

MINUTES

STUTSMAN COUNTY WATER RESOURCE BOARD

June 25, 2025

The regular meeting of the Stutsman County Water Resource Board was called to order by Chairman, Joel Lees, on June 25, 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 Josh Loosmore of Peritiacon LLC, Mike Guensch of Houston Engineering appearing via phone, and Brian Knetter.

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

**MINUTES**

The first order of business was to review and approve the minutes of the May 28, 2025, regular meeting minutes. Upon review, a motion was made by Anthony Roorda and seconded by Arlyn Schmidt to approve the minutes as presented. Motion passed.

**2026 BUDGET**

Ms. Geroux provided the Water Resource Board with background on the historical practices of identifying the budget and the budget in process. Ms. Geroux noted that with the most recent legislative session there are certain adjustments made to the budgeting process. In particular, some of the earlier hard deadlines set by the county are no longer applicable. She noted she has not received any future hard deadlines from the county. The only hard deadline for providing any budget material that she is aware of is October 1, 2025.

Ms. Geroux then further explained the budgeting process and the maximum amount of mills that the Water Resource Board can levy.

The current status of the Crystal Springs feasibility project was discussed. Additionally, Josh Loosmore and Mike

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Guensch, who has been retained to do the preliminary study, were present with the board to provide additional information regarding the status of the preliminary study. Significant discussion was had to determine if it would be necessary for the board to seek out additional funding to assist in engineering of any specific project as it involved all the feasibility studies. The timeline for the feasibility study is expected to be completed. In particular, Mike Guensch indicated he was looking for a draft preliminary feasibility study to be completed for the July 30, 2025, Water Resource Board meeting with a tentative request for final approval of the feasibility study to occur at the board's August meeting.

The board discussed a desire to hold a joint meeting with the Stutsman County Commission to receive the results of the draft preliminary study and also to discuss potential avenues for funding of future projects.

The board requested that the discussion be continued to the July meeting so that the board would have a better understanding of the result of the feasibility study to be better informed on the potential funding that they would need to request from the county should they desire to move forward with any projects.

There was also discussion regarding the possibility of receiving state grant funding. In particular, the Department of Water Resources has funding available for projects with local cost share to be 55%. Mike Guensch also noted that this project might be eligible for HMPG funding, which would be a 15% local cost share. Mike also noted he would present some estimated numbers to assist in budgeting for the 2026 budget year at the July meeting.

**MISCELLANEOUS**

Next was general business before the board. Ms. Geroux provided the board with a short legislative update. In particular, she noted that the Water Resource Board must develop a written policy regarding public comment. The board instructed Ms. Geroux to develop a public comment policy for the board's review at the July meeting.

Ms. Geroux also shared with the board some temporary water permits that were issued by the Department of Water Resources.

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**FINANCIALS**

Next the board addressed the bills, financials, and vouchers. Ms. Geroux noted that one of the bills contains a check which was erroneously written out to the State Auditor when it should have been written out to Stutsman County. Stutsman County paid for the Water Resource Board's portion of the 2023 audit and so therefore the Water Resource Board does need to reimburse the County for those same dollars. Based on that change, John Schock moved and Arlyn Schmidt seconded a motion to approve bills and financials, with the modification of the check to be written to Stutsman County. Motion passed.

**CHECK NUMBERS**

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|--|-------|
| 1. Office of the State Auditor-VOIDED-\$3,370.23 | #2975 |
| 2. Dalsted & Ryan, P.C. - \$2,398.74             | #2976 |
| 3. Joel Lees - \$581.02                          | #2977 |
| 4. Arlyn Schmidt - \$435.75                      | #2978 |
| 5. John Schock - \$334.55                        | #2979 |
| 6. Anthony Roorda - \$368.48                     | #2980 |
| 7. Dennis Clark - \$774.63                       | #2981 |
| 8. Stutsman County Auditor - \$3,370.23          | #2982 |

It was also noted that Dennis Clark intended to go to the State Water Convention which will be held in July. The board indicated that he should submit his mileage, hotel, and board for reimbursement for attending the meeting at the July regular meeting.

Seeing no further business before the board, Anthony Roorda moved and John Schock seconded a motion to adjourn. All voted in favor. Motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:25 a.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

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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