

**Western Area Water Supply Authority
Board of Directors Meeting
WAWSA Office May 15, 2025**

Attendees

Members Present: Doug Anderson, Matt Beard, Kent Bickler, Raoul Brandt, Ellis Haake, Robert Harms, Larry Novak, Gary Rust, and Chris Brostuen, also voting for Ward Koeser.

Members Absent: Ward Koeser

Others Present: Chris Barke (WAWSA), Char Imsland (WAWSA), Cheryl McNeil (WAWSA), Dave Bell (WAWSA), Jacob Monson (WAWSA), Weston McGruder (AE2S), Josh Feil (Moore Engineering), Liz Suhr (R&T), Jason Fuller (City of Watford City), Curt Clarys (City of Williston), Kenny Bergstrom (City of Williston), Dustin Schultz (AE2S) via video, and Graydon Olson (AE2S) via video.

Meeting Called to Order

Chairman Brostuen called the meeting to order at 9:00 am.

Approval of the Agenda

Brostuen presented the agenda for approval. Barke requested to add item #3 under AE2S reports for a NWRWD East Williston County Road 9 change order #1. **Novak moved to approve the agenda as amended, Rust seconded.**

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY BY VOICE VOTE.

Approval of the Minutes

The April 17, 2025, board meeting were presented for approval. **Harms moved to approve the minutes as presented, Anderson seconded.**

Aye: Anderson, Beard, Bickler, Brandt, Haake, Harms, Novak, Rust, and Brostuen

Nay: 0

Carried: 9-0

Executive Director Hiring

Brostuen reported that an ad hoc Executive Director Hiring Committee was formed to oversee the selection process for the open Executive Director position. The committee made the recommendation to appoint Chris Barke as the new Executive Director. Brostuen recommended that Chris' annual salary be \$180,000, with annual performance reviews, and an effective date of May 11, 2025. **Haake moved to appoint Chris Barke as the new Executive Director with an**

annual salary of \$180,000, annual performance reviews, and an effective date of May 11, 2025, Brandt seconded.

Aye: Anderson, Beard, Bickler, Brandt, Haake, Harms, Novak, Rust, and Brostuen

Nay: 0

Carried: 9-0

Financial Reports

The Domestic and Industrial financial reports were presented to the board for their consideration and discussion.

The April capital accounting report was presented to the board for their consideration and discussion.

\$3M SRF Loan Increase Resolution

Barke presented a resolution to authorize the filing of application with the North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality for a loan to aid in the construction of DWSRF Project 5301686-02. The purpose of the resolution is the close loan #1 and move the balance of loan #1 and round up to \$3M into loan #2. The new total for loan #2 will equal a total of \$19.5M. **Novak moved to approve the resolution to authorize the filing of application with the North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality for a loan to aid in the construction of DWSRF Project 5301686-02, Haake seconded.**

Aye: Anderson, Beard, Bickler, Brandt, Haake, Harms, Novak, Rust, and Brostuen

Nay: 0

Carried: 9-0

Executive Director Reports

Barke provided the board with an update on WAWSA's water usage and system updates.

State Water Commission Update

Barke reported that the following projects are on the June 12, 2025, SWC agenda for funding:

- WTP Intake Phase II Preconstruction Phase
- MCWRD System II Part II
- NWRWD East Williston Alternate I

Barke also reported that under HB 1020, WAWSA's total funding for the '25-'27 biennium is \$46M.

Authorized Bank Signers

It was reported that as the new Executive Director, Chris Barke needs to be added to the following bank accounts held by Western Area Water Supply Authority, and Jacob Monson removed from the accounts.

- First State Bank and Trust checking account # xxx18111
- First State Bank and Trust safe deposit box
- BND Reserve checking account # xxx2918
- BND Industrial checking account # xxx2993
- BND Renewal and Replacement account # xxx2161
- American State Bank CDAR account #'s xxx5751, xxx4132, xxx3354, xxx4159
- American State Bank 6-month CD account # xxx4455
- American State Bank 12-month CD account #'s xxx0379, xxx4471, xxx4463, xxx5751
- American State Bank IntraFi Renewal and Replacement account # xxx939
- American State Bank Renewal and Replacement account # xxx0939.

