be coming before the board and also that there was an upcoming State meeting July 9 and 10, 2025. Dennis Clark expressed an interest in participating in that meeting.

FINANCIALS

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

CHECK NUMBERS

1. Dalsted & Ryan, P.C. - \$1,317.00 #2974

There being no further business before the board, John Schock moved and Dennis Clark seconded a motion to adjourn. All voted in favor. Motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 10:50 a.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

ABBAGAIL C. GEROUX
Secretary

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BOARD APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

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