

DEVILS LAKE BASIN JOINT WATER RESOURCE BOARD

Minutes of the regular monthly meeting held Wednesday, April 12th, 2017, Historical Meeting Room located on the lower level of the Ramsey County Courthouse, Devils Lake, ND.

Vice-Chairman Haakenson called the meeting to order at 9 am. A moment of silence was observed to honor and remember Robert Shirek who passed away on April 2nd. At the time of his death, Mr. Shirek was the current Chairman of the Devils Lake Basin Joint Water Resource Board and his leadership will be greatly missed.

The roll call of the counties was taken with the following representatives present.

Cavalier County	Larry Gellner
Eddy County	Mike Tweed
Nelson County	Mike Donohue
Pierce County	Duane Hawk
Ramsey County	Duaine Ash
Rolette County	Sherwood Haakenson
Towner County	Randy Benson
Walsh County	No Representative

Vice-Chairman Haakenson stated that minutes of the March 15th board meeting had been sent out and asked if everyone had an opportunity to read the minutes and if there were any corrections or additions. **Hawk moved to approve the minutes of the March 15th, 2017 meeting, second by Tweed, motion passed unanimously.**

The financial report for the month was presented:

31-Mar-17

ASSETS	
Administration	-\$2,913.52
Projects	\$10,432.19
Bremer-Checking Account - Other	-\$633.45
Total Bremer-Checking Account	\$6,885.22
Bremer Investment Account	
Administration	\$102,217.34
Pilot Project Fund	-\$1,109.50
Projects	\$168,735.65
TV Documentary	\$7,120.82
Upper Basin Test Project	\$11,746.45
Bremer Investment Account - Other	-\$8,875.23
Total Bremer Investment Account	\$279,835.53
WSB-ADMIN-CD	\$29,396.77
Total Checking/Savings	\$316,117.52
Total Current Assets	\$316,117.52
TOTAL ASSETS	\$316,117.52
Opening Bal Equity	\$40,201.71
Retained Earnings	\$151,112.67
Net Income	\$124,801.32
Total Equity	\$316,115.70
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	\$316,117.52

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

April 2017 Bills

The following list of bills was presented for payment:

April 2017 Bills	Amount	Ck #
Elaine's House of Dreams (Flowers for Shirek Memorial)	\$108.12	4213
Leevers Foods North (Meeting Expenses)	\$28.10	4214
NDTC (Website Hosting)	\$30.70	4215
Ramkota (Water Coalition/SWC Budget Hearing)	\$81.90	4216
Jeff Frith, (Manager Cell Phone Expense April 2017)	\$101.25	4217
Jeff Frith, (Manager March 2017 Travel Expense)	\$570.60	4217
Ramsey County Auditor: Rent	\$190.00	4218
Ramsey County Auditor: Pstg *	\$34.72	4218
Ramsey County Auditor: Telephone:	\$55.49	4218
Ramsey County Water Resource District (Copier Rent)	\$125.00	4219
Ramsey County Auditor	\$4,581.39	4220
ND PERs - Health Insurance	\$1,419.16	4221

* Includes \$20.00 Postage Meter Fee

Total Admin	\$7,326.43
<div style="background-color: black; width: 50px; height: 15px; display: inline-block;"></div> Total General Project	
Total	\$7,326.43

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

VISITORS & DELEGATIONS:

Vice-Chairman Haakenson recognized the visitors in attendance today and had board members introduce themselves. Haakenson asked if any of the visitors that were not on the agenda if they had anything for the board at this time. A list of those in attendance is included in the signup sheet.

AGENCY REPORTS:

RED RIVER BASIN COMMISSION: No Report, No Representative Present

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE: Frith presented what Greg Gust had sent him. They are doing some additional figuring and working with the Flood Prediction Center on an updated Lake Level Forecast that will be out later this month.

ND GAME & FISH: No Report, No Representative Present

NRCS: Paul Thompson, District Conservationist was in attendance and gave an update of the potential programs that are available through NRSC. Mr. Thompson also indicated a possibility of co-oping with the Joint Board on special projects such as buffer strips and the 319 projects as well as other that would benefit both entities and the area they serve.

AGENCY REPORTS CONTINUED:

US FISH & WILDLIFE: Matt Sprenger, District Manager is in attendance today and stated that he had nothing new to report today. Mr. Sprenger was asked about if they dealt with carp barrier East of Rock Lake. It was indicated that would an ND Game & Fish issue.

