

**Renville County Water Resource Board**

Minutes of RCWRB Regular Meeting, January 12, 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 – arrived at 10:32 a.m.

Guests:

Wayne Drangsholt – left at 10:07 a.m.

Nathaniel Buynak - left at 10:07 a.m.

Delwin Gates – left at 10:07 a.m.

Parker Gates – left at 10:07 a.m.

Andy Gates – left at 10:07 a.m.

Wyatt Thompson – left at 10:07 a.m.

Meeting called to order by Chair Peter Gates at 9:00 a.m.

Chair Gates called for corrections or additions to the agenda. Chair Gates announced that the agenda order would be modified to discuss the proposed assessment drain first, to allow the guests present for that topic to leave the meeting after. Hearing no objections, and no further corrections or additions, the Chair declared the agenda approved as amended.

**New Business:**

Proposed Assessment Drain: Wayne Drangsholt, Nathaniel Buynak, Delwin Gates, Parker Gates, Andy Gates and Wyatt Thompson were present to discuss a proposed assessment drain project. The main channel alignment would begin at the section line between Sections 26 & 35 of Township 163 North, Range 84 West (Eden Valley Township), then continue southeasterly across said Section 35 and then Sections 1, 2, 12, 13, 24, 25, & 36 of Township 162 North, Range 84 West (Hurley Township), then continuing southeasterly across Section 31 of Township 162 North, Range 83 West (Hoffman Township) where it would terminate. At the meeting, the landowners discussed another branch off the main channel in Section 25, Hurley Township leading northwesterly up toward 104th Street.

Attorney Kale Van Bruggen (Rinke Noonan, Ltd.) discussed the new legislative changes in 2025 for forming a joint powers agreement. If construction or the benefited area for the assessment district affects a neighboring county, a joint powers agreement will be required.

## DRAFT/UNOFFICIAL MEETING MINUTES

Van Bruggen and Engineer Jennifer Malloy, P.E. (Apex Engineering) discussed the process for the petition, the petitioners' bond, initial engineering, and survey, and conducting the landowner vote. Malloy also discussed eligibility for cost-share funding from the ND Department of Water Resources.

Van Bruggen discussed the methodology developed by the ND Water Resource District Association working group for determining the theoretical economic benefit to parcels in the watershed. Malloy discussed the surface drain permitting with the ND Water Resource District and local water resource districts, and compliance with the Clean Water Act enforced by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Environmental Protection Agency.

Van Bruggen and Malloy discussed U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service waterfowl production area easements and how those affect project alignment design, private drainage using the assessment drain as an outlet, and the determination of economic benefits and relation to assessments. Malloy discussed her coordination efforts with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on other assessment drain projects.

Van Bruggen and Malloy discussed the initial construction assessment and term, with interest and rights to pre-pay, and future operation and maintenance assessments.

Wayne Drangsholt, Nathaniel Buynak, Delwin Gates, Parker Gates, Andy Gates, and Wyatt Thompson left the meeting at 10:07 a.m.

Renville County Dam Inventory: Engineer Jennifer Malloy (Apex Engineering) reported on data received from the ND Department of Water Resources regarding Renville County Dam Locations. Apex Engineering condensed the data into a spreadsheet showing the dam name, national ID, the dam status (e.g. intact, breached, etc.), hazard classification, the primary owner, the year built (if known), the year modified (if modified & known), and the general purpose of the dam (e.g. Fish & Wildlife, Livestock, Recreation, etc.). The Board discussed how to address requests from landowners to breach or repair dams under the jurisdiction of the Renville County Water Resource District.

Vice Chair Dan Steinberger moved to direct legal counsel to inquire with the North Dakota Insurance Reserve Fund about coverage for liability claims related to dams and to direct the District's engineer to inquire with the DWR about inspection policies for low-hazard and undetermined-classified dams. Manager Guy Solemsaas seconded the motion and after discussion, the motion carried.

Jennifer Malloy left the meeting at 10:31 a.m.

Treasurer Victoria Klingbeil-Trout – arrived at 10:32 a.m.

**Election of Officers:**

Chair Peter Gates called for nominations for the position of Board Chair for the 2026 year. Dan Steinberger nominated Peter Gates for Chair. Guy Solemsaas seconded the nomination. Gates called for further nominations three times. Dan Steinberger then moved to cast a unanimous ballot for Peter Gates as Board Chair and to cease all nominations. Guy Solemsaas seconded the motion. After opportunity for discussion, the motion carried by voice vote. Peter Gates abstained from voting on the motion.

Chair Peter Gates called for nominations for the position of Board Vice Chair for the 2026 year. Guy Solemsaas moved to cast a unanimous ballot for Dan Steinberger for the position of Board Vice Chair and to cease all nominations. Chair Peter Gates seconded the motion. After opportunity for discussion, the motion carried by voice vote. Dan Steinberger abstained from voting on the motion.

Manager Guy Solemsaas moved to appoint Victoria Klingbeil-Trout as Treasurer for the District. Vice Chair Dan Steinberger seconded the motion. After opportunity for discussion, the motion unanimously carried by voice vote.

Vice Chair Dan Steinberger moved to appoint Kale Van Bruggen as Secretary for the District. Manager Guy Solemsaas seconded the motion. After opportunity for discussion, the motion unanimously carried by voice vote.

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

**Approve Minutes of October 6, 2025, Special Meeting:** The minutes of the October 6, 2025, special meeting were reviewed. Vice Chair Dan Steinberger moved to approve the October 6, 2025, 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. 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.

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; \$18.10 in the Checking Account; and \$18,626.50 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.

**DRAFT/UNOFFICIAL MEETING MINUTES**

Treasurer Victoria Klingbeil-Trout left the meeting at 10:50 a.m.

Scophammer Dam – Sections 4/5, T158N, R85W: Nothing new to report.

**New Business:**

2027 Legislative Issues: Nothing new to report.

Assessment Drain Petition Template: Attorney Van Bruggen (Rinke Noonan, Ltd.) reported on the template assessment drain petition commissioned by the Board as a resource for landowners. The Board will share the template petition with Renville County landowners who express interest in initiating an assessment drain project.

Proposed Assessment Drain (cont.): Wayne Drangsholt filed a check to be used toward cash bond. Treasurer Victoria Klingbeil-Trout will hold the check until a valid petition is filed.

**Items for Discussion and Information:**

April 2026 Calendar: The regularly scheduled second quarterly meeting of the Board for 2026 will be held on April 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**: Vice Chair Dan Steinberger reported on updates from the Souris River Joint Board. The Board is moving along with the Mouse River Park. The bridge is estimated to be done around July 2, 2026. The Board is discussing the concerns over county, township, and municipal bridges downstream or affected by the Joint Board's construction projects.

**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 11:26 a.m.

Minutes approved by the Board on April 13, 2026.

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Peter Gates, Chair

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Kale R. Van Bruggen, Secretary

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