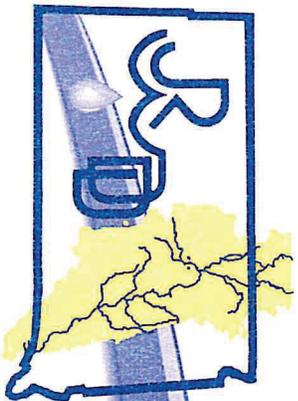


# James River Water Development District



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## JAMES RIVER WATER DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES JULY 10, 2025

The James River Water Development District (JRWDD) Board of Directors convened at 9:00 AM. for its regular meeting on Thursday, July 10, 2025 at the Best Western Kelly Inn in Yankton, SD.

ROLL CALL: The following people were in attendance:

### DIRECTORS PRESENT

Carol Millan – Mitchell  
LeRoy Braun – Mellelte  
Dennis Bennett – Huron  
John Rubendall – Mitchell  
Randy Stanley – Groton  
Robert Braun – Aberdeen  
Pat Cerny – Yankton

### DIRECTORS ABSENT

Mike Wiese - Aberdeen  
Dan Klimisch – Utica

### STAFF PRESENT

Judy McDonald, CFO & Associate Manager  
Dave Bartel, District Manager  
Rocky Knippling, Watershed Coordinator

OTHERS PRESENT: Sign-In Sheet attached

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Motion by Director Cerny, seconded by Director Stanley, to approve the agenda as printed. **Motion carried.**

CONFLICT OF INTEREST: Vice-Chair Millan asked if any Directors had a conflict of interest regarding any agenda item. No conflicts were noted for the current agenda. The following is ongoing until otherwise disclosed:

- Director Mike Wiese is currently a Brown County Commissioner
- Director Dan Klimisch is currently a Yankton County Commissioner
- Director Dennis Bennett is currently employed by the City of Huron

APPROVAL OF MAY 8, 2025 MINUTES: Motion by Director Cerny, seconded by Director Bennett to approve the Minutes as printed. **Motion carried.**

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

TOWN OF VOLIN: WATER TOWER IMPROVEMENTS: This project was tabled from the July 10 meeting. The Board reviewed the request from the Town of Volin for water tower and pump house repairs.

**Motion** by Director Bennett, seconded by Director L. Braun, to deny the request. **Motion carried.**

SILVER LAKE ASSOCIATION: Representatives from Silver Lake Association where present to request project assistance funds in the amount of \$28,750 for an improvement study and master plan. The total cost of the project is \$57,500. **Motion** by Director Cerny, seconded by Director Rubendall to authorize

cost-share assistance up to a maximum of \$28,750, not to exceed 50% of the total project costs, to Silver Lake Association for an improvement study and master plan. **Motion carried (4 yes votes, 3 no votes).** These funds will expire on July 10, 2027. The Association was asked to provide an update after the completion of the study.

HUTCHINSON COUNTY – JIM ZEEB : Jim Zeeb, landowner in Hutchinson County, is requesting project assistance funds in the amount of \$52,445.78 to build a dam in Capital Township. This dam will be built less than a mile above the James River and will help protect roads and homes during heavy rain with a 1500-acre drainage area. The total cost to build the dam is \$104,891.56. **Motion** by Director Bennett, seconded by Director Stanley to authorize cost-share assistance up to a maximum of \$50,000, not to exceed 50% of the total project costs, to Jim Zeeb to build a dam in Hutchinson County. **Motion carried.** These funds will expire on July 10, 2027.

HUTCHINSON COUNTY – DOUG LEHR : Doug Lehr, landowner in Hutchinson County, is requesting project assistance funds in the amount of \$27,724.32 to repair a dam in Sweet Township. The total cost to repair the dam is \$36,965.76. **Motion** by Director Bennett, seconded by Director L. Braun to authorize cost-share assistance up to a maximum of \$18,483, not to exceed 50% of the total project costs, to Doug Lehr to repair a dam in Hutchinson County. **Motion carried.** These funds will expire on July 10, 2027.

HUTCHINSON COUNTY – JIM MASSEY : Jim Massey, landowner in Hutchinson County, is requesting project assistance funds in the amount of \$56,854.50 to build a dam in Kassel Township. This dam will be built less than a mile from the James River. The total cost to build the dam is \$75,806. **Motion** by Director L. Braun, seconded by Director Cerny to authorize cost-share assistance up to a maximum of \$37,903, not to exceed 50% of the total project costs, to Jim Massey to build a dam in Hutchinson County. **Motion carried.** These funds will expire on July 10, 2027.

HUTCHINSON COUNTY – KEVIN SCHAEFFER : Kevin Schaeffer, landowner in Hutchinson County, is requesting project assistance funds in the amount of \$52,379.25 to build a dam in Capital Township. This dam will be built less than a mile from the James River. The total cost to build the dam is \$69,839. **Motion** by Director Cerny, seconded by Director L. Braun to table the request until the manager reviews this project further. **Motion carried.**

SOUTH CENTRAL WATERSHED AND WATER QUALITY MONITORING UPDATE: Rocky Knipping provided the following updates on the South Central Watershed Project:

- Four feedlots currently under construction
- Staff will be applying for additional 319 funds and RCPP funds
- Approximately \$600,000 remaining in the ARPA grant
- Water sampling began at the end of May

DISTRICT UPDATE: Staff and Directors reported on the following activities of the District:

- Included in the board packet, by Dave Bartel, was a log of meetings attended, project site visits and other items he has been working on
- The Board needs to establish the time and place for the 2026 public budget hearing. **Motion** by Director L. Braun, seconded by Director Stanley to hold the public hearing on the District's Financial Year 2026 budget on Thursday, September 11, 2025, at 9:30 a.m. during the Board of Directors meeting to be held at the Best Western Ramkota in Aberdeen, SD and to authorize publication of the draft budget and necessary public notices in the official newspapers of the District. **Motion carried.**

- The 2024 audit has been completed and accepted by the SD Department of Legislative Audit. A copy of the audit report and acceptance letter has been provided to the Board of Directors.
- Staff and Directors are following the Mitchell Quarry issues
- Lake Mitchell Project: Directors discussed concerns about scope and intent of the project. The Board directed staff to draft a letter reflecting concerns, to be reviewed by all Directors, and finalized by end of July and sent to members of SD DANR and SD Regulatory Office
- Director Cerny attended MSAC meeting
- Director R. Braun attended the James River annual meeting
- Director Millan provided an update on some bridge and riprap issues in Hanson County

TREASURERS REPORT: The Board reviewed the April 2025 financial reports. **Motion** by Director L. Braun, seconded by Director Cerny to approve the April 2025 financials as discussed and printed.

**Motion carried.** The Board reviewed the May 2025 financial reports. **Motion** by Director R. Braun, seconded by Director Bennett to approve the May 2025 financials as discussed and printed. **Motion carried.**

BOARD OF DIRECTOR AND STAFF REIMBURSEMENTS: **Motion** by Director Stanley, seconded by Director Cerny to approve Staff and Director expenses. **Motion carried.**

NEXT MEETING: The next meeting will be held September 11 in Aberdeen, SD at 9:00 AM.

ADJOURN: Being no further business, Vice-Chair Millan declared the meeting adjourned at 10:50 AM.

Respectfully submitted:



Secretary

JAMES RIVER WATER DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT

\*\*\* Sign-In Sheet \*\*\*

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING: \_\_\_\_\_

NAME	REPRESENTING	EMAIL ADDRESS
Rdo Roberts	Lake's ownership	
Thomas Esker	Houston Engineering	tesker@houstoneng.com
Jay Silberstein	East Dakota BSW	