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SARGENT COUNTY WATER RESOURCE DISTRICT

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, December 18th, 2025 at 8:00 a.m.

The Sargent County Water Resource District met on Thursday, December 18th, 2025, at 8:00 a.m., in the water resource district board room at the Sargent County Courthouse in Forman, North Dakota. The following Board members were present: Chairman Luke Siemieniewski, Vice-Chairman Michael Wyum, Managers Todd Stein, Bruce Speich, and Roger Zetocha. Also present were Wendy Schmiess Secretary/Treasurer, and Tim Faber, Sargent County Road Supervisor. The following were also present virtually: Attorneys Sean Fredricks, Katie Schmidt, Stephen Hilfer, Ohnstad Twichell; Nathan Trosen, Moore Engineering; landowner Leon Mallberg; and an unidentified “DT” and “CN” attendees.

Public Comment: None

Minutes

Manager Wyum moved to approve the November 20th, 2025 regular meeting minutes, and the October 2025 financial statement. Manager Stein seconded the motion. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

Bills

The Board considered the following bills:

Ohnstad Twichell- Mtgs./emails/review statutes \$877.00; Vculek App.- \$1,456.90; H. Bergstrom App.- \$749.00; Ptacek App.- \$724.50; Drain No. 9- review correspondence \$49.00

Total: \$3,856.40

Moore Engineering- Silver Lake Dam-coordinate with DWR \$562.50; EAP’s for Brummond-Lubke and Nelson Dams \$520.00; Web map development \$191.25; mtgs. \$1,606.25; permits (Vculek)\$390.00; mileage 128.80; SFC- Task 6 \$112.50; Drain No. 4- assessment list \$112.50; Drain No. 8- Studies/report \$225.00; Drain No. 9- Larry Dahl letter/duck pond research \$808.75; Drain No. 11- assessment list \$112.50; Drain No. 7- assessment list \$112.50

Total: \$4,882.55

Sargent County-Drain No. 9- clean out \$1400.00; Drain No. 7- rip rap Bobcat use \$5325.00

Total: \$6,725.00

Jerry’s Backhoe Service- Drain No. 9- beaver dam removal

Total: \$80.00

Manager Zetocha moved to approve the bills as presented. Manager Wyum seconded the motion. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

A brief discussion was had regarding the amount of projects, across the state of ND, that have been halted since waterboards must now count their funds on-hand against their six-year maintenance levy borrowing capacity. Attorney Fredricks & Engineer Trosen estimated at least 8-12 projects that they are aware of that have been halted or have been substantially reduced. Chairman Siemieniewski said that with the delay in projects, the material and labor costs will only go up, resulting in the projects costing more than originally planned. The crop productivity is also being affected because of the delays. Siemieniewski added that road crossings are also not getting done which creates roadway safety issues.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Drain No. 11:

No update.

Drain No. 4:

No update.

Drain No. 2:

No update.

Drain No. 7:

No update.

Drain No. 9 Extension: Trosen said the project is still on hold as we are awaiting guidance on the benefit determinations. Trosen discussed the initial draft of a proposed methodology prepared by the ND WRD Association.

Drain No. 9: Trosen has been trying to determine the obligation of the SCWRD to maintain the duck ponds along this drain, if any. Trosen has checked with the NRCS and the DWR regarding ownership of the duck ponds. The NRCS is not aware of any existing agreements relating to the ponds. Trosen said he has not heard back from the US Fish and Wildlife Department. If any data can be found, Trosen will connect with Attorney Fredricks to talk about the next step.

Wild Rice River Maintenance District: This project is currently on hold.

Drain No. 8: Moore Engineering has started working on the hydraulic model for this project. Moore is doing the work that was described on the funding application. The goal is to get landowners what they need to proceed with this project if they take it over themselves.

Cogswell Tile: The NDDes has this project on its final review list but has not yet approved cost-share.

Drain No. 12: Chairman Siemieniewski noted that there is some sloughing around the drain that Sargent County Road Supervisor, Tim Faber, will be working on.

Short Foot Creek: The government shut down delayed the progress of this project. A final watershed plan is being prepared, but more environmental information is needed from the NRCS. Trosen is hopeful that the watershed plan will be submitted by the early part of next year.

Silver Lake Dam: Trosen submitted a construction permit to the DWR. The DWR has requested additional information. Moore met with DWR staff and is currently updating the application submittal to meet the requested format. Once the application is submitted the DWR will continue their review of the permit.

Chairman Siemieniewski suggested getting drone footage of the spring run off of the dam(s) next year.

Tewaukon District: Administrator Schmiess and Trosen are working on putting together a training exercise that is a requirement of the EAP for both the Nelson Dam and Brummond-Lubke Dam. A date for the training is set for January 15th at 10:00 a.m. at the Sargent County Courthouse.

NEW BUSINESS:

2026 Meeting Dates: Administrator Schmiess presented the meeting dates for 2026. A motion was made by manager Stein and seconded by Manager Wyum to approve the meeting dates. Upon roll call, the motion carried unanimously.

ND State Water Convention: Managers Wyum and Stein both attended the convention. Wyum said that the convention was a great opportunity to do some networking. A project that particularly grabbed his interest was *Wheelchairs and Walleyes*. Many recreation areas do not have fishing access for those that have mobility restrictions. Wheelchairs and Walleyes has put in 3 major lifts in different parks at the cost of about \$150K per lift. There are 5 more lifts expected to be installed in the near future.

Wyum asked if the Board could possibly install a lift like this at Silver Lake. Chairman Siemieniewski said there is currently a cement pad out by Tewaukon that is utilized by those with mobility restrictions.

Wyum said that a fence would need to be installed to protect those fishing from slipping into the lake. Trosen suggested inviting Jeff Gooss who is part of the Wheelchairs and Walleyes project, out to the Silver Lake Resort to get his opinion on what our options may be. Trosen said he will start the line of communication.

Harvey Bergstrom submitted a new tile application. However, Manager Wyum indicated that the map submitted by the tile contractor is not accurate. With that in mind, Manager Wyum will discuss further with Mr. Bergstrom and the Board can consider the application once Ellingson submits a revised, accurate discharge and outlet map.

OLD BUSINESS:

Moore Engineering On-Line GIS Webmap:

The WebMap, presented by Trosen, is a website where Managers and stakeholders could view GIS data of the District including drain locations, assessment districts, dams, etc. Trosen met with his team yesterday and reported that the map should be ready to display by our January meeting.

Dickey-Sargent Joint Board

DSJTB bills for approval:

DVEC - electricity -	\$	150.00
Ohnstad Twichell-Jt. Bd. Mtg. \$7.40/ Board mtg. 7/17/25 \$102.00	\$	109.40

A motion was made by Manager Wyum and seconded by Manager Zetocha to approve the bills as presented. Upon roll call, the motion carried unanimously.

October 2025 Financials:

Maintenance Account Balance:	\$	48,182.00
Improvement Account Balance:	\$	329,659.59

Richland-Sargent Drain #1 Maintenance Fund Financial Statement

Bills:

Sargent County- Beaver dams/dens removed	\$	4,800.00
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A motion was made by Manager Zetocha and seconded by Manager Stein to approve the bills as presented. Upon roll call, the motion carried unanimously.

<u>October 2025 Financials:</u>	\$480,982.74
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With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:46 a.m.

APPROVAL:

Lucas Siemieniewski, Chairman

ATTEST:

Wendy Schmiess
Secretary-Treasurer