

MINUTES OF THE EDDY COUNTY WATER RESOURCE BOARD
May 6, 2025

A regular meeting of the Eddy County Water Resource Board was held on May 6, 2025 at 9:00 AM at the Eddy County Courthouse. Board members Kenny Reis, Monty Schaefer, Mike Tweed, and Secretary/Treasurer, Travis S. Peterson, were present in the basement of the Eddy County Courthouse. Jeff Topp, Eddy County landowner; Jess Carlson, Eddy County resident; and Glenda Collier, Eddy County Commissioner were also present for portions of the meeting.

The minutes of the regular March 4, 2025 meeting were presented. Schaefer made a motion to approve. Second by Tweed. Motion carried. Because there was no April 2025 meeting, due to a lack of quorum, there are no April 2025 minutes.

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

The following bills were presented for payment:

Devils Lake Basin Joint Water Resource Board – 2025 county assessments	\$710.00
Tammy Roerich/secretary Rocky Run JWRD (2025 Annual Meeting)	\$90.51

Schaefer made a motion to pay the bills presented. Seconded by Tweed. Motion carried.

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

Old Business:

Upper Sheyenne Joint Water Resource Board: Schaefer reported that it was business as usual. No further report provided.

Devils Lake Basin Joint Water Resource Board: Tweed reported that it was business as usual. The next regular meeting is scheduled for May 14, 2025 in Devils Lake.

Garrison Diversion Conservancy District: No report.

New Business:

Columbia Township Coulee Cleanout: Jeff Topp was present to provide background information and an update regarding efforts being made to cleanout the coulee that starts in Section 7 or 8 of Columbia Township (Township 148, Range 64) and flows to the east/southeast. Generally, Topp is working to coordinate this Columbia Township coulee cleanout so that, if it is feasible, it doesn't stall out. This also relates to the cleanout that Nate Collier discussed with the Board in August of 2023; and expands on the scope of work. Topp stated that there have been discussions with most of the landowners adjacent to the coulee. Ryan Schmilfenig, contractor, has been on site to consider the scope of the cleanout project. Schmilfenig obtained bottom elevations for all culverts within the coulee. There are 19 culverts. Before Schmilfenig prepares a cost estimate, he wants top elevations for all 19 culverts. Topp has been in contact with a Apex Engineering and received a cost estimate of \$3,300 to

provide top elevations for all culverts. Topp is aware that whether certain portions of the coulee are cleaned will depend on adjacent landowner's willingness to contribute financially. Topp presented two primary issues for the water board to consider: 1) Will the water board participate in the 80/20 cost share for the Apex Engineering culvert elevation fees? and 2) If this project proceeds, and if the cost is more than the water board can support in a single budget cycle, might the water board provide cost share/financial support over a term of years? In other words, if the water board approves the 80/20 cost share and if the water board's 80% is greater than it can fund at one time, would the water board commit to reimbursing the landowners over time (assuming the landowners pay the contractors in full upon completion of the project).

As to Apex Engineering fees, Schaefer made a motion to provide cost share in the amount of 80% of the Apex Engineering fees (estimated to be \$3,300) for culvert elevation services. Reis seconded. Motion carried.

Determination of culvert elevation will allow Ryan Schmilfenig to prepare a cost estimate for the cleanout work. With the cleanout estimate, Topp and other landowners can discuss the feasibility of moving forward with the project. Topp also indicated that various tracts are subject to US Fish and Wildlife Service easements; and meetings will be scheduled with the US Fish and Wildlife Service to better learn what work is or isn't permissible.

Jess Carlson also participated in the discussion. She and Paul Topp have an interest in this matter as they own or rent land adjacent to the coulee. Carlson was generally in favor of the project but expressed concern about the effects of future drain tile projects and whether the cleanout would be sufficient to handle the effects of additional water resulting from drain tile projects. Carlson expressed a preference for limits on when drain tile systems may or may not operate.

New Rockford Canal: Glenda Collier was present and stated that she attended a meeting in Wells County at which time she heard that the New Rockford Canal is for sale. She asked why she hadn't heard about this before. She wondered if this was true. Mike Tweed, member of the Garrison Diversion Conservancy District Executive Board, responded and explained that the Bureau of Reclamation is considering its options to dispose of the canal. There is currently no definite plan. Collier also inquired about the Garrison Diversion Conservancy District building in New Rockford and stated that Eddy County is interested in it.

Next Meeting: The next regular meeting is scheduled for June 3, 2025 at 9:00 AM in the Eddy County Courthouse.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 10:25 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Travis S. Peterson, Recording Secretary

APPROVED:

Kenneth Reis, Chairman