

MINUTES OF THE EDDY COUNTY WATER RESOURCE BOARD
June 2, 2026

A regular meeting of the Eddy County Water Resource Board was held on June 2, 2026 at 9:00 AM at the Eddy County Courthouse. Board members Monty Schaefer and Mike Tweed; and Secretary/Treasurer, Travis S. Peterson, were present in the jury room of the Eddy County Courthouse. Joining the meeting at 9:15 AM were Stacy Whipp and Paul Halko of US Fish and Wildlife Service.

The minutes of the regular May 5, 2026 meeting were presented. Tweed made a motion to approve. Second by Schaefer. Motion carried.

The Treasurer's Report was presented and reviewed. Schaefer made a motion to approve the Treasurer's report. Tweed seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The following bills were presented for payment:

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| Peterson Law Offices PC- services & fees | \$5092.48 |
| Michael Tweed – meetings & mileage – January to June 2026 | \$1881.45 |

Schaefer made a motion to pay the bills as presented. Tweed seconded the motion. Motion carried. Schaefer was given his voucher to prepare for the July meeting.

Correspondence: Various correspondence was reviewed. Except as otherwise stated in these minutes no action required.

Old Business:

Columbia Township Coulee Cleanout: Stacy Whipp and Paul Halko of US Fish and Wildlife Service were present to discuss wetland and grassland easements within the proposed project area. There are wetland easements on the Wipperling, Erickson, and Otto property. There is a grassland easement and a wetland reserve easement on the Otto property. Halko acknowledged that US Fish and Wildlife Service received the Solicitation of Views and Comments regarding the proposed project. Previously, Halko and Whipp met with Jeff Topp and Nate Collier near the Wipperling property. At that time, US Fish and Wildlife Service indicated it was agreeable to cleanout of obvious obstructions (old roadways, cattle crossings, sedimentation near culverts). Based on Halko's review and understanding of the project, it may be more appropriately characterized as cattail management rather than sediment removal. From the US Fish and Wildlife Service perspective, aerial spraying of cattails within the channel is preferred and requires nothing more than notification to US Fish and Wildlife Service. Alternatively, removal of cattail tubers and accumulated organic matter from within the channel may be considered. Such work might consist of 10' – 20' (preferred) wide and only deep enough to remove the tubers and organic matter. The spoils need to be flattened or flung so as to not leave piles or ridges. In addition, man-made obstacles as referenced above could be removed. If channel cleanout is pursued, it is highly recommended that aerial chemical application be conducted every couple-few years thereafter to prevent regrowth of cattails. Further, channel cleanout on the Erickson, Otto, and Wipperling property requires US Fish and Wildlife Service authorization. Because Otto's property is subject to a wetland reserve easement, USDA/NRCS must also authorize proposed work on Otto's property. The following general guidelines were shared regarding the respective easements: wetland easement -- no draining, no burning; grassland easement – keep it grass/green and if spraying then stay in the channel. The location of the actual channel was discussed at length. Various historical aerial images were reviewed and compared. Said images can be

found at aerial.dwr.nd.gov and might be useful to plan future work. Finally, contact information for Paul Halko (701-649-0122) and Stacy Whipp (701-269-1690; and stacy_whipp@fws.gov) was provided.

Greg Hegland – Cost Share Application: Peterson informed the board that Greg Hegland called and indicated the work at his place was completed by Ryan Hager. Hegland was instructed to present Hager’s invoice to the Water Board for consideration.

Upper Sheyenne Joint Water Resource Board: No update.

Devils Lake Basin Joint Water Resource Board: Tweed summarized the business conducted at the May 13, 2026, meeting. The Devils Lake outlet pumps started on May 1, 2026. The next meeting is scheduled for June 11, 2026.

Garrison Diversion Conservancy District: Tweed reported that there will be an executive board meeting on June 11, 2026 in preparation for the next regular quarterly meeting.

Justin Topp Application #2026-002: Peterson informed the Board that the Notice of Decision was mailed to NWDWR and Superior Township.

New Business:

None

Next Meeting: The next regular meeting is scheduled for July 7, 2026 at 9:00 AM in the jury room on the second floor of the Eddy County Courthouse.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 10:55 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Travis S. Peterson, Recording Secretary

APPROVED:

Michael Tweed, Chairman