

DRAFT

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

**MINUTES OF CASS COUNTY JOINT WATER RESOURCE DISTRICT MEETING
ORIGINATING AT THE CASS COUNTY HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT
HERITAGE CONFERENCE ROOM
WEST FARGO, NORTH DAKOTA
MAY 8, 2025
8:30 A.M.**

A meeting of the Cass County Joint Water Resource District (CCJWRD) was held on May 8, 2025, at 8:30 a.m.

Present were Ken Loughheed, North Cass Water Resource District; Keith Weston and Rick Steen, Southeast Cass Water Resource District; Gerald Melvin, Maple River Water Resource District; Jacob Gust, Rush River Water Resource District; Melissa Hinkemeyer, Director, Secretary-Treasurer; Amy Hepper, Accountant; Elizabeth Smith, Administrative Assistant; Rita Nelson, Accounting Assistant; Sean Fredricks, Luke Andrud, Katie Schmidt, John Shockley, and Christie Rust, Ohnstad Twichell, P.C.; Kurt Lysne and Brady Woodard, Moore Engineering, Inc.; Mike Opat, Houston Engineering, Inc.; Rob Stefonowicz, Larkin Hoffman; Duane Breitling, Cass County Commissioner; Kris Bakkegard and Madeline Daudt, Metro Flood Diversion Authority (MFDA); Eric Dodds and Dean Vetter, AE2S; Ken Helvey, SRF Consulting Group, Inc.; Oly Olafson and Wade Whitworth, HDR, Inc.; Dale Alhsten, Prosource Technologies LLC; Paul Barthel, Jacobs; and Doug Johnson, DKJ Appraisal LLC.

Approval of agenda

It was moved by Manager Melvin, seconded by Manager Gust, and unanimously carried to approve the order of the agenda, as presented.

Minutes

It was moved by Manager Melvin, seconded by Manager Weston, and unanimously carried to approve the minutes of the April 24, 2025, meeting, as presented.

Metro Flood Diversion Project – Project updates and general topics

Eric Dodds reported negotiations are at a standstill with the property owners of OINs 1411, 1880, and 1892 regarding the acquisition of flowage easements for the Metro Flood Diversion Project.

A motion was made by Manager Gust and seconded by Manager Melvin to authorize legal counsel to file and proceed with eminent domain actions under Chapter 32-15 of the North Dakota Century Code for OINs 1411, 1880, and 1892. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

Metro Flood Diversion Project – Appraisal Review and Approval

Doug Johnson reviewed various appraisals regarding the Metro Flood Diversion Project.

DRAFT

It was moved by Manager Steen and seconded by Manager Gust to approve the appraisal for OIN 218 with an effective date of April 11, 2025, as an estimate of just compensation for acquisition of property regarding the Metro Flood Diversion Project. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

Discussion was held on the appraisal of OIN 219X. Manager Steen asked if the property remains within the 100 year floodplain after the Metro Flood Diversion Project and how it might affect the appraised value of this property. The property will not be in the 100 year floodplain post Metro Flood Diversion Project construction. The Board indicated they would like more time to review this appraisal and will continue discussion at a future meeting.

It was moved by Manager Steen and seconded by Manager Melvin to table the appraisal for OIN 219X to allow more time for review of the appraisal. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

It was moved by Manager Steen and seconded by Manager Gust to approve the appraisal for OIN 8728 with an effective date of March 27, 2025, as an estimate of just compensation for acquisition of property regarding the Metro Flood Diversion Project. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

Maple River Dam - General operation and maintenance updates

Brady Woodard reported that he is working with JAC Predator & Large Pest Control, Inc. regarding nuisance animals at the Maple River Dam. Mr. Woodard stated that a property owner adjacent to parcel 45-00000-6735-020 appreciated having the Water Resource District property electronically posted for no hunting last year, as it prevented damage to the structures on their property. Mr. Woodard noted this is one of the areas that will be posted again this year.

Sheldon Flood Protection Project No. 2019-01

Kurt Lysne briefly updated the Board on the status of acquiring the additional easement area needed for the Sheldon Flood Protection Project No. 2019-01 and noted that they hope to be able to recommend award of the bid for the Project at the next meeting.

North Dakota Water Resource Districts Association – Summer Meeting

The Secretary noted that the North Dakota Water Resource Districts Association and North Dakota Water Users Association joint summer water meeting is scheduled for July 9-10, 2025, at the Spirit Lake Casino in Devils Lake. The Board discussed attendance at the summer meeting. The Secretary noted that registration is due in June, if any Managers wish to attend, they can contact the Water Resource District office.

DRAFT

Bills

It was moved by Manager Steen and seconded by Manager Melvin to approve payment of the wire transfers as presented. Upon roll call vote, the following Managers voted in favor: Lougheed, Gust, Steen, Weston and Melvin. The motion passed.

Legislative Update

Sean Fredricks updated the Board on the conclusions of the legislative session. Mr. Fredricks discussed legislative items that impact water resource districts including cost-share percentages, economic analyses, and an interim study regarding watershed districts. Chairman Lougheed thanked Mr. Fredricks and North Dakota Water Users Association for their hard work during this legislative session.

Adjournment

There being no further business to be considered by the Board, it was moved by Manager Steen, seconded by Manager Melvin, and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting.

APPROVED:

Ken Lougheed
Chairman

ATTEST:

Melissa Hinkemeyer
Secretary