

SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES  
FOSTER COUNTY WATER RESOURCE BOARD

Carrington, ND  
December 16, 2025

A Special meeting of the Foster County Water Resource Board was held on Tuesday, December 16, 2025, commencing at 7:01 am at the Foster County Courthouse in the Commissioner Meeting Room with the following members present: Ronn Stangeland, Doug Zink, Alex Stedman and Brent Bachmeier. Also present was Dianne Straley, Secretary/Treasurer, Steve Wede, Jeff Wede, Pat Biel, Jerry and Tamara Becker, Pat Copenhaver, Paul Straley and Roger Gussiaas. Attorney Kale Van Bruggen and Engineer Jennifer Malloy were present via Microsoft Teams.

Meeting was called to order by Chairman, Ronn Stangeland.

**AGENDA.** The agenda was reviewed, Bachmeier made a motion to approve the agenda, Stedman seconded it. All in favor. Motion carried. The agenda was followed for the balance of the meeting.

**MINUTES.** Board members received a copy of the minutes of the regular meeting of November 12, 2025. Bachmeier made a motion to accept the minutes as written. Steadman seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion carried.

**FINANCIAL REPORT.** The financial condition of the board was reviewed, with a general fund cash balance of \$143,597.38 as of November 30, 2025, being held at Bremer Bank in Carrington. Motion to approve the financial report was made by Bachmeier, second by Steadman, all in favor. Motion carried.

**BILLS AND STATEMENTS.** The following bills were presented, Bachmeier made a motion to approve the bills, second by Steadman. All in favor. Motion carried.

**a. Rinke Noonan**

Invoice 403216-General - \$550.00

Invoice 404111-Carrington Creek Natural Watercourse Cleanout Project - \$1,425.00

Invoice 402467-Obstruction to Carrington Creek - \$435.50

Invoice 404502-2027 Legislative Issues - \$665.00

Total: \$3,075.50

(2026 Hourly Rates Notice received)

**b. Apex Engineering Group**

Invoice 22749-General Services - \$442.00

**c. Dianne Straley – Reimbursement for EMEET speaker - \$106.99**

**FOSTER COUNTY ASSESSMENT DRAIN NO. 1.** There was nothing new to report on Drain No. 1.

***\*\*Draft Meeting Minutes\*\****

**SCOTT'S SLOUGH.** Jerry Becker presented a timeline of the events on Scott's Slough for the past several years and it's clean out. He stated that the Scott's Slough cleanout was a success. He also stated that the Texas crossing on his property was engineered by Interstate Engineering and was put in at the correct depth.

Becker requested that the Board remove the words "Becker's dike is gone" from the October 8, 2025, board minutes.

Becker stated that the Texas crossing wasn't a "dike" and it shouldn't be addressed as one.

ND Century Code defines a "Dike" as any artificial structures, including an embankment, floodwall, levee, or any appurtenant works, constructed with the primary intent to divert surface water for real or personal property protection or to otherwise provide storm or flood-risk reduction resulting from flooding due to seasonally high water or precipitation.

Becker also requested that the Board remove the motion from the November 13, 2024 board minutes to not undertake any further work or clean-out in Sections 22 and 23, Township 147 North, Range 66 West, until the District has been paid for legal fees and clean-out costs.

Motion by Zink that the Board amend its previously approved minutes of the meeting held on October 8, 2025, to delete the words "Becker's dike is gone" from the section titled "Scott's Slough." Bachmeier seconded the motion and with all present in favor, the motion carried.

Attorney Van Bruggen reported that rescinding the Board's motion from its November 13, 2024 meeting related to clean-out work nullifies that motion, which would restore the Board's discretion to proceed with work or clean-out activities in said sections if the Board deems such work appropriate.

Motion by Bachmeier to rescind the Board's motion adopted at the November 13, 2024 meeting, which directed that the District shall not undertake any further work or clean-out in Sections 22 and 23, Township 147 North, Range 66 West, until the District is made whole for incurred expenses related to legal fees and clean-out costs. Zink seconded the motion and with all present in favor, the motion carried.

**CARRINGTON CREEK CLEANOUT.** Nothing new to report.

#### **NEW BUSINESS.**

**PAT COPENHAVER.** Pat was in attendance but left after Scott's Slough discussion.

**CONFLICT OF INTEREST – TILE PERMITS.** Attorney Van Bruggen reviewed a conflict-of-interest waiver letter dated December 5, 2025. The letter discloses the potential conflict of interest Rinke Noonan has providing legal representation to the Water Resource Board on tile permit applications where Ellingson Companies is the contractor. Rinke Noonan presented a letter as to why it would be possible for the Board to agree to a waiver of potential conflict. The waiver would be ongoing, would be limited to tile permit applications where Ellingson Companies is the contractor, and would remain in effect until the District revokes the waiver, which they may do at any time. Bachmeier made a motion for the board to approve the conflict of interest waiver dated December 5, 2025. Zink seconded it. All in favor. Motion carried.

***\*\*Draft Meeting Minutes\*\****

**RINKE NOONAN PROPOSED RATE INCREASE.** A letter from Rinke Noonan in regards to the proposed hourly and flat-fee rate increase for 2026 was distributed to board members. The current flat-fee rates have been in place since 2023. Zink made a motion for the board to approve the rate increase for Rinke Noonan services. Bachmeier seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion carried.

**ADJOURNMENT.** It was mutually agreed that the next board meeting will be held January 14, 2026, in the basement Board Room, being no further business; it was moved by Stedman and seconded by Zink to adjourn at 8:12 AM. All in favor. Motion carried.

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Dianne Straley,  
Recording Secretary

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Ronn Stangeland  
Chairman

***\*\*Draft Meeting Minutes\*\****