

MINUTES

STUTSMAN COUNTY WATER RESOURCE BOARD

November 26, 2025

The regular meeting of the Stutsman County Water Resource Board was called to order by Chairman, Joel Lees, on November 26, 2025, at 10:11 a.m. in the County Commissioner's Room of the Stutsman County Courthouse. Members present were Arlyn Schmidt, Dennis Clark, John Schock, and Anthony Roorda. Joel Lees appeared by phone.

Additionally present were Daren Peterka and Mike May, Interstate Engineering, and Abigail 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 October 29, 2025, regular meeting minutes. Upon review, a motion was made by Arlyn Schmidt and seconded by John Schock to approve the minutes as presented. Motion passed.

No one was present to address the board during the public comment period.

**W-672 FEASIBILITY STUDY - WEBER SLOUGH**

Daren Peterka of Interstate Engineering presented to the board the current status of inquiries he made regarding the feasibility project and obtaining grant funding. Daren Peterka indicated first he inquired with the State Hazard Mitigation Fund. Currently there are no additional funds for this current timeframe, and therefore that would not be an option currently.

Next would be with the Department of Water Resources. Mr. Peterka indicated they require a six months lead time from the time the request is made to when they would contemplate providing any cost share. He noted that the county did approve \$10,000.00 in costs toward the project already. He does not anticipate exhausting those funds until we would likely hear back on the grant application for the feasibility study for the Department of Water Resources. It is anticipated we would hear something in February of 2026.

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Additionally, Daren Peterka provided the Water Resource Board with a couple of handouts showing the area involved and the current status of the research. Mr. Peterka noted that for this project, it does appear the water flows freely after about two miles and then when it hits about three miles in, the water flowing looks like a creek and therefore this would likely have a lot of free flowing ability, which will help with keeping costs down for the project. He noted that the location where this creek meets up at one mile south of Montpelier at which point it would go into the James River.

Mr. Peterka explained he is going to review calculations using water table levels available in 2018 versus 2024 to calculate the volume of water that would need to be removed in order for the drain to work appropriately. When these numbers further develop, they will be able to further identify what all will be needed for the project.

Dennis Clark asked if this would also remove water from Runner's Slough. Mr. Peterka said that their current scoping would not include Runner's Slough, but depending on what numbers they calculate, it could expand into that area. Mr. Peterka noted that one potential they could look at would be detention and a retention pond if needed to slow down the movement of the water through the system, but that was very preliminary at this point.

The board inquired regarding whether he felt the need for the board to issue additional funds at this time to continue with the project. Mr. Peterka recommended that the board wait on spending additional funds until after we have received news from the Department of Water Resources regarding their decision to either grant or deny grant funding for the project.

John Schock moved and Dennis Clark seconded a motion in support of funding for the feasibility study up to \$41,000.00. John Schock noted he wanted the Water Resource Board to formally express their support, including providing financial assistance on this project, but agreed that they would hold off on providing any funding until after the decision of the Department of Water Resources.

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There being no further discussion, all members voted in favor.

The Water Resource Board also requested Ms. Geroux to prepare correspondence to provide the Stutsman County Commission with notice of the board's support of the project.

Mr. Peterka then addressed the board regarding other ongoing projects that the County Road Department has, in particular was the Deer Lake project. He explained that in years past, they cut open a drain on an emergency basis. A couple of years ago it was closed, but recently they requested to open that drain again. Now they are looking at in the future doing a long-term drainage permit. They are currently in the process of obtaining funding for the hazard mitigation. FEMA funds the other potential area of concern and that U.S. Fish & Wildlife has not expressed a desire to a permit for continuous drainage through a body of water which is most feasible for the project and so those issues must get worked out before a formal application is provided and before the project can move forward.

There was discussion with the Water Resource Board relative to having the Stutsman County Road Department provide the board with a list of potential projects that they may seek funds from the board for specific planning purposes. Daren Peterka indicated he would be willing to work with the County Road Department to provide a very high level list and if the board desires further information or clarification and that can get worked out at a later time.

## **FINANCIALS**

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

Ms. Geroux noted on the financials that she recently made a second purchase of totes. There was some discussion about the totes and placing the value on the totes on the assets list. It was noted Ms. Geroux will add the totes to the asset list, placing a value of \$100.00 onto the financial asset list.

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**CHECK NUMBERS**

- 1. Abbagail C. Geroux - \$87.02 #2996
- 2. Dalsted & Ryan, P.C. - \$1,050.00 #2997

The board also discussed their next meeting, which falls on New Year's Eve. The board decided to conduct its next meeting on December 30, 2025, at 4:00 p.m.

Ms. Geroux also noted for the board the annual meeting of the North Dakota Water Users is December 9-11, 2025, if anyone desires to attend. Ms. Geroux also provided the board with information on an ongoing lawsuit out of Eddy County. The board should be aware as it will result in a decision by the North Dakota Supreme Court, which may have an impact on the relationship between counties and Water Resource Boards for future projects.

Seeing no further business before the board, Arlyn Schmidt moved and Dennis Clark seconded a motion to adjourn. Motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 11:00 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