

**BOIS DE SIOUX WATERSHED DISTRICT
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 19, 2026**

CALL TO ORDER The meeting was called to order by President Vavra at 9:04 a.m. Present in the District Office: Linda Vavra, Ben Brutlag (arrived later), Doug Dahlen, Steven Deal, Scott Gillespie, John Kapphahn, and Steven Schmidt. Absent: Jason Beyer, Allen Wold. Also present: Administrator Jamie Beyer, District Attorney Lukas Croaker, District Engineer James Guler, District Engineer Technician Troy Fridgen, and Engineer Chad Engels.

AGENDA Upon motion by Gillespie, seconded by Dahlen and carried unanimously, the Regular Agenda was approved with the additions of payments of \$500 to Joe Kleindl for beaver nuisance removal and \$27,011.75 to Moore Engineering for Twelvemile Creek Engineering.

PUBLIC COMMENT No public comment.

CONSENT AGENDA Board Manager Brutlag arrived at the meeting. Upon motion by Gillespie, seconded by Dahlen and carried unanimously, the Consent Agenda was approved with the beaver nuisance removal payment and Moore Engineering payment.

L. PEYTON TCD #15 PETITION Upon motion by Gillespie seconded by Dahlen and carried unanimously, the public hearing on the petition requesting authority to use Traverse County Ditch #15 as an outlet for LeAnn Peyton – Parcel #03-0045000, SW1/4, 80 acres of Section 9, Range 46, Croke Township (126), Traverse County – was opened. Engineering staff presented a map of the project area and TCD #15 benefit area. Board managers discussed the present condition of the flow of water across the parcel, to the east towards TCD #15. No public comment was presented. Attorney Croaker read the Order Authorizing the Use of the Outlet, which included terms of an outlet fee of \$2,872.25 and benefits of \$120.00. Upon motion by Gillespie, seconded by Dahlen and carried unanimously, the order was approved. Upon motion by Dahlen, seconded by Schmidt and carried unanimously, the hearing was closed.

REDPATH PH. 2B 103E.555 CLOSEOUT HEARING Upon motion by Kapphahn, seconded by Dahlen and carried unanimously, the public hearing was opened to review the engineer’s contract completion report, pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 103E.555, showing the contract price, the amount paid on certificates, the unpaid balance, and the work that is completed under the contract for the Redpath Impoundment Project Phase 2B. District Engineer James Guler presented information on the current contract and the construction completed. The Final Balancing Change Order was presented, along with the Final Pay Application in the amount of \$58,370.83. Engineer Guler also presented on future phases for Redpath Impoundment construction once funding becomes available from the Minnesota Legislature. No public comment was presented. Upon motion by Kapphahn, seconded by Gillespie and carried unanimously, the Change Order and Pay Application were approved, pending final IC-134 closeout documents being presented to the District. Upon motion by Gillespie, seconded by Dahlen and carried unanimously, the hearing was closed.

AGRICULTURAL LEASE BIDS FOR 2026 Administrator Jamie Beyer presented the bids received for farmland being leased in Moonshine, Redpath, and North Ottawa Townships. Upon motion by Kapphahn, seconded by Dahlen and carried unanimously, the following one-year bids were approved:

Lease #26-01	Bear Claw Farms	\$42,550.00
Lease #26-02	Bear Claw Farms	\$23,500.00
Lease #26-03	Trish Reinke	\$137,711.36
Lease #26-04	Trish Reinke	\$162,058.00
Lease #26-05	Trish Reinke	\$175.00/acre
Lease #26-06	Trish Reinke	\$125/acre

DORAN CREEK PERMITTING District Engineer Guler presented permitting options proposed by DNR staff for the Doran Creek Project – a decision is needed between permitting Phase 1 now, and waiting to permit Phase 2 and permitting the whole project, all phases, now. Board Managers discussed the benefit of the Phase 1 project – clean the channel of debris and tree snags. Because easement acquisition is tied to permit acquisition, if permitting is achieved phase-by-phase, easements will be coordinated phase-by-phase. Upon motion by Kapphahn, seconded by Dahlen and carried unanimously, staff are authorized to pursue Phase 1-only public waters permitting approval.

**JD #11 LAT. 4 &
WCD #25
MDM GRANT
AGREEMENT**

Board Managers reviewed the Multipurpose Drainage Management Program Grant Agreement with the Board of Water and Soil Resources. Terms are similar to those utilized in past projects. Upon motion by Gillespie, seconded by Kapphahn and carried unanimously, the agreement was approved. Staff are currently identifying erosion stabilization needs on JD #14/Mustinka River and other areas throughout the District in order to apply for a BWSR Projects and Practices grant.

**WOLD
APPOINTMENT**

President Vavra stated that Board Manager Allen Wold has been reappointed by Traverse County.

**US ARMY CORPS
FLOOD &
OPERATIONS
UPDATE**

US Army Corps of Engineer Jason Tidwell presented an update of potential Spring Flood conditions and operation plans for the Reservation and White Rock Dams. His staff conduct an annual snow survey every February, at long standing designated sites in the Dakotas and Minnesota. Tidwell recently met with the National Weather Service. Because there is currently ¼" – 1" of snow water equivalency within the watershed and frost depth seems normal, Army Corps staff have no great concern for a moderate flood event to occur. Army Corps staff have recently begun to release from the White Rock dam, and have alerted snowmobilers to stay out of the Bois de Sioux River channel. Tidwell anticipates that the Traverse / Mud Lake Control Manual update will be approved in 2026.

DNR SETBACKS

Engineer Technician Troy Fridgen reported that he has been recently contacted by two landowners, who received orders from DNR staff stating there are 230' double-sided setbacks on the placement of subsurface drainage tile next to public watercourses. Landowners were referred to contact DNR staff directly, and/or Traverse County Wetland officials for further information. Board Managers suggested that landowners also contact NRCS wetland staff for agricultural land information.