

Traill County Water Resource District
February 17, 2026 – 8:00 a.m.

The Traill County Water Resource District met on Tuesday, February 17, 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. Corwyn Martin, Traill County Highway Department, was present for a portion of the meeting.

Agenda

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

Minutes

Manager Neset moved to approve the minutes of the Board's meeting on February 3. 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 Thompson seconded the motion. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

Elm River Joint WRD Project Update

The Elm River Joint WRD will meet at 9:30 a.m. on March 3.

Traill County Bridges

Manager Lovas and Nathan Trosen attended the Traill County Commission meeting to discuss cost share and financing for Murray Darin No. 17 Bridge Nos. 223, 292, and 304 replacement project. Under the Commission/WRD joint powers agreement approved in 2025, the Commission agreed and approved cost share for the bridge replacements and will pay their share in an up-front, lump-sum payment. Ms. Spaeth to send an invoice to Corwyn Martin for the preliminary cost estimate.

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

Mr. Trosen reported that the trash rack has been ordered. Moore Engineering will coordinate delivery and installation with KRB Gravel, Inc.

Morgan Drain No. 36

Ms. Spaeth reported that Glenn Johnson paid the KRB, Inc. invoice for the culvert installation and this item can be considered completed.

Murray Drain No. 17

Manager Lovas and Nathan Trosen attended the Traill County Commission meeting to discuss cost share and financing for Murray Drain No. 17 Bridge Nos. 223, 292, and 304. Under the Commission/WRD joint powers agreement approved in 2025, the Commission agreed and approved cost share for the bridge replacements and will pay their share in an up-front, lump-sum payment. Ms. Spaeth to send an invoice to Corwyn Martin for the preliminary cost estimate.

Manager Neset moved to approve the quote from TrueNorth Steel for the culvert material needed for the bridge replacements. Manager Thompson seconded the motion. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

N. Mayville Drain No. 8

Civil Specialties, Inc. continues to remove trees along the entire length of the drain. Mr. Trosen reported that the preliminary results of the model to determine impacts of replacing wooden bridges with culverts indicated that there would be minimal impacts to the drainage area. More information will be available for review at the next meeting.

Nelson Drain No. 28

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. Moore sought a contractor estimate to include in the application – the application will be submitted soon.

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.

Roseville Drain No. 19

Sean Fredricks reviewed the assessment district proceedings required by statute and related resolutions for Roseville Drain No. 19 Improvement Project No. 2026-01. Nathan Trosen presented the Engineer's Report prepared by Moore Engineering. The Report provides a detailed analysis of the project mechanics, hydraulics, right of way required for the project, and project cost estimates.

Trosen then presented the proposed preliminary assessment list for the project and explained the per-parcel benefit analysis Moore Engineering conducted to prepare the draft list. Moore utilized the benefit methodology prepared by the North Dakota Water Resource Districts Association to calculate benefits for each parcel in the proposed assessment district. Moore prepared a memorandum that outlines the methodology utilized for analyzing benefits for this project; the memo is on file with the Board's Secretary-Treasurer. The Board reviewed the assessment list, discussed benefits to each parcel, proposed assessments to each parcel, the cost-share anticipated for the project, right of way necessary for the project, and the local share of project costs to assess. The Board concurred with Moore's benefit analysis and with the proposed assessment list.

Manager Neset introduced the RESOLUTION OF NECESSITY FOR ROSEVILLE DRAIN NO. 19 IMPROVEMENT PROJECT NO. 2026-01 and moved its adoption. Manager Halvorson seconded the motion. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

Manager Neset introduced the RESOLUTION APPROVING ENGINEER'S REPORT FOR ROSEVILLE DRAIN NO. 19 IMPROVEMENT PROJECT NO. 2026-01 and moved its adoption. Manager Halvorson seconded the motion. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

Manager Neset introduced the RESOLUTION DETERMINING BENEFITTED PROPTER AND SETTING HEARING FOR ROSEVILLE DRAIN NO. 19 IMPROVEMENT PROJECT NO. 2026-01 and moved its adoption. Manager Halvorson seconded the motion. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously. The Hearing will be held Tuesday, March 31 at 8:30 a.m. at Traill County WRD Office.

Complaints

Sean Fredricks provided an update regarding the Hoplin/McLaughlin complaint, and on the parties' revised agreement to settle the matter. The Board previously directed Fredricks to prepare some modifications to the agreement to ensure the Hoplin parties are responsible for all permitting for any cleanout project and to limit the Hoplin parties' liability under the agreement to any damages caused by their activities, as opposed to any and all damages caused by the existence of the natural watercourse. Fredricks prepared some proposed modifications and provided them to the parties. At the Board's January 20 meeting, the parties all agreed the Board should hold the Complaint in abeyance to afford the parties the opportunity to negotiate a mutually-acceptable resolution to the matter.

Surface Drain Permit No. 6710 – Neil Breidenbach

Mr. Fredricks reported that Dacotah Bank withdrew the complaint against Mr. Breidenbach. The Board will keep this matter 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 and landowners along the course of the project.

Koenig Lawsuit

There was no update on the lawsuit filed by La Verne Koenig related to the obstruction complaint proceedings in 2017 and 2018.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:41 a.m.

APPROVE:

Jason Siegert, Chair

ATTEST:

Jessica Spaeth, Secretary-Treasurer