

Unapproved
Morton County Water Resource District
January 28, 2026

1. The Morton County Water Resource District met in regular session at 1pm on Tuesday, January 28, 2026, 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, Todd Norton, Bruce Engelhardt, Jim, Schmidt, Brenda Winckler, Sec-Treas., Karen Garvie, MWWS, Bryan Ziegler, Katie Vasbinder, Bartlett & West, Cody Schnabel, MC Parks & Weed, Natalie Pearce, MC P&Z, Mike Gunsch, and Arlen Ruff, Kelsch Law Firm.
3. Chairman Bachmeier called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance.
4. Minutes: Mgr. Engelhardt moved and Schmidt seconded to approve November 26, 2025, and December 23, 2025, special meeting minutes. MCU.
5. MWWS: Katie Vasbinder, Bartlett & West, informed the Board about the estimates for the new building, \$2.2 million without fees, to \$3.3 million is the estimate range, did some value engineering with the square ft. 5000 for shop and 3640, total 8640 sq. Ft. Electrical is way over designed in the Boards estimate, this has been reevaluated for over design. Discussion on changing the mezzanine to match rooftop with the shop. She can check into the cost for moving the mezzanine to above the office and report back. Discussed renovation of current building, it could trigger to make building ADA compliant, and HVAC so could be a costly renovation. We need to be comfortable with the engineers' estimate before we proceed with bidding on the project. Katie feels early March for bidding would be ok. Consensus is to allow Katie to do the new estimate, bid docks, and not proceed with the change in the mezzanine and bring to the February meeting. Update on water: pasture taps, 218 accounts, billed out 16 million gallons for ag accounts. Dave Wisdom: In 2019, Dave built a new home high on a hill and paid for his own installation of \$29,300. In 2024 MWWS took over the line, and he would like to be reimbursed for that line, all the way to the house. Mgr. Garvie suggested reimbursing him for the line that MWWS took over, not to the house, and put that portion of the line into the MWWS depreciable assets. Mgr. Schmidt moved to reimburse Mr. Wisdom \$29,300 for the main line that MWWS took over because it was an overall cost savings on the Lyons Road project. Mgr. Engelhardt seconded the motion. MCU. Mr. Wisdom would also like to be reimbursed for the private line to his house. Discussion was held, Mgr. Norton moved to deny the request for reimbursement for the private line. Mgr. Wetsch seconded the motion. MCU. 2026 water rates: Mgr. Garvie suggests increasing the 1000 gall rate from \$6.79 to \$6.99, which is a 3% cost increase. SWWA raised rate by \$.05 per 1000 gallons, and City of Mandan rate remained the same. Mgr. Engelhardt moved to approve \$.20 on the cost per 1000 gallons. Mgr. Schmidt seconded the motion. MCU. Residential base fee, currently \$40/month, which pays for increased system projects and loan repayment, suggests increase to \$45/month. Mgr. Engelhardt moved to increase the base fee to \$3 per month for residential use. Mgr. Norton seconded the motion. MCU. Bulk user base fee will be looked at in March. Mgr. Garvie may have found land to purchase for the master meter location. Will know more by February meeting. Membership fee for new service, \$2000, since 2008. Mgr. Garvie would like to increase that fee to \$2500 to pay for ongoing service. Mgr. Wetsch moved to increase the \$500 increase to the membership fee. Mgr. Engelhardt seconded the motion. MCU. The Board reviewed the income, totaling \$172,643 and expenditures totaling \$184,894 of the MWWS for the month of November 2025, and the income totaling \$295,795 and expenditures

totaling \$ 204,429 for the month of December 2025, and the 2025 4th Quarter balance sheet and reserve funds. Mgr. Norton made a motion to accept and place these reports in file. Mgr. Wetsch seconded the motion. MCU. 6. Mgr. Engelhardt is a member of the ND Water Users Association that does a lot of lobbying for water districts. MWWS is currently not a member. Mgr. Engelhardt moved to have MWWS become a member of the ND Water Users Association and pay the \$265 dues for 2026. Mgr. Schmidt seconded the motion. MCU. Mr. Kelsch will check if the Board can reimburse the individual membership fee for Mgr Engelhardt. Mr. Kelsch also drew up a master service agreement for Schlosser Excavating for MWWS. Mgr. Garvie feels it is too in depth and feels we only need a hold harmless agreement with proof of insurance with Schlosser. Mr. Kelsch will review and put on the February agenda.

