

SARGENT COUNTY WATER RESOURCE DISTRICT
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, February 19th, 2026 at 8:00 a.m.

The Sargent County Water Resource District met on Thursday, February 19th, 2026, 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 and Roger Zetocha. Also present were Wendy Schmiess Secretary/Treasurer, Nathan Trosen of Moore Engineering, Tim Faber, Sargent County Road Supervisor, and landowner Richard Ruch. The following were also present virtually: Manager Bruce Speich, Attorneys Sean Fredricks, Katie Schmidt, Stephen Hilfer, Ohnstad Twichell; Andrew Smith, Moore Engineering; and landowner Leon Mallberg.

Public Comment: None

Minutes

Manager Wyum moved to approve the January 15th, 2026 regular meeting minutes, and the December 2025 financial statement. Manager Zetocha seconded the motion. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

Bills

The Board considered the following bills:

Ohnstad Twichell- Mtgs. \$1,106; Vculek App. #6767 \$83.28; Widmer/Zetocha Complaint \$255; Wild Rice Maintenance District-assessment statutes \$331.50
Total: \$1,775.78

Moore Engineering- SFC-Task 6 \$885.50; Drain No. 8-analyze proposed alternatives \$888.00; Drain No. 9-Duck Ponds \$114.00; Drain No. 7-Cty Hwy./DOT request \$228.00; Wild Rice Feasibility Study-Studies/reports \$2,337.50; Drain No. 9 Ext.-Studies/reports \$486.00; Silver Lake Dam-Permitting \$301.00; EAP Table Top-\$1,482.00; GIS Webmap \$2,266.00; Mtgs. \$757.00; Mileage \$133.40
Total: \$9,878.40

Sargent County- Drain No. 7-mowing/tree removal \$4,000; Drain No. 9-mowing/tree removal \$6000.
Total: \$10,000.00

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Drain No. 11:

No update.

Drain No. 4:

No update.

Drain No. 2:

No update.

Drain No. 7:

Damon DeVillers of Interstate Engineering reached out to Nathan Trosen, Moore Engineering, regarding crossings that had been replaced in Milnor some 10-15 years ago. Interstate Engineering and the NDDOT are trying to update their records. Trosen reviewed Moore Engineering's files and provided Interstate and the DOT with the information they requested.

Drain No. 9: Eric Wilson of the Tewaukon National Wildlife Refuge contacted Trosen regarding the duck ponds; Wilson was unable to find any information regarding any cost-share, O&M, or ownership obligations regarding the ponds. Trosen suggested the Board may simply have to treat the ponds like any other wetland and follow the Corp of Engineers' rules regarding wetland permitting and mitigation.

Drain No. 9 Extension: Before the Board can proceed with an assessment vote, the Board and Moore will have to calculate per-parcel benefits. The benefits methodology recommended by Trosen includes the following considerations:

1. Proximity to Drain
2. Crops Assessment (land use)
3. Productivity
4. Hydrologic considerations
5. Reductions and Adjustments (e.g., conservation easements, tile)

Trosen is looking for guidance from the Board regarding the elements and the how much weight to apportion to each. Trosen indicated Moore has conducted these studies on other drains and the initial results have been positive. He added that next month he would have draft map of the proposed assessment district.

Wild Rice River Maintenance District: Trosen has been working on mechanics to maintain the district. Initial studies are showing that the benefits of this project outweigh the costs. Trosen will conduct additional modeling to determine how far upstream the project benefits commence and will present results for the Board's consideration.

Drain No. 8: Trosen reported Moore is working on the study to look at potential project alternatives to Drain 8. Trosen said he will research a 2-5 year events for the pipe size of the buried pipe alternative. He noted the Board could also consider a 10-year event.

Cogswell Tile: The NDDDES has this project on its final review list but has not yet approved cost-share. Manager Stein reported that there is current flow through the tile.

Drain No. 12:

No update.

Short Foot Creek: Trosen stated Moore is working with the NRCS on finalizing the plan to be submitted to the NRCS Federal office for final review.

Silver Lake Dam: The DWR has asked for adjustments to the format Moore used to submit the permit application. DWR sent Moore Engineering a letter to request updated information before proceeding further. As a result of the request from the DWR, Moore submitted the updated permit submittal on 2/18/26. The Board budgeted \$20,000 for permitting and Trosen said the Board is currently at or below \$10,000 remaining. Moore has requested a deviation from DWR regarding DWR's revised policies. Trosen is hoping for action on the project sometime this summer.

Tewaukon District:

No update.

NEW BUSINESS:

Sargent County Road Department:

County Road Supervisor, Tim Faber, was in attendance and said that his crew will do the additional mowing the SCWRD will need done this summer.

Officer Appointment:

Chairman Luke Siemieniewski and Manager Zetocha were reappointed with their terms expiring 2/1/29.

Water Development Plan 2027-2029:

Trosen said the DWR is asking water resource districts to identify projects for 2027-2029 that may result in cost-share requests. SWC cost-share for drainage projects is now at 60%. After review of the list, Chairman Siemieniewski suggested adding Silver Lake Dam. Trosen said we have until the end of March to submit our plan.

OLD BUSINESS:

Moore Engineering On-Line GIS Webmap:

Trosen showed the board how to use the online webmap Moore created which shows the District's facilities relative to political boundaries such as sections and townships. Trosen said he will add the Tewaukon Refuge channels and plans to do quarterly updates on the tile permit location data shown on the webmap.

Harvey Bergstrom Tile Application:

The Board has not received any additional information on this incomplete application.

Dickey-Sargent Joint Board

DSJTB bills for approval:

DVEC - electricity -	\$	160.00
Ohnstad Twichell- Bond funding app.	\$	283.00

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.

December 2025 Financials:

Maintenance Account Balance:	\$	47,892.50
Improvement Account Balance:	\$	369,189.77

Richland-Sargent Drain #1 Maintenance Fund Financial Statement

Bills:

Ohnstad Twichell- bond coverage app.; review mtg. notice	\$	430.00
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December 2025 Financials:

\$	506,035.49
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With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:46 a.m.

APPROVAL:

Luke Siemieniewski, Chairman

ATTEST:

Wendy Schmiess
Secretary-Treasurer