

**Barnes County Water Resource District
PO Box 306
Valley City, ND 58072
#845-8508**

DRAFT

Meeting Minutes

October 12th, 2026 – 9:00 a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman – Jerry Hieb; Managers – Scott Legge, Perry Schlagel, Bret Fehr, Bruce Anderson.

OTHERS PRESENT: Mike Opat – Houston Engineering; Sean Fredricks – Ohnstad Twichell.

Chairman Hieb called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Public Comment Period: No one submitted speaker cards to request permission to speak.

Manager Legge moved to approve the minutes from the September 14th, 2026, meeting. Manager Anderson seconded the motion. Upon voice vote, the motion carried unanimously.

Manager Legge moved to approve the bills as presented. Manager Anderson seconded the motion. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

Thordenskjold Drain

Manager Schlagel and Mike with Houston Engineering met with landowners on site to discuss options for drain improvements. Landowners generally appear interested in pursuing improvements to reconstruct the existing drain (without laterals). Mike to continue design phase to come back with more information. Manager Anderson moved to direct Mike and Secretary/Treasurer Cara to submit a cost-share request to the North Dakota State Water Commission for pre-construction and project development. Manager Schlagel seconded the motion. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously. Because this project will entail “cleaning out and repairing” the existing drain, the Board will utilize Thordenskjold Drain assessment dollars for project costs and will not require landowners to submit any bond dollars. Once Houston completes preliminary design, Mike can prepare a cost estimate and the Board will then be in a position to determine if a project will require an assessment vote or if the assessment fund and the Board’s borrowing capacity will be sufficient.

Clausen Springs Dam

Chairman Hieb the trash rack has not been installed at this time. Last month Chairman Hieb and Manager Legge approached the County Commission during a Commission meeting requesting funds for finishing the Clausen Springs Dam Safety Study. The Dam Safety Study is to resume with funding from the County.

Sheyenne River Bank Stabilization Study

Mike informed that the application was not chosen to be funded by the Corp of Engineers but will remain on their list. Discussion regarding the status of the Upper Sheyenne Joint Board and Lower Sheyenne Joint Board was had.

Hobart Lake

Manager Anderson reported water levels reading 1415.60.

Sanborn Lake Outlet

Manager Anderson reported water level reading 1425.60. Discussion was held regarding landowners near Sanborn Lake wanting lower water levels. Manager Anderson to reach out to the North Dakota Game and Fish to get an understanding of what steps can be taken to lower the water levels.

Dam Inventory

Sean provided update regarding conveyance of dams to landowners. The ND Water Resource District Association is supporting a bill that would specifically permit WRDs to convey ownership to private parties. In the meantime, Sean prepared a document template that would convey any ownership rights a WRD has in a dam to a private party; the document contains hold harmless and indemnity protection for the conveying WRD and the State of North Dakota. DWR representatives reviewed the document and agreed the document would effectively convey ownership and would protect the conveying WRD and the State.

Brown Dam

No update.

Pat Hurley Surface Drain Application Number 6842

No update. The board will keep this matter on its agendas to ensure Mr. Hurley's compliance with his permit requirements.

John Jorissen -- NDDOT Application for Ditch Cleaning or Drain Tile and Pumping

Sean informed that both parties have now submitted briefs with the District Court. The board will keep this matter on its agendas until the appeal by the Canadian Pacific Railway concludes. No action taken at this time.

Snagging and Clearing

Mike informed the board the application for cost-share funding with the North Dakota State Water Commission has been submitted for snagging and clearing. Brief discussion of where the project will start was had. Mike to reach out to the City of Valley City to see if they have interest being involved.

Fall Cattail Spraying

Manager Anderson talked with Mike with Larson Helicopter. Mike informed Manager Anderson he did not see enough cattails to spray and won't be spraying cattails this year.

NEW BUSINESS

Valley City Permanent Flood Protection Permit

John Wirries with KLJ was not present. Mike discussed with the board that this has been an ongoing project for flood control. Manager Legge moved to submit a letter of no comment for this project to

the State Water Commission. Manager Schlagel seconded the motion. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

Under 80 Tile Notification – Larson

Review of the under 80 tile notification provided by Aaron Larson was done. No action taken.

Under 80 Tile Notifications – Aim Ag

Review of four under 80 tile notifications provided by Aim Ag was done. No action taken.

Engineer Report

Mike to submit the Valley City Little Dam for an award.

Legal Report

Nothing more to be added.

With nothing more to be discussed the meeting was adjourned at 10:21 a.m.

APPROVED:

By: _____
Jerry Hieb, Chair

ATTEST:

Cara Didier
Secretary-Treasurer