

*These are DRAFT minutes, subject to amendment before final approval by the
Traill County Water Resource District.*

**Traill County Water Resource District
January 20, 2026 – 8:00 a.m.**

The Traill County Water Resource District met on Tuesday, January 20, 2026, at 8:00 a.m. at its office in Hillsboro, ND. Present were Chairman Jason Siegert, and Water Managers Joel Halvorson, Jason Lovas, Andy Neset and Gary Thompson. Nathan Trosen and Andrew Smith, the Board's engineers; Sean Fredricks, the Board's attorney; and Jessica Spaeth, Secretary-Treasurer, were also in attendance. Chuck Fritz, International Water Institute; Corwyn Martin, Traill County Highway Department; Dan McLaughlin, David McLaughlin, Marcia Hoplin, and Tim Overmoen, were present for a portion of the meeting.

Agenda

Manager Lovas moved to approve the agenda as presented. Manager Thompson seconded the motion. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

Minutes

Manager Halvorson moved to approve the minutes of the Board's meeting on January 6. Manager Thompson seconded the motion. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

Bills

Manager Neset moved to approve payment of the bills and electronic fund transfers as presented in the check detail report. Manager Halvorson seconded the motion. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

Elm River Joint WRD Project Update

Ms. Spaeth reported that cost share for interest costs has been received from Red River Joint WRD. There was discussion to hold a joint board meeting on February 3 to consider calling the Series B portion of the bond.

Traill County Bridges

Murray Drain No. 17 - Bridge Nos. 223, 292, and 304 improvements. Nathan Trosen reviewed cost share estimates for each of the bridges. Moore continues to work with Traill County to determine cost and cost share amounts. Manager Lovas will attend the County Commission's February 3 meeting to review the improvements project and address any cost share questions.

Hatton Drain No. 45

Some culverts sustained damage and will be repaired in 2026 by Naastad Bros. Inc.

Miller Drain No. 29 -- Upper Outlet Structure Repair Project

The upper outlet structure repair has been completed, except for seeding, which will be completed in Spring 2026. Chairman Siegert reported that the snow fence around the newly constructed drop structure has been installed. Mr. Trosen reported that the trash rack has been ordered and is awaiting delivery.

Morgan Drain No. 36

The 40' x 84" culvert replacement has been completed. Ms. Spaeth to contact Glenn Johnson for reimbursement for KRB, Inc. invoice for the culvert installation.

Murray Drain No. 17

Murray Drain No. 17 - Bridge Nos. 223, 292, and 304 improvements. Nathan Trosen reviewed cost share estimates for each of the bridges. Moore continues to work with Traill County to determine cost and cost share amounts. Manager Lovas will attend the County Commission's February 3 meeting to review the improvements project and address any cost share questions. In addition, Manager Lovas will ask the Commission their preference in terms of the Commission's share of costs; under the Commission/WRD joint powers agreement approved in 2025, the WRD can include the Commission's share of costs in the WRD's bond issue. Alternatively, the Commission can make their payment in an up-front, lump-sum payment.

Nelson Drain No. 28

Mr. Trosen reported that the purchase agreement with Susan Bell for acquisition of the necessary right-of-way for Bridge 55 has been sent and is awaiting signatures.

The Board previously directed Moore to reach out to the grant administrator of the North Dakota Department of Agriculture's Agriculture Infrastructure Grant Program to determine if it would be reasonable for the District to apply for funds for the Bridge No. 55 repair project. Mr. Trosen reported that the application for Bridge No. 55 will be submitted soon. Moore continues to work with Riverview to ensure there are no duplicate improvements included on the applications. There was discussion regarding the Joint Powers Agreement with Herberg Township and Riverview. At the Board's meeting on December 18, attended by the Township, the parties agreed the Township should enter into a separate agreement directly with Riverview to address any concerns the Township has regarding Riverview's reimbursements to the Township due under the three-party agreement.

N. Mayville Drain No. 8

Civil Specialties, Inc. continues to remove trees along the entire length of the drain.

S. Mayville Drain No 9-18-29

Ms. Spaeth reported that payment has been received from Mr. Garrett for engineering costs incurred on the NDDOT permit.

Roseville Drain No. 19

There was discussion regarding a timeline for the hearing and voting process. Mr. Trosen reviewed an updated benefit factor map and made additional changes per the Board's comments. Ohnstad Twichell to draft resolutions for consideration at the February 17 meeting.

Appointment – IWI GIS Tutorial

Chuck Fritz, Executive Director of the International Water Institute (IWI), provided a background of the IWI, LiDAR, and a tutorial of the GIS Map Portal that the Institute designed. The International Water Institute provides watershed research and education.

Complaints

Sean Fredricks provided a summary of the complaint process. Nathan Trosen reviewed the investigation report and hydrology of the area. The parties agreed they could execute a revised agreement to settle the matter. Under the agreement, the Hoplin parties will conduct the cleanout at their expense; the McLaughlin's will modify the indemnity language in the agreement; the parties will attach Moore's exhibit to the agreement to indicate that the Hoplin cleanout will not exceed the culvert-to-culvert, invert-to-invert grade; and Hoplin will not spread the spoil on the McLaughlins' property. Mr. Fredricks will review the agreement once updated by the McLaughlins and will provide the new draft to the Hoplin parties, and Fredricks will otherwise act as the intermediary between the parties.

Surface Drain Permit No. 6710 – Neil Breidenbach

The Board will keep this matter, and Dacotah Bank's Complaint, on its meeting agendas and will otherwise maintain contact with the parties to monitor Mr. Breidenbach's ability to satisfy the conditions of the permit, namely, obtaining written consent from the Buxton Township Board of Township Supervisors, landowners along the course of the project, and Dacotah Bank. Chairman Siegert to contact Mr. Breidenbach to notify him of the February 17 deadline request to provide copies of the consents.

Koenig Lawsuit

Mr. Fredricks provided a brief update of the lawsuit filed by La Verne Koenig related to the obstruction complaint proceedings in 2017 and 2018.

2026 Engineering Rates

Mr. Trosen reviewed Moore's 2026 engineering rates. Manager Thompson moved to approve the rate sheet as presented. Manager Neset seconded the motion. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:54 a.m.

APPROVE:

Jason Siegert, Chair

ATTEST:

Jessica Spaeth, Secretary-Treasurer