

MINUTES

STUTSMAN COUNTY WATER RESOURCE BOARD

August 27, 2025

The regular meeting of the Stutsman County Water Resource Board was called to order by Chairman, Joel Lees, on August 27, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. in the County Commissioner's Room of the Stutsman County Courthouse. Members present were Joel Lees, Dennis Clark, Anthony Roorda, and John Schock.

Additionally present were Mark Staloch, Tim Staloch, Debbie Staloch, Elayne Patzner, Mike Moser, Jeremiah Hegel, and Joe Heupel.

Additionally present was Abbagail C. Geroux and Melissa P. 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 July 30, 2025, regular meeting minutes. Upon review, a motion was made by Dennis Clark and seconded by Anthony Roorda to approve the minutes as presented. Motion passed.

W-663 - JEFF LIECHTY, JONATHAN LIECHTY FAMILY LLP - REQUEST TO CLEAN OUR EXISTING DRAINS ON SECTION 28/137/63

Next Jeff Liechty made a request to clear out drains and have permission to open the ditch. Upon a review, a motion was made by Anthony Roorda and seconded by Dennis Clark to allow the drains to get cleaned out so long as the drain would not become deeper than the original drain. Motion passed.

Melissa P. Magnuson then updated the Water Resource Board on the complaints received and gave a brief explanation of each complaint.

Joel Lees asked Joe Heupel if he had anything to add and he said not at this time.

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W-665, W-666, W-667 - STALOCH, TIM - COMPLAINT OF UNAUTHORIZED DRAINAGE ON THE NE1/4 OF SECTION 21/140/68 AND NW1/4 OF SECTION 22/140/68 AND NW1/4 OF SECTION 21/140/68

The above complaints were then addressed. Tim Staloch was given the opportunity to speak. Tim had concerns of water going across the property and potentially dividing his property from the east to the west. Tim also indicated that the digging occurred on August 12, 2025, before the application was in on August 15, 2025.

Abbagail C. Geroux then asked about the application and that it was happening over many different sections and asked if they were connecting to a larger system. Joe Heupel stated that these are stand alone projects and they do not add on or tie into an existing project.

It was then discussed how the water drains onto other property and then affects Tim Staloch's property. He was also concerned with increase in alkene water. Anthony Roorda then stated that all these projects were under 80 acres and they were not required to file for a permit.

All these projects are under 80 acres and Joe Heupel was asked why he filed for a permit. Joe explained that he was told by counsel to file for a permit.

Abbagail C. Geroux did explain that if you are tiling under 80 acres, you would just have to provide notice and are not required to get a permit.

Tim Staloch then discussed the township has an open drain. Anthony Roorda responded that they cannot handle anything with the township. Tim Staloch requested a formal written document so he could appeal. Joel Lees said that he also has the option to go through civil court.

W-668, W-669, W-670, and W-671 - STALOCH, MARK - COMPLAINTS OF UNAUTHORIZED DRAINAGE

Mark Staloch then discussed that the water eventually runs across his property and down to his yard. Mark Staloch explained he has lost trees and shore line due to the water. In 2019, he had to sell all of his cattle.

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Joel Lees explained that the Water Resource Board is limited by the legislature on what they can do. Mark Staloch then asked why the board did not do anything regarding the Crystal Springs project. Joel Lees responded that they did not want to do anything because of the mill levy. Anthony Roorda said the board does not want the property taxes to go up.

Regarding the permit request, Anthony Roorda moved to accept the permit with the standard conditions. John Schock seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Next, Joe Heupel got up to address the board regarding Tim Staloch's property and stated it would take a lot of water for Tim Staloch's property to be divided east/west. Joe Heupel also explained that Tim Staloch could put in a culvert and that he has had to put in a culvert.

Abigail C. Geroux then addressed the board and said she would like the board to act on the complaints. Anthony Roorda asked if they can act due to the complaints not being on the agenda. Abigail C. Geroux said she was not concerned about that and would like the complaints to be dealt with today in this meeting. Anthony Roorda moved to dismiss the complaints. Dennis Clark seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Anthony Roorda did mention that tiling does slow down the water and decrease flooding.

Next, engineer Mike Moser addressed the board and stated that he would send an e-mail with the process and the studies for the ground water and he would give an update on the status.

FINANCIALS

Next the board addressed the bills and financials. Anthony Roorad moved to approve the financials and Dennis Clark seconded the motion. Motion passed.

CHECK NUMBERS

1. Dalsted & Ryan, P.C. - \$1,340.50

#2987

- 2. ND Water Resource Districts Ass. - \$700.00 #2988
- 3. Abbagail C. Geroux - \$109.79 #2989

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There being no further business before the board, Joel Lees moved and Anthony Roorda seconded a motion to adjourn. All voted in favor. Motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:05 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