

Unapproved  
Morton County Water Resource District  
January 29, 2025

1. The Morton County Water Resource District met in regular session at 10am on Wednesday, January 29, 2025, at the Missouri West Water offices at 2816 37t St. NW, Mandan, ND.

2.The following persons were present: Chairman Wade Bachmeier, Managers: James Wetsch, Bruce Engelhardt, James Schmidt, Todd Norton, Brenda Winckler, Sec-Treas., Karin Garvie, MWWS, Bryan Ziegler, Bartlett and West, Tom Bair from Bair Law Firm, Cole Garman, ND Parks, Landon Niemiller, Swenson Hagen & Co., and Mike Gunsch, Houston Engineering,

3. Chairman Bachmeier called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance. Minutes: Mgr. Engelhardt moved to approve November 27, 2024, minutes. Mgr. Wetsch seconded the motion. MCU. Mgr. Norton moved to approve the Special Session meeting on January 27, 2025. Mgr. Schmidt seconded the motion. MC. 4-0

4. MWWS: Mgr. Garvie reviewed with the Board: Ft. Lincoln Project: Bryan Ziegler, Bartlett & West had made preliminary plans for cost of providing water for Ft Lincoln project. So far there are no funds available until July, MWWS is scheduled for the water development plan for 2025. Next meeting is April 10<sup>th</sup> and they can apply for funding, due February 24<sup>th</sup>. Assuming there is still funding for 23-2025 in the water buckets, but the Budget Committee can transfer from a discretionary bucket to the water bucket, DWR needs to request the Budget Committee to move funds. MWWS could ask for 75-25% funding for preconstruction. Cole Garman, ND Parks and Recreation was present to discuss this and the cost share will be paid by ND Parks & Rec. Mgr. Engelhardt moved to approve Bartlett & West to submit application to DWR for cost share regarding Fort Lincoln state park project. Mgr, Schmidt seconded the motion. MCU. In the water plan, the cost of the project was \$1.6 million, preconstruction estimate at 10%. If it is below \$100,000, it doesn't need to go to the SWC. Landon Niemiller, Swenson Hagen & Co. was present to discuss an 80-lot development asking for water supply for the Malloy project. He proposed discussing a tank and pump system for that development with MWWS providing the water. He is looking for an allowance for this to continue. A maintenance agreement will need to be made for someone to maintain the water in the tank. They would be considered bulk users. Bryan said using a tank would make it more feasible to possibly continue this project with minimizing struggle to previous water users in that area. MWWS currently struggles with consumers in this area that have pressure issues already. This water comes from the City of Mandan, but there is a PRV north on CR 140, which serves about 11 consumers in that area. Bryan doesn't think they can provide more water unless they ask for more from SWA. Discussion that if we use this demanded amount of water, it may change our pricing structure with the City of Mandan. The current contract with the City of Mandan is 30 million gallons per month. Landon will run some numbers to determine the gallons needed for the development and get back to Karen and Bryan. The Board discussed MWWS adding a tank and pump system to the CR 140 area, cost estimate of concrete tank alone with pump on top about \$1.5 million. Finalizing on the Lyons Road project, changeover #4 final payment #8 is \$134,569 leaving 10% payment for end of project. The 1<sup>st</sup> loan was on a preliminary listing but can file for additional funds for the loan dollars. The actual project was under budget. Mgr. Norton moved to approve and pay payment #8, Mgr. Schmidt seconded the motion. MCU. Plans for new master meter: Need approval for the Agreement for Cost Share Reimbursement Missouri West Water System Asset Inventory. Mgr. Norton

moved to approve the Master Meter Agreement for Cost Share Reimbursement for MWWS and the preconstruction Cost Share Agreement for the MWWS. Mgr. Schmidt seconded the motion. MCU. Rate changes for 2025: Mgr. Garvie recommends a 1.5%, \$.10 per 1000-gallon increase on the standard residential rate. Garvie will work on rates for the Bulk users, using a tier system and presenting it to the Board in February. Mgr. Engelhardt moved to approve the 1.5% rate change on the standard residential fee with the base rate staying the same. Mgr. Schmidt seconded the motion. MCU.

