

MINUTES

STUTSMAN COUNTY WATER RESOURCE BOARD

July 30, 2025

The regular meeting of the Stutsman County Water Resource Board was called to order by Chairman, Joel Lees, on July 30, 2025, at 10:50 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 were Robert Schaffer, Jesse Christianson from Stutsman County, Tim Bremer, Crystal Springs Camp, Brian Knetter, Mike Guensch of Houston Engineering, and Elayne Patzner.

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 June 25, 2025, regular meeting minutes. Upon review, a motion was made by Arlyn Schmidt and seconded by Dennis Clark to approve the minutes as presented. Motion passed.

**W-662 - REQUEST FOR DRAINAGE ON HIGHWAY RIGHT OF WAY BETWEEN SECTIONS 34 AND 27/143/66, STUTSMAN COUNTY, NORTH DAKOTA SUBMITTED BY PAUL COUNCILMAN**

Next was the request from Paul Councilman. Joel Lees provided some background on this and indicated that Mr. Councilman was to clean out some drainage ditches that had been silted in. The Highway Department indicated that they were willing to allow this, but wanted to get permission from the Water Resource Board. Based on this, Dennis Clark moved and John Schock seconded a motion to approve of the request from Mr. Councilman.

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**ROGER SCHAFFER**

Next the board addressed Roger Schaffer. Ms. Geroux noted Mr. Schaffer was not listed on the agenda because he requested to visit with the board after the agenda was out. Mr. Schaffer explained that he has property located approximately six miles south of Cleveland on Section 2, Township 138, Range 67. Roger indicated that recently the Stutsman County Road Department placed a culvert upstream of his property. After the placement of that culvert, it resulted in a significant amount of water flowing down towards his property and he has concerns about the impact on his land.

Mike May of Interstate Engineering explained that they conducted a review of the area and noticed that originally a culvert had been placed, but at some point it had been removed and the county replaced the culvert. By replacing this culvert, they believe that they will realize a cost savings of approximately four to five miles worth of potential road damages which would have been under water. The water ultimately flows into Weber's slough and related bodies of water. They indicated they are aware of the issue and they are looking at doing some sort of temporary emergency pumping to help the water move through the system. Mr. May indicated they are still trying to find a natural outlet, but likely because of the elevations, it would be necessary to do some sort of pumping. They also prefer to have a controlled structure so that they could manage the flow of water. They do not have any concrete solutions at this time, but this is an item that they are working towards finding a solution that they will likely present to the Water Resource Board in the future.

**2026 BUDGET**

Next, the board addressed its 2026 budget. The board discussed various budget options. It was noted that a request was made to potentially increase the budget in order to account for some additional funding opportunities to pay for a preliminary engineering study for the Crystal Springs Lake. Ms. Geroux provided some sample numbers for the board. In particular, Ms. Geroux noted that the expected mill rate for 2026 is \$155,000.00. If the Water Resource Board requested two mills, that would be approximately \$310,000.00. This would likely pay for a good portion of the preliminary engineering

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cost and account for likely additional board costs would be added meetings. The board members expressed concern relative to raising funds which they may not ultimately need. There were some concerns regarding how the board should address other potential projects or concerns that come before the board.

Arlyn Schmidt noted that he was in favor of the Crystal Springs Lake project, but was not in favor of raising any of the board's mill levies to pay for the cost of the project.

Dennis Clark moved and John Schock seconded a motion to approve the 2026 budget as presented by Ms. Geroux without any additional mill levy request. A roll call vote was taken. Arlyn Schmidt, Dennis Clark, and John Schock voted in favor of the motion. Joel Lees and Anthony Roorda voted against the motion. Motion passed.

#### **MISCELLANEOUS**

Ms. Geroux then reported to the board that they have a C.D. in the amount of approximately \$70,000.00 which will be coming up for renewal on August 7, 2025. She noted it is currently in a six month C.D. and if no action is taken, the C.D. will continue for an additional six months at a rate of 4%. Currently this is the highest rate available from U.S. Bank. No motion was made at this time.

The board then addressed the Public Comment Policy. Upon review, Anthony Roorda moved and Arlyn Schmidt seconded a motion to approve the Public Comment Policy. A copy of the Policy is attached to these minutes.

#### **FINANCIALS**

Next the board addressed the bills and financials. It was noted within the bills and financials was a request to reorder checks for the Water Resource Board. After review, Anthony Roorda moved and Dennis Clark seconded a motion to pay the bills and authorized obtaining new checks, and to approve the financials as present. Motion passed.

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**CHECK NUMBERS**

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|--|-------|
| 1. IRS - \$500.31                          | #2983 |
| 2. U.S. Post Office - \$210.00             | #2984 |
| 3. Workforce Safety & Insurance - \$250.00 | #2985 |
| 4. Dalsted & Ryan, P.C. - \$1,663.50       | #2986 |

Ms. Geroux then provided the board with an update regarding various correspondences, including correspondence from the Department of Water Resources relative to updating their procedures for approving drainage permits.

Seeing no further business before the board, John Schock moved and Anthony Roorda seconded a motion to adjourn. All voted in favor. Motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:40 a.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

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ABBAGAIL C. GEROUX  
Secretary

**BOARD APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The board approved the minutes this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2025.

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