

GREATER RAMSEY WATER DISTRICT

REGULAR MEETING

November 6, 2025

DIRECTORS PRESENT: Paul Becker, Gilbert Black, David Hovendick, Allen Johnson, Doug Mohr

DIRECTORS ABSENT: Missy Abrahamson, Kale Miller

OTHERS PRESENT: Lonnie Lacina, Sally Herda, Krista Wold - GRWD; Brian Aafedt, Ashley Goetzfried – AE₂S

The meeting was called to order at 8:03 a.m. by President Johnson at the District office.

Minutes from the October 9, 2025 regular meeting were reviewed. Motion by Becker, seconded by Hovendick to approve the minutes. All directors voted aye and **motion carried**.

Manager report

- **Budget**– Lacina stated that he has started budget work for the upcoming year and anticipates doing more rehab work in the sewer. The sewer rehab fee that was added to the rural sewer customers monthly bill in 2025 will contribute substantially to the work needing to be done. The committee will be meeting to continue budget work.
- **North system capacity improvement project**
 - **AE₂S project update** -
Construction progress – Hydroseeding has been done at Saunders and AE₂S is looking to close out American General’s contract in coming months. Work will then proceed to warranty phase.

WTP generator expansion – Aafedt requested a clarification of the August minutes to accompany the application to the SWC for the change order/funding request for the generator at the water treatment plant. The following statement clarifies the August 7 meeting minutes, “ NDCC does not specify any limit of change order costs, but the smaller the percentage of the change to the original contract, the safer the addition is in terms of risk and exposure to any litigation, which would be highly unlikely for this scenario.” The generator expansion is on hold until the Jan/Feb SWC meetings and the timeline for this work was reviewed with installation being completed in Fall, 2026.

Pay application #14 - \$82,578.00 from American General reflects all work completed with \$102,000 retainage remaining. The contract for John’s Refrigeration is being kept open until the generator change order is acted upon.

Budget and contingency funding were reviewed and discussed.

- **User expansion project**
 - **AE₂S project update** – Membership application for Murphy Grain and Livestock was reviewed. After application to be included in the project was made, the land where the line would be constructed was entered into a conservation easement posing legal issues for line construction. AE₂S has inquired about added construction requirements due to the easement but has not been able to obtain answers. Initial construction cost for this location was close to the high-cost limit and added requirements may result in cost exceeding the construction threshold. Both Aafedt and Lacina recommend return of the sign-up fee. Motion by Mohr, seconded by

Becker to return the membership fee to Murphy Grain & Livestock. All directors voted aye and **motion carried.**

Construction progress – Approximately 90 users have been connected and online as of 10-30-25 and more are awaiting testing. The installation of the 12” line in the south system has been completed and is operational, making a significant improvement in performance from 130-135 gpm to 200 gpm. The Stump Lake bore has been installed replacing old pipe and fittings at risk of failure. Crop damage #1 for the north system will be included on the monthly funding request to the SWC. The rest of the 2025 crop damage will be sent out in November and should be finalized by year end.

Pay application #6 - \$169,298.37 for Karas Construction was presented for approval.

Contingencies and project budget were reviewed.

Invoices – Motion by Black, seconded by Hovendick to approve project invoices: AE₂S (\$4,385.00, \$48,632.41), American General #14 (\$82,578.00) and Karas Construction #6 (\$169,298.37) for a total of \$393,212.10. All directors voted aye and **motion carried.**

Future planning – South system – A preconstruction application was submitted to the SWC for \$735,000 that includes design and bidding engineering for pipeline and south pump station/reservoir facility, modeling rebuilds and easements. The SWC is requesting supplemental information including peak usage and demand that will accompany the application. The application will be on the November/December 2025 SWC meetings. Timeline for project is tentatively to be ready for a bidding and construction request in early 2027. This project would eliminate both the south booster and south tower and provide operational advantages for downstream pressure as well as to open up potential in other areas of the south system in long-term planning. Ballpark cost of project at this time is estimated around \$8 million.

A list of 25-30 names from the McHenry to Binford area that would like rural water service was provided to Lacina.

There was also discussion on the District’s water permitting and long-term sustainability. An area west of Devils Lake has a lot of water available, but of a quality that would require a different treatment process. This area has been discussed in the past with potential for area water systems to work in collaboration to develop to achieve long-term viability.

- Other discussion – Lacina reported a leaking valve was found on the Doyon line. The valve was not on the map and found at the edge of a slough. Staff were able to make the repairs. There was also a water break in Crary that was fixed during October.

The Crary booster station has been decommissioned.

Office manager report

- **Accounts Payable** – Motion by Mohr, seconded by Hovendick to authorize payment of the October bills. **All directors voted aye and motion carried.**

	<u>WATER</u>	<u>SEWER</u>
TOTALS	452,776.16	12,178.75

- **Financial report** – October financial report was reviewed and discussed. Motion by Black, seconded by Becker to approve the financial report. All directors voted aye and **motion carried**. Project reports for the current projects were reviewed, along with monthly cash requirements for the local cost share of the projects.
- **CD due** – Motion by Becker, seconded by Mohr to authorize the President and Herda to renew funds at the highest bid following request for rates from the District’s depositories. All directors voted aye and **motion carried**.
- **2024 audit** – The 2024 completed audit was presented, along with the governance communication letter from the auditing firm. Motion by Mohr, seconded by Hovendick to accept and approve the 2024 audit. All directors voted aye and **motion carried**.
- **Employee manual approval** – Lacina and Herda, along with director Black met with the HR consultant for clarification on some of the questions brought forward at the October board meeting. Black reported the consultant provided a lot of insight and work into bringing the manual up to date and recommended it be approved. Motion by Becker, seconded by Black to approve the employee manual. All directors voted aye and **motion carried**. Director Black was thanked for his time updating the manual.
- **Proposed bylaws change** – Becker and Herda met to update the wording in the bylaws to bring them into compliance with new state law that was passed earlier this year regarding elections, meeting notifications and vacancies. The changes were presented to the board for approval to submit to the membership at the upcoming annual meeting in February, 2026. Motion by Mohr, seconded by Black to approve the proposed by laws changes and submit to the members at the annual meeting for approval. All directors voted aye and **motion carried**.

Membership termination

- **Chris Lange** – 8650 60th St NE, Webster - nonpayment
Motion to approve the membership termination was made by Becker, seconded by Black and **approved unanimously**.

Next regular board meeting will be held December 4, 2025.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned by motion at 9:58 am.

Minutes Approved: _____ October 9, 2025

Allen Johnson, President _____ (signed)

Sally Herda, Office Manager _____ (signed)