Rust moved to remove Jacob Monson as an authorized signer and add Chris Barke as an authorized signer on the above accounts held by Western Area Water Supply Authority, as well as any other account in which Jacob Monson has a fiduciary responsibility, Haake seconded.

Aye: Anderson, Beard, Bickler, Brandt, Haake, Harms, Rust, and Brostuen

Nay: Novak

Carried: 8-1

The motion was amended by Haake to reflect that Chris Barke will be added as an authorized signer to the above bank accounts without removing Jacob Monson, who will also remain as an authorized signer on the accounts, Harms seconded.

Aye: Anderson, Beard, Bickler, Brandt, Haake, Harms, Rust, and Brostuen

Nay: Novak

Carried: 8-1

Condemnation Request – NWRWD East Williston – Gene Grasser

Barke presented a condemnation request on Gene Grasser on the NWRWD East Williston County Road 9 project. The location of the condemnation request is T154N-R100W-S29 and affects six individuals from access to rural water. The condemnation request will be brought to the NWRWD board at their next meeting. **Haake moved to move forward with the condemnation request on Gene Grasser, pending NWRWD approval, Haake seconded.**

Aye: Anderson, Beard, Bickler, Brandt, Haake, Harms, Novak, Rust, and Brostuen

Nay: 0

Carried: 9-0

Moore Engineering Reports

Feil provided an update on the progress of the 29-Mile project.

AE2S Reports

McGruder provided the board with the project updates.

Williston WTP Access Road Remediation

Barke and Schultz provided the board with an update on the Williston WTP Access Road Remediation. A proposal from GeoStabilization International, LLC was presented for the installation of self-drilling SuperNails and reinforced shotcrete for a length of 75'. The cost of this proposal is \$347,760.20. Following discussion, the Board opted to table approval of the proposal in order to allow for additional research into alternative options. **Harms moved to table the discussion pending further research on the emergency order and additional services, ground water mitigation options, as well as having engineers and staff stage to address the road sluffing, and having engineers speak with BNSF to collaborate possible solutions, Rust seconded.**

Aye: Anderson, Beard, Bickler, Brandt, Haake, Harms, Rust, and Brostuen

Nay: 0

Carried: 8-0

Novak left the meeting at 10:53 am.

NWRWD East Williston County Road 9 – TO 78

McGruder presented the board with a BEK Consulting increase change order #1 for \$450,000 for County Roads 11A and 42 water line verification and possible relocation on the NWRWD East Williston County Road 9 – TO 78 project. **Harms moved to approve BEK Consulting increase change order #1 for \$450,000 on the NWRWD East Williston County Road 9 – TO 78 project, Rust seconded.**

Aye: Beard, Bickler, Brandt, Haake, Harms, Rust, and Brostuen

Nay: Anderson

Carried: 7-1

Invoices for Payment – MCWRD and NWRWD

The MCWRD System IV Part IV – TO 77, System I South Expansion – TO 80, Phase II Transmission – TO 80, System II Rural Distribution, and the NWRWD Trenton Area Rural Distribution – TO 85 invoices for engineering and construction for the month have a combined total of \$1,297,457.79.

SWC Grant Payment Request

SWC \$24M grant request 67-051525, SWC \$7M grant request 30-051525, SWC \$9.9M grant request 31-051525, SWC \$8M grant request 17-051525, SWC \$9M grant request 02-051525, SWC \$7.7M grant request 13-051525, SWC \$4M grant request 24-051525, and SWC \$747K grant request 06-051525 were presented to the board for their approval. **Rust moved to approve the SWC monthly grant requests as presented, Haake seconded.**

Aye: Anderson, Beard, Bickler, Brandt, Haake, Harms, Rust, and Brostuen

Nay: 0

Carried: 8-0

Brostuen announced that the July meeting has been rescheduled to July 24, 2025, due to the Rural Water Leadership Retreat happening in Medora on July 17th.

Brostuen adjourned the meeting at 11:12 am.



Chris Brostuen, Chairman



Char Imsland, Secretary