

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

**Meeting Minutes**

January 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2025 – 9:00 AM

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman - Jerry Hieb, Managers – Bret Fehr, Scott Legge, Perry Schlagel, Bruce Anderson; Mike Opat - Houston Engineering; Sean Fredricks – Ohnstad Twichell; Shawn Olauson – Barnes County Commissioner.

Chairman Hieb called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m.

Manager Legge moved to approve the minutes from the December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2025, meeting. Manager Anderson seconded the motion. Upon roll call 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.

Manager Legge moved to reappoint officers Jerry Hieb as Chair, Bruce Anderson as Vice Chair, Cara Didier as Secretary-Treasurer, and to keep portfolios and joint board members in place with the addition of Perry Schlagel to be added to the Thordenskjold Drain Portfolio and the Lower Sheyenne Joint board. Manager Fehr seconded the motion. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

The Board discussed the appointment of legal and engineer, Sean proposed a \$10 across the board rate increase. Manager Anderson moved to appoint Sean Fredricks as legal counsel and to approve the \$10 increase. Manager Legge seconded the motion. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously. Mike discussed an extension to the Master Service agreement for the Board's consideration. Manager Legge made a motion to approve the extension and to appoint Mike Opat as engineer for the District. Manager Anderson seconded the motion. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously. Mike presented Houston Engineering's 2025 fee schedule and Mike explained that the rates represent

approximately a 4% rate increase. Manager Legge made a motion to approve Houston Engineering's 2024 fee schedule. Manager Anderson seconded the motion. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **VC Little Dam**

Mike explained the Board is waiting for spring for the contractor to finish the corrective work on paving. No action to be taken at this time.

### **NRCS-RCPP: Ten Mile Lake**

No update at this time.

### **Thordenskjold Drain**

Discussion was held. An informational meeting to be held at a later date.

### **Clausen Springs Dam**

Mike will be reaching out to Trade Mark for an update on the trash rack installation. Mike gave a brief update on the dam safety evaluation and proposed Task Order 5. Manager Anderson made a motion to approve the Task Order. Manager Fehr seconded the motion. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

### **Sheyenne River Bank Stabilization Study**

Mike gave an update on what was discussed during the Lower Sheyenne Joint Board meeting at the convention in Bismark in December.

### **Svea Drain**

No update at this time.

### **Cornell 80 Project**

Sean gave a brief update with no action to be taken at this time. The parties are awaiting the benefit methodology from the ND WRD Association before proceeding with the creation of an assessment district. In addition, the two WRDs are awaiting legislation regarding joint boards.

### **Sheyenne River Snagging and Clearing**

Mike reached out to IBI and they reported that they are looking to get started in February.

## **Snow Removal Legal Drain 2**

Manager Legge reported snow removal has not been necessary to this point. More to be discussed at the Legal Drain 2 Advisory Board meeting that will be held at the beginning of our next regular meeting February 10<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

## **Hobart Lake**

Manager Anderson gave a brief update stating that the drain is closed, and the elevation has not changed. No update on the cleanout at this time.

## **Dam Inventory**

Mike discussed that he has mapped out the dams in Barnes County. After some discussion the board decided to have Mike draft a priority list of these dams to create a plan moving forward.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Drain Tile Application – Aaron Larson**

#### **Application to Install a Subsurface Water Management System No. 2024-11 for Aaron Larson in the South Half of Section 35 in Weimer Township**

The Board next reviewed *Application to Install a Subsurface Water Management System No. 2024-11*, filed by Applicant Aaron Larson on December 10, 2024. Under the Application, Applicant seeks to install a 232-acre drain tile system in the South Half of Section 35 in Weimer Township, Barnes County, North Dakota. The project will include a single pump outlet near the north boundary of the Southeast Quarter of Section 35; the pump outlet will discharge directly into a blue line natural watercourse.

According to Barnes County tax roll information supplied by Applicant, Aaron and Stacie Larson own the South Half of Section 35 in Weimer Township. Because the project will discharge into a blue line natural watercourse, no downstream notices are required under N.D. Cent. Code § 61-32-03.1.

Manager Legge moved, and Manager Fehr seconded the motion, to approve *Application to Install a Subsurface Water Management System No. 2024-11*, filed December 10, 2024, for Aaron Larson in the South Half of Section 35 in Weimer Township, and to authorize the

Secretary-Treasurer to sign Subsurface Water Management Permit No. 2024-11, subject to the following conditions:

1. Applicant will re-establish any areas disturbed installing or maintaining Applicant's tile system.
2. Applicant will install and maintain erosion protection at any and all project outlets into the natural watercourse in the Southeast Quarter of Section 35 in Weimer Township.
3. Applicant will turn off any pump outlets and otherwise close all outlets during "critical flood periods," as determined by the Barnes County Water Resource District.
4. Applicant will not install Applicant's tile system within 20 feet, on either side, of any rural water lines Barnes Rural Water District has in the South Half of Section 35 in Weimer Township under any blanket easements, or otherwise beyond Barnes Rural Water District's existing easement.
5. Applicant must apply for an amendment to Subsurface Water Management Permit No. 2024-11 in advance of any proposed alterations to outlet locations, the addition of any outlets, or improvements or modifications to the tile system that could increase the capacity or drainage area of the tile system.

Upon roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

Under Section 61-32-03.1, the Board cannot attach any additional conditions to Applicant's permit. However, for Applicant's protection, and to ensure protection of Applicant's tile system, the Board recommends that Applicant obtain all other necessary and requisite licenses, permits, registrations, and/or approvals from all applicable federal, state, county, and municipal governments, and any other applicable governmental entities.

Sean Fredricks will provide copies of the Board's Notice of Decision, Subsurface Water Management Permit No. 2024-11, downstream flow map, and the Barnes County Permit Form to the Department of Water Resources, Barnes Rural Water District, and Jessica Jenrich. Under North Dakota law, Applicant's detailed project design map is an exempt record, and the Board will not provide copies to any third parties.

**Secretary-Treasurer Annual Review**

The Board conducted the Secretary-Treasurers six-month employment evaluation.

**Engineer Report**

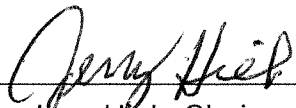
Mike had nothing more to report.

**Legal Report**


Sean will keep the Board posted on legislation that may require the Managers to testify or to contact legislators.

With nothing more to be discussed the meeting was adjourned at 10:22 a.m.

APPROVED:

By:  \_\_\_\_\_  
Jerry Hieb, Chair

ATTEST:

 \_\_\_\_\_  
Cara Didier  
Secretary-Treasurer

Barnes County Water Resource District  
PO Box 306  
Valley City, ND 58072

January 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2025

PLEASE SIGN IN BELOW

---

Shawn Olaus  
Joe O. Olaus

BOC