

DEVILS LAKE BASIN JOINT WATER RESOURCE BOARD

Minutes of the regular monthly meeting held Wednesday, September 9th, 2009 at the Adams Café, Adams, ND

Chairman Ash called the meeting to order at 8a.m. Roll call of the counties was taken and all representatives were present.

Cavalier County	Larry Gellner
Eddy County	Mike Tweed
Nelson County	Mike Donohue
Pierce County	Duane Hawk
Ramsey County	Duaine Ash
Rolette County	Ron Heinz
Towner County	Absent
Walsh County	Bob Shirek

Others present: See list attached to original minutes.

Chairman Ash stated that minutes of the August 12th board meeting had been sent out in the member's packets and asked if everyone had an opportunity to read them and if there were any corrections or additions. **Gellner moved to approve the minutes as of the August 12th meeting, second by Tweed, motion passed unanimously.**

The financial report for the month was presented:

Heinz moved to approve the financial report, second by Gellner, motion carried unanimously.

September, 2009 Bills

The following list of bills was presented for payment:

ND Water Users Association	\$165.00
Jeff Frith - Manager's July Travel	\$49.50
NDC (Website Hosting)	\$26.75
Ramsey County Auditor: Rent	\$190.00
Ramsey County Auditor: Postage *	\$42.40
Ramsey County Auditor: Telephone: February -March	\$57.86
Ramsey County Auditor: copies	\$76.80
Ramsey County Water Resource District - Copier Rent	\$50.00
Bartlett & West (PILOT PROJECT)	\$1,925.00
Adams Café - Meeting Expenses	\$50.00
ND PERs - Health Insurance	\$1,036.88
Mike Connor - Consulting Fee	\$475.00
Barry Hause - NDSU TEST PROJECT UTILITIES	
Barry Hause - NDSU TEST PROJECT HOUSE RENTAL SEPTEMBER 09	\$400.00
K & T Irrigation (Site 7 Repairs from Spring Flooding)	\$1,055.35

* Includes \$20.00 Postage Meter Fee

Hawk moved to pay the bills as listed, second by Heinz, motion carried unanimously.

DOWNSTREAM REPORT – Joe Belford:

Chairman Ash stated that Joe Belford needed to leave early and asked to move up on the agenda. Belford thanked chairman Ash for allowing him to give his report early. Belford stated that he is again busy with several meetings and tours this past month. He stated that he met with the Red River Water Shed, met with the Governor about the state outlet and discussed other alternatives. Went to Gimli, MB to meet with the International Water Institute. Belford mentioned that he would like to setup a tour for downstream participants to come up and see the Devils Lake Basin first hand and was wondering if the Joint Board would be interested in donating some money to that project. Joe stated that he thought between six and eight hundred dollars would be sufficient for the tour he is planning. Belford stated that he got together with Rick Anderson and Frith to discuss the what if planning.

TEST PROJECT UPDATE:

Frith stated that he had not received a report from NDSU for the past month. He also has not heard anything from the folks at NRCS concerning the money from the equipment sales. Board members ask about the equipment sales and Frith stated that all but three have it paid and Frith spoke to the ones who haven't and they stated that they would take care of by the end of the month. There was some discussion about putting the information along with the monthly and final reports of the Test Project from NDSU on the Joint Board's website, Frith state that he would look into doing so and check with the Drs. from NDSU to see if they had any objections in doing so.

TOLNA COULEE:

Frith stated he spoke with Mike Grafsgaard, Engineer for the City of Devils Lake and he said that work had to be halted in the coulee because of the wet conditions and that in order to finish up they may have to wait until freeze up. Frith did say that he has heard back from just 5 counties about utilizing the Tolna Coulee fund in supporting the City of Devils Lake four in favor and one against. The County that voted not to use the money for that reason was Walsh.

ESAP CONTRACTS:

Frith stated that the SWC had approved the ESAP contracts for an additional ten years with a similar increase in fund as the Sweetwater/Morrison contract received. Frith stated the there are two ESAP sites located in Benson County and asked what the board would like to do with them given the fact that Benson County is no longer a member of the Joint Board and the Joint Board had previously passed a motion stating that no projects would be done in Benson County as long as they are not a member of the Joint Board. Frith stated he mentioned this to Lee Klapprodt from the SWC and Lee had mentioned that he had hoped that the Joint Board would continue with those two ESAP sites for the betterment of the entire Devils Lake Basin. After much discussion it was decided that the project did benefit the entire basin and despite Benson County not being a member of the Joint Board the board would support those two ESAP sites. **Hawk moved that the Devils Lake Basin Joint Water Resource Board continue the ESAP contracts that are located within Benson County, second by Donohue, chairman Ash asked for a roll call vote. All representatives voted in the affirmative, there were no nay votes, motion carried unanimously.**

Board members asked about expanding the ESAP program and adding additional sites. Frith stated that Basin Engineer is working with one of the Test Project operators about creating a storage site that would qualify for the ESAP program and we have another site owner that would like to increase his storage capacity. Frith also stated that he has mentioned expanding the ESAP on the "Coffee Time" radio interviews he has done letting people know about the program and that we are looking for additional sites within the basin.

Ash asked Frith about creating a storage area on Cavanaugh Lake similar to the one at Sweetwater/Morrison. Ash stated that it seemed like a natural thing to do since the shoreline of Cavanaugh has steep sides and it seems that holding more water would not affect adjacent agricultural land. Frith said that he would contact some of the landowners to gauge the interest in a program like that and report back to the board at next month's meeting.

