Cavalier County Water Resource Board

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October 8th, 2026

Cavalier County Water Resource Board held a regular session meeting on October 8th, 2026 in the Commission Meeting Room in the County Courthouse. Chairman Brian Hardy called the meeting to order at 8:32 AM. Shauna Schneider via phone, Bruce Roder, Craig Borgen & Secretary Karen Kempert present. Also in attendance were Cocoa Beauchamp, Art Brusseau and Matt VanThyune, US F&W Service.

Shauna Schneider made a motion to approve the agenda. Second by Craig Borgen – Motion passed unanimously.

Motion was made by Shauna Schneider and 2nd by Craig Borgen to approve September 24th, 2026 minutes. **Motion approved unanimously.**

Old Business –
No movement on Dresden 2 drain unless Dan found something at his meeting with Houston Engineering.

New business:
Art Brusseau and Cocoa Beauchamp on behalf of South Olga township requested help with the placement of a 48" culvert. Purpose of the culvert is to help with flooding since Bourbanis Dam was removed by Pembina County Water Resource Board. They presented their request to the Cavalier County Commission, and it was denied since they didn't have the additional 10 mils on which is the commissions standard operating procedure. They have approached Pembina County also and they too have denied any assistance. South Olga township has placed a 36" culvert at their expense to help to mitigate the flooding of agricultural land but it is inadequate and the 48" is requested. Since this is not on assessed drain in Cavalier County the Water board felt that it would be best to involve Dan to help South Olga by forming a recommendation and for South Olga Township to speak with the ND Association of Townships Attorney for advice in going forward with the inadequate mitigation of the removal of the Bourbanis Dam. **Bruce Roder made the motion for Dan Fischer to look at this site at the Water Boards expense and to encourage South Olga Township to talk to an attorney for guidance. Second by Craig Borgen, motion passed unanimously.** Trees and other detritus need cleaning also along with straightening the channel. Approximate cost of the culvert is $6800.00. Art and Cocoa left the meeting.
Matt VanThyune wanted to present information to the board on the Roppel presentation and problem areas from September 27th meeting. He presented historical information on the Ground level restoration prior to 1980's and stated that there has been no work or changes since 1992. Matt asked what the State Water Commission had determined as far as a water course and the board informed him of the changes. We as a board can determine whether this is a water course or not and then anyone can disagree and the ND SWC will make a determination. Karen is waiting for the presentation from Derek Roppel and will send both that presentation and what Matt brought today to our Water Board Attorney for his advice. Matt discussed other cases that have set precedents such as US VS Vesterso in 1987 regarding watercourse determination in Towner County. Matt did agree that Derek could clean cattails as before on US F&W easements. 9:36 Matt left the meeting.

Karen to send information from Derek and Matt to Sean Fredericks.

The Chaput/Gellner tiling permit in Perry Township: **Motion to approve permit by Bruce Roder, second by Craig Borgen. Motion passed unanimously.**

Discussion proceeded on the tables at the Mt Carmel Recreation area. Since the issues with Langdon Area High school shop Taylor has approached Munich school to do the tables. They can but perhaps not all of them. Taylor suggested purchasing some tables since they are less expensive and many of the sites don't use them. Board said go with 6' is fine for portability and the actual table can be decided on later.

Discussion on the West Snowflake drain was presented by Craig Borgen. The drain needs cleaning all the way to the international border. Estimates have come in at the $110,000.00 to 112,000.00. Karen will check with Sean Fredericks to see if the area north of Hannah can just be put in to the drain since it is benefitted acres and the land owners approve it already or does it need to go to a vote of just those few landowners or the entire basin.
There is not enough money for the clean-out in the West Snowflake account.
Shauna Schneider made a motion to increase the assessment amount on West Snowflake to $3.00 per acre for the next 2 years. Craig Borgen seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

The survey is done on the Dresden 1 drain on the Canadian side. Craig sent to Karen and she will get it to Dan Fischer.

Bruce Roder made a motion to approve the vouchers. Second by Craig Borgen. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:30 AM by Craig Borgen, 2nd by Shauna Schneider. Motion passed unanimously.

Next meeting is October 22nd at 8:30.

Action items:
Karen: Landowners WSF drain. Information to Sean Fredericks and Dan Fischer on WSF.
Dan Fischer information on Dresden. Freedom of Information requested items to Matt VanThyune.
Contact Langdon Implement re: mower at Rec Area.

Craig Borgen: Hire contractor for West Snowflake clean-out and ensure that they talk to Dan Fischer prior to clean out.