

DRAINAGE BOARD

May 19, 2026

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Larson called the regular meeting of the Davison County Drainage Board to order at 7:00 p.m. Deputy Auditor Norwick took roll call as follows: Members of the Board present were Jay Larson, Chet Edinger, Jerry Buchholz, Gregg Bult, Mark Klumb, & Chris Nebelsick. The members absent were Michael Blaaid. Ex-Officio members present were Administrator Bathke & Deputy Administrator Wegleitner. Ex-Officio members absent were Director of Equalization Vissia & Highway Superintendent Weinberg.

Guests: John Fraser, Scott Estabrook, Ethan Estabrook, Steve & Verla Vlieger, Brian Bode, Kiera Leddy, Lyle Bode, Patrick Kiner, James Taylor, Tom Bannworth, Adam & McKenzie Bormann, Greg Bormann, Ron Long, Kay & Willie Schoenfelder, Bailey Schmiedt, & Tim Weidenbach.

MEETING EXPECTATIONS

Chairperson Larson recited expectations of the meeting.

A checklist of items required in accordance with the Davison County Drainage Ordinance and SDCL 46A-10A will be considered on each permit. The checklist is on file in the Davison County Auditor's office and the Drainage Administrator's office.

APPROVE AGENDA

Motion by Buchholz, seconded by Edinger, to approve the agenda for the May 19, 2026, meeting. All members voted aye. Motion carried.

DECLARE CONFLICTS OF INTERESTS

Chairperson Larson asked for any conflicts of interest. There were no conflicts of interest; the meeting continued.

APPROVE MINUTES

Motion by Nebelsick seconded by Edinger, to approve the minutes of the March 17, 2026, meeting. All members voted aye. Motion carried.

PUBLIC INPUT & CITIZEN COMPLAINTS

Chairman Larson asked for any public input for items not on the agenda and reminded all in attendance that no action would be taken. Hearing none, the meeting moved forward.

ADAM BORMANN DRAINAGE VIOLATION

Deputy Administrator Wegleitner explained she received calls from board members regarding a drainage project on land owned by the Bormann family. Based on the descriptions provided to the board members and relayed to Deputy Administrator Wegleitner, it initially appeared that Adam Bormann was cleaning out an existing ditch on the property legally described as the SW1/4 of Section 5, Township 102 North, Range 62 West of the 5th P.M., Davison County, South Dakota.

Willard Schoenfelder, an affected abutting landowner, and David Deinert, tenant, later met with Deputy Administrator Wegleitner to discuss the Bormann project. During the meeting, they explained that the existing ditch had been deepened and a new ditch had also been created. Deputy Administrator Wegleitner contacted Adam Bormann, and a site meeting was arranged between the involved parties to inspect the drainage project.

Following the inspection, Deputy Administrator Wegleitner determined that a violation had occurred and informed Adam Bormann and David VanderPol, the contractor, that all work on the project must cease until proper approval was obtained.

Adam Bormann explained to the Drainage Board that the work performed involved cleaning out an existing vested ditch and trenching a new ditch along the east fence line to help alleviate water issues affecting both properties. Mr. Bormann stated that water was flowing into the crop ground, and he and Mr. VanderPol created the new ditch in an attempt to redirect some of the water away from the crop ground. The proposed drainage route would direct the water northeast onto pasture ground owned by Willard Schoenfelder, rather than into the cultivated crop ground.

Willard Schoenfelder, an affected landowner, stated that the new drainage route would cause water to back up into his crop ground. He explained that they had only recently been able to farm the southwest corner of the property due to longstanding water issues in the area. Mr. Schoenfelder expressed concern that the additional water from the new ditch would once again prevent the ground from being farmed.

Steve Schoenfelder asked why the new ditch was not trenched all the way to the existing blue line ditch farther north. Mr. VanderPol responded that, due to the topography of the land, the water would not naturally flow north to the existing ditch and that the natural drainage flow is to the east.

Board members were given a few minutes to review the items to consider before a decision, in accordance with Section 2:05 of the Davison County Drainage Ordinance. The items were placed on the screen for all to view.

Application received May 4, 2026.

Applicant and necessary neighbors were notified on May 5, 2026.

Published in the paper on May 9, 2026.

Motion by Nebelsick, seconded by Edinger, based on the findings presented, to grant the drainage permit requested by Adam Bormann for the SW ¼ of Section 5, Township 102 North, Range 62 West of the 5th P.M., Davison County, South Dakota, subject to the following requirements: the north/south ditch shall be restored, the south one-half (S1/2) of the fence shall be removed, accumulated silt shall be cleaned out, and the south one-half (S1/2) of the fence shall then be replaced.

Special Conditions: None.

Michael Blaalid arrived at 7:24 PM.

A roll call vote was taken as follows. Buchholz - abstain, Bult- aye, Edinger - aye, Larson - aye, Blaalid - abstain, Nebelsick - aye, Klumb - aye. Motion carried.

JOHNSON/FRASER VS. VLIEGER DRAINAGE COMPLAINT

Patrick Kiner, attorney for Steve Vlieger, approached the board with a motion to dismiss the drainage complaint filed by Kiera Leddy, attorney for John Fraser, due to an incorrect legal description. The complaint identified the obstruction property as being located in Section 15; however, Mr. Vlieger owns property in Section 14, NE ¼ of Blendon Township.

Ms. Leddy stated that she and her client wanted to ensure the completed project was performed correctly, as they were not notified that the project was taking place and were not provided elevations, dimensions, or other details regarding the ditch cleaning.

As part of the motion, Mr. Kiner stated that Mr. Vlieger was willing to allow the following individuals access to inspect the drainage ditch at an arranged time to help determine the next steps in the matter: Tom Banworth (tenant), John Fraser, Kiera Leddy, Jeff Bathke, Rusty Weinberg, and members of the drainage board.

The Board stated they are present to help facilitate a resolution that satisfies both parties. If a resolution cannot be reached, the matter will be referred to the County Commissioners and/or the courts for further consideration. If both parties agree with the proposed resolution, a date and time will be scheduled for the inspection with the above parties.

ADMINISTRATIVELY APPROVED APPLICATION

Hostler Farms LLC's application was approved on April 17, 2026, for routine maintenance on existing ditches located in the W ½ of Section 33, T 103 N, R 62 in Davison County. Tom Banworth will be doing the work and has no plans to change or alter, only cleanout to its original state.

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS: Drainage Administrator Bathke updated the board on the cleanout of Kibbee Ditch.

SET DATE AND TIME FOR THE NEXT MEETING

Chairperson Larson set June 16, 2026, at 7:00 p.m. as the next meeting date and time.

ADJOURN

At 8:35 P.M., Chairperson Larson adjourned the meeting.

ATTEST


Christine Norwick, Deputy Auditor


Jay Larson, Chairman

Publish Once
Approximate Cost