

**BOIS DE SIOUX WATERSHED DISTRICT  
BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
MAY 21, 2026**

- CALL TO ORDER** The meeting was called to order by President Vavra at 8:00 a.m. Present in the District Office: Linda Vavra, Jason Beyer, Doug Dahlen, Steven Deal, Scott Gillespie, Steven Schmidt, and Allen Wold. Absent: Ben Brutlag, John Kapphahn. Also present: Administrator Jamie Beyer, Attorney Lukas Croaker, District Engineer James Guler, Engineer Technician Troy Fridgen, and Engineer Chad Engels.
- AGENDA** Upon motion by Dahlen, seconded by Schmidt and carried unanimously, the Regular Agenda was approved with a change to move the Closed Session to a place earlier in the meeting agenda, as Attorney Lukas Croaker will be leaving at 11:00 am, and payment to a nuisance beaver trapper was added.
- CONFLICTS OF INTEREST** No conflicts of interest were declared.
- PUBLIC COMMENT** No public comment was presented.
- CONSENT AGENDA** Upon motion by Dahlen, seconded by Schmidt and carried unanimously, the Consent Agenda was approved.
- 25-109 ELDORADO TWP** Engineering staff described the Eldorado Township permit application structure for after-the-fact excavation and roadwork described by Permit #25-109 and proposed culvert sizing described under Permit #26-059. Engineering staff recommended that a ditch block be used to replicate the pre-road raise flow splits north and south of the Eldorado road raise project, and that the District work separately to collect support and permit applications from landowners for a proposed Dollymount Township road raise. A Dollymount road raise would require a ring dike for the farmstead in Section 19 and alterations to the ditch block to ensure impacts are not created elsewhere. Discussion was held as to potential impacts for drainage and spring flooding. Dollymount Township officials opposed approval of Permit #25-109 and #26-059 without including conditions for successful permitting and construction of the three additional projects.
- 26-059 ELDORADO TWP**
- TCD #37 REDETERMINATION** Meeting participants discussed the previous redetermination of benefits on TCD #37 and that the benefits did not extend beyond Traverse County parcels, even though parcels within Stevens County are in the TCD #37 watershed. Gillespie motioned, seconded by Wold, to authorize the attorney to draft an Order for the Redetermination of Traverse County Ditch #37 and Appointment of Viewers, for consideration at the June 18, 2026 board meeting. All in favor except Manager Schmidt, motion carried.
- TRAVERSE COUNTY LETTER** A letter was presented from the Traverse County Board of Commissioners requesting that the District and participating counties take a broader regional approach; Engineer Chad Engels stated that the letter is a reminder that the need for additional storage projects continues to be a high priority.
- LANDOWNER COMMENTS** Board Manager Beyer stated support for the proposed Dollymount Township road raise. Landowners Brian Berg and Mark Baldry requested that engineers evaluate low road elevations near their parcels.
- DNR COMMENTS** DNR Hydrologist Emily Siira stated that her May 15, 2026 comment letter to the applicant should be considered as part of the review for Permit Application #26-059 and #25-109. Administrator Beyer stated that the content of the letter was in regard to public waters permitting.
- PERMITS TABLED** Engineer Chad Engels described the changes engineering staff are proposing to culverts described in Permit Application #26-059. Board Manager Schmidt stated that the cumulative goal is to keep water flow inside the banks of whatever channel it uses, instead of flowing uncontrolled by overtopping roads. Engineering staff proposed two conditions for permit approval: 1) installation of a ditch block directing only high flows south of the Eldorado road raise, and 2) the applicable landowners are successful in obtaining a permit for the Dollymount road raise, Section 19 ring dike, and increase the height of the Section 24 public waters culvert. Upon motion by Beyer, seconded by Gillespie and carried unanimously, the permit applications were tabled pending further analysis of the proposed Dollymount road raise, Eldorado Township is authorized to install temporary culverts to provide field access, and engineering staff are authorized to analyze Dollymount road raise options, Section 24 public waters culvert elevation, and Section 19 ring dike feasibility.