OTHER OLD BUSINESS:

NONE

NEW BUSINESS:

2010 WATER STEWARDSHIP AWARD NOMINATION INFORMATION:

Frith stated the Water Stewardship Award is scheduled to be given away again at the NDSU Extension Round Up in January 2010. He reminded the board that nominations are due on Monday, November 2nd and he showed the board the letter that will be sent to WRD, Extension Agents, NRSC, Game & Fish, County Commissions and Fish & Wildlife offices.

SOIL SALINITY SPECIALIST GRANT PROPOSAL:

Frith stated that Jill Haakenson from The Northern Plains Resource Conservation & Development Council contacted him about a grant proposal for a soil salinity specialist for northeastern North Dakota. Frith stated that Haakenson was unable to attend today's meeting but she had told Frith that they are applying for a 319 grant and are looking for additional sponsors. Frith passed out to the board the material that Haakenson had given him and stated that she would be available to present at the next board meeting if the board so desired. After looking through the material Frith passed out it was decided to have Frith invite Haakenson to the next board meeting.

WATER STORAGE DISCUSSION:

Frith mentioned that he was contacted by Charon Johnson, a Devils Lake Basin landowner. Mr. Johnson brought to Frith's & the SWC's attention a water storage plan that included landowners storing water on their property until the frost goes out. In the plan the landowners would be compensated for this storage and the benefits could be many, including replenishing soil moisture and sparing downstream landowners the blunt of the water all at once. Mike Noone from the SWC said that this plan had garnered the interest of Dale Frink, State Engineer as well. It was decided to have Frith work with SWC staff to gather more information and possibly come up with a plan for this type of project.

STATE CONVENTION REMINDER:

Frith stated that the ND Water Users State Convention is coming up and will be here before you know it. A block of rooms have been set aside at the Ramkota Hotel in Bismarck and individual WRD should have received the registration packet, if not Frith said he included one in the board members packets.

CORRESPONDANCE & MISCELLANEOUS:

Frith stated that there wasn't much for correspondence; also in the packet are lake levels and coulee flows, NDSU Crop & Livestock report as well as monthly precipitation report.

OTHER NEW BUSINESS:

The Board members discussed Joe Belford's request for dollars to put on a tour for downstream officials. **Heinz moved to approve \$500 towards a tour for Mr. Belford, second by Tweed, motion carried unanimously.**

BASIN BOARD REPORTS:

Cavalier County Gellner said it has been pretty slow, they have had a couple of assessment drains, doing some cattail spraying and he is unsure of the progress of the Billings Lake issue but he believes that it is down to one landowner.

Eddy County: Tweed stated they will did not have their meeting yet and really has nothing to report.

Nelson County: Donohue stated that they did receive an emergency pumping permit from the SWC for the Michigan Spillway which flows into the Forest River. Other than that is has been quiet.

Pierce County: Hawk mentioned that they finished up installing 18 culverts in two days last week.

Ramsey County: Ash stated that they have been extremely busy with drain complaints, Dam & Drainage complaints. They had their meeting yesterday and thought it was going to be a short one but it ended up being over 4 hours long. They had FEMA out to look at some the project that the RCWRD have applied for. They are discussing the removal of the gates at Channel A since the water is high than the gates are now and to prevent future damage to the gates and the catwalk structure due to the ice and debris flowing into them.

Rolette County: Heinz reported that they have blown up a few beaver dams other than that it has been quiet.

Towner County: No Report

Walsh County: Shirek

STATE WATER COMMISSION REPORT:

Erwin Curry, P.E. stated that Devils Lake is a level of 1450.05 which is .2' lower than a month ago and Stump Lake is at 1450.09 which are also .2' lower than last month as well. The combined storage of the two lakes is 3.4 million acre feet a decrease of 38,000 from a month ago and 108,000 acre feet lower from the high of 1450.78 recorded in June of this year. Both Devils Lake & Stump Lake are 3.5' and 3.4' respectively higher than this time last year. The complete SWC monthly report will accompany the official minutes. Chairman Ash thanked Erwin for his presentation.

RED RIVER BASIN COMMISSION:

Frith mentioned that Julie had emailed her report to him and it is included in the board's packets. Julie then expounded on the report that she Email Frith, a copy of which will be included in the official minutes. Julie mentioned that their next board meeting will be in Grand Forks on October 1st at the Ramada Inn and invited the board members to attend. She also handed out the brochure on their annual conference to be held in January at the Alerus Center in Grand Forks. Frith asked if the board thought he should attend the conference and he stated that he attended the one last year in Winnipeg and found very informative. It was the consensus of the board members that Frith should attend the conference on behalf of the Joint Board. Chairman Ash thanked Julie for his presentation.

USF&W UPDATE:

No Report

NRCS REPORT:

Chris Nelson gave a report on behalf of NRSC. Chris went through what NRCS spent in the Devils Lake Basin and gave Frith the hand out which described the expenditures, a copy of which will be included in the official minutes. Chairman Ash thanked Chris for his presentation.

MANAGER'S REPORT:

Frith stated that his report was sent to the board members for their review and asked if they had any questions, no questions were asked, the manager's report would be included with the official minutes.

Chairman Ash thanked everyone for coming today and reminded everyone that the next Joint Board meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 14th at 8am at the Nelson County Courthouse in Lakota.

Date approved: **October 14th, 2009**

Duaine Ash, Chairman

Jeff W. Frith, Manager