

**Western Area Water Supply Authority
Board of Directors Meeting
WAWSA Office October 16, 2025**

Attendees

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

Others Present: Chris Barke (WAWSA), Char Imsland (WAWSA), Cheryl McNeil (WAWSA), Dave Bell (WAWSA), Jacob Monson (WAWSA), Shae Johnson (WAWSA), Weston McGruder (AE2S), Cory Chorne (AE2S), Mirand Kleven (AE2S), Chad Austreim (NWRWD), Ben Lokken (R&T), Scott Vassen (City of Williston), Justin Smith (City of Watford City), Graydon Olson (AE2S) via video, Dustin Schultz (AE2S) via video, and Tami Norgard (Vogel) 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. **Rust moved to approve the agenda as presented, Koeser seconded.**

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY BY VOICE VOTE.

Approval of the Minutes

The September 18, 2025, board meeting minutes were presented for approval. **Novak moved to approve the minutes as presented, Haake seconded.**

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

Nay: 0

Carried: 10-0

Financial Reports

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

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

2026 Proposed Industrial Budget

McNeil presented the 2026 Industrial budget, noting corrections to the baseline sales, to the board for their approval. **Novak moved to approve the 2026 Industrial budget as presented, Koeser seconded.**

Aye: Anderson, Beard, Bickler, Brandt, Haake, Harms, Koeser, Novak, Rust, and Brostuen
Nay: 0
Carried: 10-0

2026 Proposed Domestic Budget

McNeil also presented the 2026 Domestic budget to the board for their approval. **Novak moved to approve the 2026 Domestic budget as presented, Haake seconded.**

Aye: Anderson, Beard, Bickler, Brandt, Haake, Harms, Koeser, Novak, Rust, and Brostuen
Nay: 0
Carried: 10-0

Resolution for New SRF Loan 3

Barke presented a resolution for the new SRF loan. This resolution is part of the application process for the third SRF \$16M loan. **Koeser moved to approve the new SRF \$16M loan resolution, Beard seconded.**

Aye: Anderson, Beard, Bickler, Brandt, Haake, Harms, Koeser, Novak, Rust, and Brostuen
Nay: 0
Carried: 10-0

Resolution for New SRF Loan 2

Barke also presented a financing resolution to finalize the additional \$3M for the second SRF loan. **Haake moved to approve the financing resolution to finalize the additional \$3M for the second SRF loan, Harms seconded.**

Aye: Anderson, Beard, Bickler, Brandt, Haake, Harms, Koeser, Novak, Rust, and Brostuen
Nay: 0
Carried: 10-0

2026 Water Rate Recommendation – Mirand Kleven presenting

Miranda Kleven with AE2S presented the 2026 WAWSA O&M rate analysis. The analysis covered the rate-setting philosophy, domestic rate revenue requirements, and cost of service-based O&M rates. She also presented three possible scenarios for the new 2026 rates. No motion was made, and Miranda was asked to return next month with additional information, after which the board will decide on the new rates.

Public Comment Period

No public comments were presented.

Novak left the meeting at 10:48 am.

Executive Director's Report

Barke announced that a discussion is needed regarding the 36" Trenton connection. Tami Norgard joined the meeting and gave a brief history of the NWRWD and City of Williston access and use agreements with WAWSA.

Harms moved and Bickler seconded to draft a letter to Trenton water users, urging them to initiate conversations with NWRWD for the following reasons:

- 1. A resolution would allow for continued growth for Trenton, and,**
- 2. It wouldn't subject Trenton to the 100,000-gallon daily limit, and,**
- 3. It is a better allocation of resources, not having to dedicate 36" of pipe for 100,000-gallon utilization, and,**
- 4. It would avoid a potential conflict within the WAWSA board.**

Harms amended the motion and Bickler seconded to include within the letter a statement that WAWSA recognizes the contractual relationship between Trenton and the City of Williston to provide water to Trenton users at 100,000 gallons/day.

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

Nay: 0

Carried: 9-0

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

State Water Commission Update

Barke reported that the SWC approved \$96,890.24 for phase VI projects to be moved into our funds for this biennium.

AE2S Reports

McGruder provided the board with the construction project updates.

MCWRD System IV Part IV – TO 77

McGruder presented the board with a deduct balancing change order #5 for –\$142,962.15 for the MCWRD System IV Part IV – TO 77 project. **Harms moved to approve the deduct balancing**

change order #5 for -\$142,962.15 for the MCWRD System IV Part IV – TO 77 project, Koeser seconded.

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

Nay: 0

Carried: 9-0

NWRWD Trenton Rural – TO 85

McGruder also presented the board with amendment #1 for \$229,250 for the NWRWD Trenton Rural – TO 85 project. The amendment is for additional services to be performed by the engineer and modifications of payment to the engineer. **Beard moved to approve amendment #1 for \$229,250 for the NWRWD Trenton Rural – TO 85 project, Haake seconded.**

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

Nay: 0

Carried: 9-0

Invoices for Payment

The MCWRD System IV Part IV – TO 77, Phase II Transmission Main – TO 88, MCWRD System II Expansion – TO 90, and the NWRWD Trenton Area Rural Distribution – TO 85 invoices for engineering and construction for the month have a combined total of \$1,277,441.69.

SWC Grant Payment Requests

SWC \$24M grant request 72-101625, SWC \$7M grant request 34-101625, SWC \$9.9M grant request 36-101625, SWC \$8M grant request 23-101625, SWC \$9M grant request 7-101625, SWC \$8M grant request 18-101625, SWC \$747K grant request 8-101625, SWC \$99K grant request 05-101625, and SWC \$14M grant request 4-101625 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, Koeser, Rust, and Brostuen

Nay: 0

Carried: 9-0

Brostuen adjourned the meeting at 11:59 am.



Chris Brostuen, Chairman



Char Imslan, Secretary