OLD BUSINESS:

SPRING LAKE LEVEL OUTLOOK:

Frith stated that he had spoken to Greg Gust with the National Weather Service and they will be issuing a new outlook towards the end of the month. It was agreed by all members present that it didn't appear to be as wet in the fields and coulees within their respective areas as early in the spring.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATES:

Frith stated that he has put together the legislative updates that he receives from the ND Water Coalition and that he also forwards those emails on as receives them each week. Frith also shared the letter prepared for the Red River Joint Water Board addressed to Governor Burgum asking for a veto on HB 1390 and HB 1374. Frith read the letter and the explanation of why the vetoes were being asked for.

Ash mad a motion that Frith send a similar letter to the Governor asking him for his veto on HB 1374 and HB 1390 on behalf of the Devils Lake Basin Joint Water Resource Board Members motion seconded by Hawk, motion passed unanimously.

DEVILS LAKE DOCUMENTARY UPDATE:

Frith stated that this topic was brought up during previous meetings discussing the possibility of doing a follow-up to the documentary series that the Joint Board had done with Prairie Public Television. The discussion is there enough interested to do another one. Frith stated that he spoke with Prairie Public and the prices would not change it was thirty-five thousand for a 30 minute and fifty-five thousand for a 60 minute. It was discussed and thought that it would be best to what the lake does as the spring/summer progresses and what kind of community support there would be for doing an update.

NEW OFFICE COMPUTER:

Frith stated that he has looked for computers and has some reservations about what to get and more specifically how much to spend. Frith stated that when he put together a similar computer, spec wise, as the one that he currently has the price jump to over three thousand dollars. Frith stated that when looking up what was spent previously it was well over that amount. It was pointed out that the computer has last 6 years so that is totally out of line. Frith stated that he would feel more comfortable with a recommendation or approval from the board on what to spend. **Ash made a motion for Frith to purchase a computer equal to or greater than the computer he now has seconded by Tweed, motion carried unanimously.**

OTHER OLD BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

WATER TOUR:

Frith stated that he still isn't sure of the route or the attractions yet this year but he is leaning towards going west of town and taking a look at the new fishing pier on Channel A then Penn, Churches Ferry discussing the buy-outs of those communities with a stop at Graham's Island State Park to tour their new visitors center with lunch at Woodland Resort again. For the afternoon it would be the East end outlet, Tolna Coulee control structure with a stop at East Bay Campgrounds Event Center to complete the tour. Or we could do the tour in reverse order starting on the east end.

MORRISON OUTLET STRUCTURE:

Frith stated that it has been brought to his attention that the Morrison Outlet structure may be bowed up or having other damages as the levels of the lake seems to be too high by a half a foot or so. Frith stated that he noticed last year that the lake never receded below a level of 1458.5 which is about a half a foot too high. At the time Frith thought that it might be just because of the wet conditions in the Edmore area and that flows were keeping the lake higher than normal. Frith recommended having an Engineer, possibly Tim Dodd, inspect the structure and the channel after the spring runoff when the water conditions allow.

BASIN FISH TRANSFER CONCERNS:

Frith said that he had conversations with Stanley Dick, a Munich area farmer, who has indicated that he believes that there could be a potential for a Carp transfer into the Devils Lake Basin via a waterway north of Munich. Frith pulled up the area and Cavalier County member Larry Gellner showed where the area is on the map, Gellner pointed out where the water comes from and where it is supposed to go but mentioned that it certainly could, if high enough, come into the Devils Lake Basin. Frith stated that it would be worth looking into.

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

DEVILS LAKE OUTLETS ADVISORY COMMITTEE:

Frith stated that the Governor and the State Water Commission have set the date for the Outlets Advisory Committee meeting for May 4th in Carrington.

CORRESPONDANCE & MISCELLANEOUS:

Frith stated that correspondence and miscellaneous items include the monthly moisture report and lake levels.

