

**Western Area Water Supply Authority  
Board of Directors Meeting  
WAWSA Office February 19, 2026**

**Attendees**

Members Present: Doug Anderson, Matt Beard, Kent Bickler, Raoul Brandt, Ellis Haake, Robert Harms, and Larry Novak.

Members Present via Video/Phone: Ward Koeser, Gary Rust, and Chris Brostuen

Others Present: Chris Barke (WAWSA), Char Imsland (WAWSA), Cheryl McNeil (WAWSA), Dave Bell (WAWSA), Shae Johnson (WAWSA), Jacob Monson (WAWSA), Weston McGruder (AE2S), Graydon Olson (AE2S), Curt Clarys (City of Williston), Kenny Bergstrom (City of Williston), David Juma (City of Williston), Liz Suhr (R&T), Cory Chorne (AE2S) via video, Dustin Schultz (AE2S) via video, Tami Norgard (Vogel) via video, and Jason Faller (City of Watford City) via video.

**Meeting Called to Order**

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

**Approval of the Agenda**

Anderson requested an addition to the agenda for an award won by R&T Water. Brostuen added the request under the Executive Director's report, item #5. **Haake moved to approve the agenda as amended, Anderson seconded.**

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY BY VOICE VOTE.

**Establishment of Committees**

Brostuen presented the members appointed to the committee seats as required by the WAWSA bylaws. The 2026 committee members are as follows:

Executive Committee: Ellis Haake, Char Imsland, Ward Koeser, and Chris Brostuen

Grievance Committee: Ellis Haake, Robert Harms, Ward Koeser, and Chris Brostuen

Investment Committee: Doug Anderson, Larry Novak, Gary Rust, and Chris Brostuen

Rate Committee: Doug Anderson, Raoul Brandt, Larry Novak, and Chris Brostuen

Strategic Planning Committee: Matt Beard, Kent Bickler, Robert Harms, and Chris Brostuen

Bylaws/Policies Committee: Doug Anderson, Kent Bickler, Robert Harms, Larry Novak, and Chris Brostuen

### **Board of Directors' Conflict of Interest Training**

Tami Norgard with Vogel Law presented the annual Board of Directors' conflict-of-interest training to the board.

### **Approval of the Minutes**

The January 15, 2026, board meeting minutes were presented for approval. Novak noted that, under the "Others Present" section, Jason Faller is from the City of Watford City, not JF Brennan. **Beard moved to approve the minutes as amended, Anderson 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 January capital accounting report was also presented to the board for their consideration and discussion.

### **Public Comment Period**

No public comments were presented.

### **Executive Director's Report**

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

Barke reported that a leak occurred on the East tower on February 5, 2026. He reported that an estimated 800,000 gallons were drained from the tank between Thursday and Saturday.

### **R&T Water District Award**

Barke reported that R&T Water District won the Best Tasting Water award at the ND Rural Water Expo.

### **State Water Commission Update**

Barke reported that the Battleview McGregor Alternate I project cost share request was approved by the SWC on February 12, 2026. The cost for the Alternate I project is \$7,777,840, and WAWSA was approved for a 75% cost share equal to \$5,777,130.

### **WAWSA SRF Resolution**

Barke presented a \$16M SRF loan resolution. The loan will help fund projects through the rest of this biennium and the 2027-2029 biennium. The loan matures on September 1, 2056. **Novak moved to approve the \$16M SRF loan resolution, Haake seconded.**

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

Nay: 0

Carried: 10-0

### **AE2S Reports**

McGruder provided the board with the project updates.

### **WTP DeviceNET & Sludge Pump Improvement – TO 89**

McGruder presented CEI Electrical Contractors increase change order #1 for \$22,982.75 for the Williston WTP DeviceNET and Sludge Pump Improvement – TO 89 project. The change order is for an MCC-1 modification to increase the backwash pump variable-frequency drives. **Haake moved to approve the CEI Electrical Contractors increase change order #1 for \$22,982.75 for the WTP DeviceNET and Sludge Pump Improvement – TO 89 project, Harms seconded.**

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

Nay: 0

Carried: 10-0

### **Invoices for Payment**

The MCWRD System IV Part IV – TO 77, Phase II Transmission Line – TO 88, System II Expansion – TO 90, and the NWRWD Trenton Rural Distribution – TO 85 invoices for engineering and construction for the month have a combined total of \$22,049.69.

### **SWC Grant Requests**

SWC \$9.9M grant request 40-021926, SWC \$8M grant request 27-021926, SWC \$9.7M grant request 11-021926, SWC \$8M grant request 22-021926, SWC \$747K grant request 12-021926, SWC \$99K grant request 09-021926, SWC \$2M grant request 05-021926, SWC \$14M grant request 8-021926, SWC \$1M grant request 03-021926 were presented to the board for their approval.

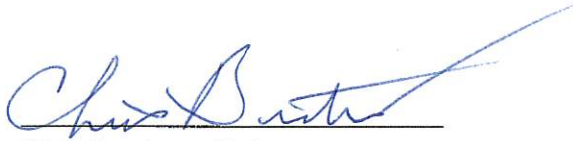
**Anderson moved to approve the SWC monthly grant requests as presented, Haake seconded.**

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

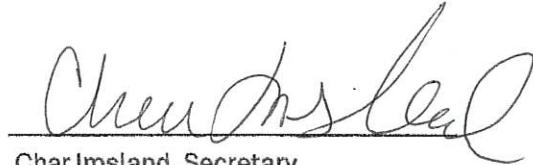
Nay: 0

Carried: 10-0

Brostuen adjourned the meeting at 10:24 am.



Chris Brostuen, Chairman



Char Imsland, Secretary