

## DRAFT

Barnes-LaMoure Joint Water Board District Special Meeting -March 25, 2026 at 8:00 am

The organizational meeting to form the Joint Barnes-LaMoure Water District was convened at 8:00 am. Attending in person in LaMoure were Jason Gross, Chairman and board members Glenn Haugen and Nathan Nitschke; Attorney Kim Radermacher; Billi Jo Warcken Secretary-Treasurer and Karin Boom, Co-Secretary. Also in attendance were Mike Vogel, Bob Flath and Wesley Knudsen. Attending in Barnes County were Jerry Hieb- Chairman and board members Perry Schlagel, Bruce Anderson, Bret Fehr and Scott Legge. Attending online was Attorney Sean Fredricks.

Attorney Fredricks led the opening of the meeting and determined the three members from each board to sit on the joint board. LaMoure members are Jason Gross, Glenn Haugen and Nathan Nitschke. Barnes members are Jerry Hieb, Perry Schlagel and Bruce Anderson.

Fredricks then called for nominations for Board Chair. Jerry Hieb nominated Jason Gross. Roll call vote on the nomination- Hieb, yes; Schlagel, yes; Anderson, yes; Gross, yes; Haugen, yes and Nitschke, yes.

Jason Gross nominated Jerry Hieb for Vice-Chair. Roll call vote on the nomination- Hieb, yes; Schlagel, yes; Anderson, yes; Gross, yes; Haugen, yes and Nitschke, yes.

Jason Gross nominated Karin Boom as Board Secretary. Roll call vote on the nomination- Hieb, yes; Schlagel, yes; Anderson, yes; Gross, yes; Haugen, yes and Nitschke, yes.

Jerry Hieb nominated Karin Boom as Board Treasurer. Roll call vote on the nomination- Hieb, yes; Schlagel, yes; Anderson, yes; Gross, yes; Haugen, yes and Nitschke, yes.

Motion by Bruce Anderson to nominate LaMoure as the primary office, seconded by Glenn Haugen. Passed on a unanimous roll call vote. Hieb, yes; Schlagel, yes; Anderson, yes; Gross, yes; Haugen, yes and Nitschke, yes.

Motion by Jason Gross to appoint Sean Fredricks and Kim Radermacher as legal consultants to the joint board, seconded by Nathan Nitschke. Passed on a unanimous roll call vote. Hieb, yes; Schlagel, yes; Anderson, yes; Gross, yes; Haugen, yes and Nitschke, yes.

Radermacher and Fredricks agreed to serve at the board rates.

Nathan Trosen of Moore Engineering and Mike Opat of Houston Engineering introduced themselves and each agreed to be willing to serve. Motion by Nathan Nitschke to appoint Trosen and Opat, seconded by Gross. Passed on a unanimous roll call vote. Hieb, yes; Schlagel, yes; Anderson, yes; Gross, yes; Haugen, yes and Nitschke, yes.

Attorney Fredricks said that he would forward all of the joint board appointments and information to the State.

Attorney Radermacher will inquire of the LaMoure County Insurance provider through Agent Holly Braun about insurance for the joint board and report to the next meeting.

Radermacher and Fredricks will also bring State Bonding information to the board at the next meeting.

Trosen outlined the process involved in developing a comprehensive hydraulic model involving survey data, determining downstream impacts and proposed design plans. Cost of engineering is proposed at \$70,000 and approximately \$28,000 of that cost will be local cost not covered by cost sharing. The process involves two steps beginning with engineering. Moore will do the grant process and Trosen indicated that the project will go on a faster track as the amount falls under the \$100,00 limit.

Motion by Jason Gross to have Nitschke and Boom do the cost-share request based on \$70,000 total cost, seconded by Nathan Nitschke. Passed on a unanimous roll call vote. Hieb, yes; Schlagel, yes; Anderson, yes; Gross, yes; Haugen, yes and Nitschke, yes.

Attorney Radermacher outlined that Joint Board per diems would be paid by the respective boards. Boards will split all costs. Bills will be collected by LaMoure and copies submitted to Barnes. Each County Board will create a line item in their budget to pay joint board costs. Some bond money has been posted and deposited in an account. Boom said the current balance in that account including accumulated interest is \$45,146.18. When a bond vote is taken, if it is successful, those deposits would be refunded to each one posting. Attorney Fredricks said the next step is to enter the Petition Bond process to authorize the engineering phase of the study involving the local funds match.

Motion by Nitschke to have counsel prepare the Petition bond document using \$45,000 bond posted as the security of local costs for the Bear Creek Feasibility Study, seconded by Gross. Passed on a unanimous roll call vote. Hieb, yes; Schlagel, yes; Anderson, yes; Gross, yes; Haugen, yes and Nitschke, yes.

Next joint board meeting set for June 24, 2026 at 8:00 am. This will allow time to get cost share completed at the state.

Short discussion on peripheral natural drains to this drain. Trosen said this will be addressed in the study.

Motion by Haugen to adjourn, seconded by Nitschke and passed. Meeting adjourned at 8:55 am.