- 25-046  
R. ANDERSON** Mr. Ronald Anderson's attorney moved the mid-May site visit to Wednesday, May 27, 2026, at 9:30 AM.
- CLOSED MEETING  
13D.05 SUBD 3(B)** Upon motion by Beyer, seconded by Wold and carried unanimously, the meeting was closed pursuant to MN Statutes § 13D.05, Subd. 3(b) Attorney-Client Privilege with regard to a Civil Matter for Post-Termination Recovery of Lease Payments. Upon motion by Beyer, seconded by Gillespie and carried unanimously, the meeting was opened.
- GC CONS JD #2** Staff continue to wait for signatures from two individuals on the repair petition for Grant Cons. JD #2.
- WCD #25  
FINAL HEARINGS** Upon motion by Beyer, seconded by Dahlen and carried unanimously, the WCD #25 Final Hearing on the Petition, Detailed Survey Report, Viewers' Report, Property Owners' Report, and Commissioner's Final Advisory Report were ordered for June 18, 2026 pending confirmation that WCD #25 Viewers can attend. Landowners presented questions about the viewing approach and on specific parcels. Landowners were informed that their questions would be passed to viewers and repeated at the upcoming hearing. At the hearing, the Board can direct the viewers to review these parcels officially.
- SCD #1 / #7 / #8** Administrator Jamie Beyer stated that staff have met with the lead petitioner for the proposed Improvement of SCD #1, and a meeting with petitioners will be scheduled mid-June, with anticipated meetings with drainage ditch footprint landowners and drainage assessment landowners likely to follow. Upon motion by Beyer, seconded by Dahlen and carried unanimously, \$15,000 is authorized for staff to assess the current condition of the systems (SCD No. 1, 7, and 8) and prepare for upcoming informal landowner meetings.
- WCD #SUB-1  
RAILROAD  
CROSSING** Engineering staff had originally estimated the BNSF culvert boring and replacement at \$150,000. Despite soliciting several contractors directly, the price quote that was collected was submitted by Industrial Builders, Inc. for \$253,660. District Engineer James Guler confirmed that the project is part of the District's culvert cost-share and funded by District Construction Funds. Upon motion by Schmidt, seconded by Dahlen and carried unanimously, the quote was approved.
- BEAVER CLAIM** Upon motion by Beyer, seconded by Deal and carried unanimously, payment to Evan Rollafson for beaver trapping was approved in the amount of \$2,500.
- DORAN CREEK  
PERMITTING** District Engineer James Guler stated that the District continues to respond to requests for information from DNR Public Waters Permitting and 404 permitting staff on behalf of the Doran Creek Restoration Project. The WCA permit provided a notice of decision, based on a letter from the DNR, that the project resulted in No-loss and exemption conditions. However, questions from public water permitting staff have indicated that the project is detrimental to wildlife without insurance that the 10-year floodplain be held in public easement, including areas cropped. Staff will continue to work with DNR staff to complete the permit application and address issues. Engineer Guler stated that the cultural resources subconsultant has exhausted their budget due to several findings and additional questions from 404 permitting staff. They are requesting an additional \$18,000 to complete the Phase 1 area. Upon motion by Beyer, second by Dahlen and carried unanimously, the budget increase was approved.
- ELBOW LAKE /  
SAMANTHA LAKE  
CULVERT** A letter from DNR Public Waters Permitting staff was reviewed, that states that the 2023 replacement of a culvert to the same size and same elevation between Elbow Lake and Samantha Lake requires a Public Waters Permit. Staff believed that the replacement was exempt pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 103G.245, Subd. 2(3). DNR staff assert that because the culvert serves as an elevation/outlet control structure for the lake, MN Rules Part 6115.0220 requires a Public Waters Permit. DNR Hydrologist Emily Siira stated that the control elevation of Elbow Lake is essentially Samantha Lake. Administrator Jamie Beyer stated that she, DNR Hydrologist Emily Siira, and newly hired Grant County Highway Engineer Matthew Yavarow had a recent virtual meeting, and Grant County Highway Engineer Matthew Yavarow stated that he did not have working knowledge of the flood problems in the area. Additionally, it does not seem that a Public Waters Permit application is imminent in relation to the project that Grant County has put forward in an Environmental Assessment Worksheet. Wold made motion, seconded by Gillespie, to authorize staff to apply for a Public Waters permit for the culvert installation. Motion carried.

**RRWMB &  
BONDING BILL  
UPDATE**

Red River Watershed Management Board Executive Director Robert Sip provided an update on legislative activities, including \$9 million in bonding allocated to the DNR for Flood Hazard Mitigation projects.

Upon motion by Gillespie, seconded by Deal and carried unanimously, the 2025 Annual Report was approved.