7. Coalition to protect the MR: Report from a person from Missouri suggests stopping water for ND. The MRJWB advised a rebuttal to this report. Ken Royce called this gentleman who is the chair of the Coalition to protect the MR requesting time at his next meeting for the rebuttal.

8. Reorganization of the Board: Mr. Kelsch took over the meeting as Chairman: Nominations for new Chairman: Mgr. Wetsch moved and Mgr. Schmidt seconded the motion for Wade Bachmeier as Chairman. No further nominations. MCU. Chairman Bachmeier took over the board meeting. Mgr Engelhardt moved and Schmidt seconded the motion to appoint James Wetsch as Vice Chairman. No other nominations. Motion carried, Wetsch is Vice Chairman. Mgr. Wetsch moved and Norton seconded the motion to appoint Brenda Winckler as Sec-Treas. MCU. Discussion on pay for Brenda Winckler. Mgr. Norton moved to increase her pay by 4%, Schmidt seconded the motion. MCU. Mgr. Wetsch moved and Mgr. Engelhardt seconded the motion to approve Arlon Ruff of Kelsch Law Firm for MCWRD and MWWS attorney. MCU. Mgr. Wetsch moved to give the Chairman the ability to approve expenditures not too exceed \$5000, at his discretion for the business of the Board. Norton seconded the motion. MCU

9. Morton County Parks: Cody Schnabel reported \$38,113 for 2025 Harmon Lake fees. Car counter showed 22,784 vehicles came and went out of HL from April 23rd through October 17th. Same campground host will be here in 2026. A fence needs to be placed on the outlet this spring. The dumpsters from the Ft. Rice park and HL were removed as they were being used by others, Cody will have them brought back in the spring.

10. Landeis ROD: If this is determined not to be a water course, the Board has no authority to do anything. It is also in the City of Mandan ETA.

11. Harmon Inundation Zone Moratorium: Natalie Pearce and Mike Gunsch were present to discuss the Inundation Zone Moratorium. Chairman Bachmeier would like to provide a summary of what the Board feels about the moratorium. 3 zones set up are based on risk, loss of life, and change in the status of the dam. The Dam was built for agriculture not residential. Breech floodway was built so there is no loss of life. Mr. Gunsch suggests a 1-page letter stating that with no changes being made we suggest changing this from a moratorium to a permanent status from the original report with no habitable structures allowed. There will be no blanket ruling, but each dam being ruled on separately. Natalie said it cannot be made permanent. We would have to make a separate classification zone. Mgr. Engelhardt moved to recommend a permanent zoning ordinance be established to preserve life and safety for the people at Harmon Breech zone and to retain Mike Gunsch and Houston Engineering to prepare a summary stating with supporting documentation for the ordinance not to exceed \$10,000. Mgr. Wetsch seconded the motion. MCU

12. Budget: Revised 2025: Mgr. Wetsch moved to approve final 2025 Budget. Mgr. Schmidt seconded the motion. MCU. NDIRF liability coverage question asked if the Board has rental. Mr Kelsch said no. Winckler will submit the liability coverage questionnaire.

13. Financial report: Mgr. Engelhardt moved and Schmidt seconded the motion to approve and payment of the bills, MCU

CK#	NAME:	AMOUNT:	MEMO:
1723	Wade M. Bachmeier	\$698.17	Meetings
1724	Bruce Engelhardt	\$194.19	Meetings, mileage
1725	Todd Norton	\$208.60	Meetings, mileage
1726	James Schmidt	\$283.43	Meetings, mileage
1727	James Wetsch	\$481.49	Meetings, mileage
1728	Brenda Winckler	\$1373.44	Salary, lunch reimbursed
EFT	IRS	\$597.82	Payroll taxes
1729	Wade Bachmeier	\$1095.43	Meetings, Convention fee reimbursed
1730	Bruce Engelhardt	\$540.28	Meetings, mileage, convention Fee reimbursed
1731	Todd Norton	\$563.15	Meetings, mileage, convention Fee reimbursed
1732	James Schmidt	\$669.30	Meetings, mileage
1733	James Wetsch	\$124.54	Meetings
1734	Brenda Winckler	\$1262.90	Salary
EFT	IRS	\$715.02	Payroll taxes
1735	Kelsch Law Firm	\$150.00	Legal Fee
1736	MWWS	\$267.90	Pasture tap water fee
1737	Safe Deposit Box Operation	\$55.00	Safe deposit box fee
1738	Action Sports Inc.	\$654.31	UTV Repair

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

Wade M. Bachmeier, Chairman

Brenda Winckler, Sec-Treas