

**Renville County Water Resource Board**

Minutes of RCWRB Regular Meeting, April 13, 2026, held in the Community Room of the Renville County Courthouse, 205 Main Street East, Mohall, North Dakota.

Present:

Chair Peter Gates

Vice Chair Dan Steinberger

Manager Guy Solemsaas

Attorney Kale Van Bruggen (via video conference)

Engineer Jennifer Malloy (via video conference)

Treasurer Victoria Klingbeil-Trout

Meeting called to order by Chair Peter Gates at 9:04 a.m.

Chair Gates called for corrections or additions to the agenda. Attorney Kale Van Bruggen (Rinke Noonan Law Firm) requested to add the April 20, 2026, NDWRDA Manager Training under Items for Discussion and Information 10(a). Hearing no objections, and no further corrections or additions, the Chair declared the agenda approved as amended.

**Open Mic:** No members of the public were present for the open mic portion of the agenda.

**Approve Minutes of January 12, 2026, Special Meeting:** The minutes of the January 12, 2026, meeting were reviewed. Vice Chair Dan Steinberger moved to approve the January 12, 2026, meeting minutes as presented. Manager Guy Solemsaas seconded. After discussion, the motion carried.

Treasurer Victoria Klingbeil-Trout presented the bills for approval by the Board and reported the income since the last meeting. Manager Guy Solemsaas moved to approve payment of bills as presented, with the exception of the IRS bill. Vice Chair Dan Steinberger seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Chair Peter Gates – AYE; Vice Chair Dan Steinberger – AYE; Manager Guy Solemsaas – AYE. Motion carried.

Peter Gates reported that the cash bond deposited by Wayne Drangsholt will be returned to Mr. Drangsholt to hold until an assessment drain petition is filed.

Treasurer Victoria Klingbeil-Trout reported the income since the last meeting and reported the account balances as follows: \$18.65 in the Drain No. 1 Bond fund; \$83.21 in the Checking Account; and \$40,897.82 in the Savings Account.

**Old Business:**

Culvert – Section 22/23, T158N, R86W: Nothing new to report. The consensus of the Board was to keep this item on the agenda as Old Business until Farden Construction has time to complete the work.

Scophammer Dam – Sections 4/5, T158N, R85W: The Board discussed the Scophammer Dam and questions pertaining to ownership, liability, and responsibility to inspect and maintain. The Dam was inspected in 2019. Jennifer Malloy (Apex Engineering) will discuss inspection schedule with the Department of Water Resources. Consensus of the Board is to leave this item on the agenda as Old Business until information on ownership, liability, and responsibility can be addressed.

2027 Legislative Issues: Nothing new to report.

Renville County Dam Inventory: Attorney Kale Van Bruggen (Rinke Noonan) reported that he should have information on coverage for liability claims related to dams at the July meeting.

Proposed Assessment Drain: Attorney Kale Van Bruggen (Rinke Noonan) discussed the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service waterfowl production area easements and a potential opportunity this summer to clarify the acres covered by the easement terms. Board consensus was to keep this item on the agenda until the July meeting to discuss it further.

**New Business:**

2027-2029 DWR/SWC Water Development Plan: Engineer Jennifer Malloy (Apex Engineering) reminded the Board that the Department of Water Resources (DWR) and the State Water Commissioner (SWC) are soliciting information about potential water development projects, the timing of their implementation, and estimated costs for the 2027-2029 Water Development Plan biennium. Malloy reported that the following projects are on the proposed list to report to the DWR and SWC: Tolley Slough Outlet; Hamlet Drain; 7 Mile Coulee Drain; Little Deep; and Eden Valley Township Drain. Project information is collected electronically through the DWR website. Projects must be submitted by April 30, 2026.

Malloy reported that the latest financial reports are showing that requests for funding are anticipated to outpace the available funds for cost-share funding.

2026 Joint Summer Water Meeting: Attorney Kale Van Bruggen (Rinke Noonan Law Firm) presented information on the 2026 NDWRDA Joint Summer Water Meeting July 15-16 at the Rough Rider Center in Watford City. Managers who wish to attend should register through Rinke Noonan, Apex Engineering, or Victoria Klingbeil-Trout.

Mouse River Park Pump Operations: Chair Peter Gates and Vice Chair Dan Steinberger reported on plans proposed by the Souris River Joint Board to replace the pump at Mouse River Park with an automatic park. It is anticipated this project will be accomplished in the next four years.

**Items for Discussion and Information:**

April 20, 2026 Calendar: The ND Water Resource District Association is offering a Manager-Training on Monday, April 20, at 10:00 a.m. via Zoom. Michael Scherr with the State Auditor's Office will be sharing information on how Water Resource Districts can reach out for assistance in completing audits. The presentation will be approximately one hour with time for questions and answers after the presentation.

July 13, 2026 Calendar: The regularly scheduled third quarterly meeting of the Board for 2026 will be held on July 13, 2026, at 9:00 a.m. in the Community Room of the Renville County Courthouse, 205 Main Street East, Mohall, North Dakota. The agenda for the meeting will be made available the week prior to the meeting.

**Souris River Joint Board Update:** Nothing additional to report.

**Engineer's Report:** No report.

**Letters of Complaint:** No letters of complaint were filed with the Board.

A motion to adjourn was made by Vice Chair Dan Steinberger. The motion was seconded by Manager Guy Solemsaas. On voice vote, the motion carried. Having completed all business on the noticed agenda, the Chair declared the meeting adjourned at 10:25 a.m.

Minutes approved by the Board on July 13, 2026.

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Peter Gates, Chair

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Kale R. Van Bruggen, Secretary