Financials: The Board reviewed the income, totaling \$592,642 and expenditures totaling \$600,64 of the MWWS for the month of November 2024. The Board reviewed the income, totaling \$382,823 and expenditures, totaling \$163,589 of the MWWS for the month of December 2024. Manager Norton made a motion to accept and place these reports in a file. Second, by Mgr. Engelhardt. Motion carried unanimously. Mgr. Wetsch moved to approve the quarterly report ending December 31, 2024. Mgr. Engelhardt seconded the motion. MCU. Mgr. Garvie discussed a new billing system. The older billing system which was put in in 1998 needs to be updated. She is looking in to using the Black Mountain Software. She will ask the company to give the Board a demonstration. A lot of Water Systems use this software. She will do some more research and get back to the Board. Mgr. Garvie would like to implement this in 2025.

5. Reorganization of the Board: Tom Bair took the chair. Nominations for Chairman: Mgr. Schmidt nominated Wade Bachmeier, hearing no further nominations, all in favor for Chairman Bachmeier, Wetsch, yes, Schmidt, yes, Engelhardt, yes, Norton, yes. MCU. Chairman Bachmeier continued the meeting. Vice Chair, Norton nominated Wetsch, hearing no further nominations for VP, all in favor. MCU. Mgr. Wetsch moved to appoint Brenda Winckler as Sec-Treas. Hearing no further nominations, all in favor. MCU. Mgr. Norton moved to increase Brenda Winckler Sec-Treas salary to \$1400 per month. Mgr. Wetsch seconded the motion. MCU. Discussion was held on hiring a new legal counsel due to Tom Bair retiring.

6. MRJWB: Mike Gunsch, Houston Engineering, discussed EAE and putting things together. Mike is contemplating taking Mgr. Ken Royce's position on MRJWB. They need to look at ongoing 2026-2030 conversations on how to keep the knowledge and expertise that is working with the current Board. Chairman Bachmeier would like to commit funds for the MRJWB EAE Program. Mgr. Schmidt moved to submit \$10,000 to the MRJWB EAE Program for 2025. Mgr. Engelhardt seconded the motion. MCU.

7. ND Water Users: Mgr. Norton moved to appoint Mgr. Engelhardt as a voting member for the ND Water Users. Mgr. Schmidt seconded the motion. Motion carried.

8. Amended Budget: Mgr. Engelhardt moved to approve the amended 2024 budget. Mgr. Wetsch seconded the motion. MCU. Discussed the HL Reserve allocation for 2025 payment, having missed 2024, Mgr. Schmidt moved due to the lack of payment in 2024; to move \$30,000 into the HL O&M account, Mgr. Wetsch seconded the motion. MCU.

9. House bill # 1537: Mgr. Schmidt moved that MWWS opposes House Bill #1537 this legislation due to the negative impact it will have on Rural Water Systems and Rural ND. Seconded by Mgr. Norton. MCU. Mgr. Garvie will send this to Eric Volk and other Water System Board of Directors.

10. Amendment to the MC Land Use at P& Z: Meeting Thursday, the 30<sup>th</sup>. Chairman Bachmeier will try to attend the meeting. The consensus of the Board is to authorize approval from the Board.

11. Financial Reports: Mgr. Wetsch closed the insurance payment and reported it to NDIRF.

Mgr. Schmidt moved to approve and pay the following vouchers. Mgr. Wetsch seconded the motion. MCU.

<b><i>CK#</i></b>	<b><i>NAME:</i></b>	<b><i>AMOUNT:</i></b>	<b><i>MEMO:</i></b>
1606	Wade M. Bachmeier	\$888.12	Meetings, mileage
1607	Bruce Engelhardt	\$194.19	Meetings, mileage
1608	Todd Norton	\$518.61	Meetings, mileage, registration
1609	James E Schmidt	\$196.16	Meetings, mileage
1610	James R Wetsch	\$217.05	Meetings, mileage
1611	Brenda Winckler	1411.13	Salary, equip rent, lunch Reimbursed
EFT	IRS	\$551.70	Payroll taxes
1612	Cardinal Home Improvement	\$24,480.43	Hail repair HL
1613	ND Water Users Association	\$360.00	Registration for Bachmeier

There being no further business, motion duly made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned.

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Wade M. Bachmeier, Chairman

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Brenda Winckler, Sec-Treas