

**Trail County Water Resource District  
February 3, 2026 – 8:00 a.m.**

The Traill County Water Resource District met on Tuesday, February 3, 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. Andrew Smith, the Board's engineer; Sean Fredricks, the Board's attorney; and Jessica Spaeth, Secretary-Treasurer, were also in attendance. Corwyn Martin, Traill County Highway Department, was present for a portion of the meeting.

**Agenda**

Manager Halvorson moved to approve the agenda as amended. 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 20. Manager Neset 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 Thompson seconded the motion. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

Manager Neset moved to approve the January bank statements and general journal entries as presented. Manager Thompson seconded the motion. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

**Elm River Joint WRD Project Update**

The Elm River Joint WRD meets today at 9:30 a.m. Manager Halvorson reported that Galesburg Township bridge No. 399 is failing. Corwyn Martin reported that the Traill County Commissioners directed the Highway Department to close the bridge until it can be repaired.

**Traill County Bridges**

Murray Drain No. 17 - Bridge Nos. 223, 292, and 304 improvements. Moore continues to work with Traill County to determine cost and cost share amounts. Manager Lovas will attend the County Commission's February 17 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.

**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**

Andrew Smith 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**

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### **N. Mayville Drain No. 8**

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

### **Nelson Drain No. 28**

Mr. Smith 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. Smith reported that Moore is coordinating a contractor quote and the application for Bridge No. 55 will be submitted once it is received. 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.

### **Roseville Drain No. 19**

Mr. Smith reviewed the Engineer's Report. There was discussion regarding a timeline for the hearing and voting process. Ohnstad Twichell to draft resolutions for consideration at the February 17 meeting.

### **Complaints**

Sean Fredricks provided an update on the parties' 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**

Mr. Breidenbach provided a signed agreement to the District. The Board directed Mr. Fredricks to seek a response from Dacotah Bank. 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.

**Surface Drain Permit Application No. 6861 Elm River Cleanout – Joel Brandsted**

Ms. Spaeth reported receipt of a Solicitation of Views from the North Dakota Department of Water Resources regarding Surface Drain Permit Application No. 6861 – Elm River Cleanout - Joel Brandsted. The Board had no comment.

**American Crystal Sugar – Land Treatment Field**

Stantec is assisting American Crystal Sugar Company with the permit process for a land treatment field at the Hillsboro Facility. This land treatment field will be field 8 for the facility. Manager Thompson moved to direct Ms. Spaeth to respond to American Crystal Sugar that the Traill County WRD has no comments regarding potential impacts to any legal drain facilities, but the WRD noted American Crystal’s proposed berm may require a dike permit from the North Dakota Department of Water Resources. Manager Halvorson seconded the motion. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

**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.

**2027-2029 Water Development Plan**

The Board reviewed the 2025-2027 Water Development Plan and discussed adding additional projects. Ms. Spaeth to work with Moore to compile an updated list and costs and submit to the Department of Water Resources by the April 30, 2026, deadline.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:52 a.m.

APPROVE:

Jason Siegert, Chair

ATTEST:

Jessica Spaeth, Secretary-Treasurer