OTHER NEW BUSINESS:

Board Reorganization. With the passing of Chairman Shirek, the board needed to make a decision on how to fill that position. The Options were listed as either elect a new board chairman, appoint Vice-Chairman Haakenson to fulfill the remainder of Shirek's term & elect a new vice-chairman. Vice Chairman Haakenson stated that he would be willing to fulfill the remainder of Shirek's term as Chairman and asked the members what their thoughts were or if there was any volunteer for the vice-chairman position. Mike Tweed volunteered to be vice-chairman. **Benson made a motion nominating Haakenson to fulfill Shirek's position as Chairman for the remainder of 2017 and for Tweed to be elected as Vice-Chairman, seconded by Hawk, motion passed unanimously.**

STATE WATER COMMISSION REPORT: Tim Dodd reported:
Area Lake Levels* as of 4/10/2017 - (Increase since 3/10/17)

Devils Lake Elevation	-	1451.00 ft	-	(0.8 ft)
Area of Lake	-	156,000 acres	-	(7,200 ac)
Volume of Lake	-	2.98 million ac-ft	-	(122,000 ac-ft)
Stump Lake Elevation	-	1450.68 ft	-	(0.5 ft)
Area of Lake	-	16,200 acres	-	(190 ac)
Volume of Lake	-	555,000 ac-ft	-	(8,000 ac-ft)
Morrison Lake	-	1461.32 ft	-	(2.75 ft)
Dry Lake	-	1452.09 ft	-	(1.9 ft)

POTENTIAL 2017 Change in Elevation, Volume, and Area Based on NWS Forecast (3/21/2017)

Devils Lake at Creel Bay	80% Chance (1452.9)	50% Chance (1453.4)	10% Chance (1454.3)
Total Elevation	+ 1.9 ft	+ 2.4 ft	+ 3.3 ft
Total Volume	+ 346,000 ac-ft	+ 443,000 ac-ft	+ 626,000 ac-ft
Total Area	+ 19,500 ac	+ 25,200 ac	+ 36,000 ac

With rising temperatures, snow melt has caused the coulees to begin flowing and the lakes have been rising for the past two weeks. Peak lake level forecasts have declined since early in the year with slightly below average precipitation. Any additional spring and summer precipitation will control the peak elevation reached in 2017.

Outlet Updates

Snow weight has caused minor damage to the hand rails and monitoring equipment at the West Outlet and repairs and annual maintenance are currently occurring. The motor for the Josephine number 2 pump (50 cfs) is scheduled for return in early May and West Outlet discharges will be limited to 200 cfs max until the motor is re-installed.

The Sheyenne River peaked at 3,080 cfs at Cooperstown on April 9th. Outlet discharge will begin as soon as there is adequate capacity in the Sheyenne River and no downstream flooding is occurring. Notification will be sent out as usual when the outlets are started.

Tolna Coulee Control Structure

Additional stop logs will be added to the control structure to keep the stop logs approximately 1 foot below the water surface elevation as soon as the bays are free of ice.

Devils Lake Outlet Management Advisory Committee

A meeting of the Devils Lake Outlets Management Advisory Committee Meeting has been scheduled for Thursday, May 4, from 1:00 to 4:00PM, in Carrington, ND.

BASIN BOARD REPORTS:

Cavalier County: Gellner stated that they have been quiet, they had a few culverts washed out but other than that it has been a good spring. They are finally getting something moving with an assessment drain that goes into Canada, they have been working on that for 4 years.

Eddy County: Tweed stated that he doesn't have anything new to report.

Nelson County: Donohue stated that they are working on the Nash drain north of Petersburg and they also are continuing to work with Walsh County about the workings of the Michigan spillway.

Pierce County: Hawk reported that there isn't as much water as they originally expected which is good news and Hurricane Lake levels look real good.

Ramsey County: Ash stated that they continue to work with landowners and Cavalier County WRB on the possible Edmore Coulee assessment district for maintenance on that coulee. They had two meetings with the Cavalier County WRD members and they are awaiting for the landowners to get the petition submitted.

Rolette County: Haakenson reported that they pretty much have the same issues as everyone else, culverts on township roads that have been washed out but for the most part things look pretty good.

Towner County: Benson discussed the Bisbee Dam and was grateful that the repair work was completed before this spring as the water coming over the dam was significant. Benson shared pictures of the Dam which showcased all of the water moving over the spillway.

Walsh County:

MANAGER'S REPORT:

Frith gave the board an update on all the activities that he has been doing throughout the past month and what is to come for the rest of the month.

Vice-Chairman Haakenson thanked everyone for coming today and reminded everyone that the next Joint Board meeting will in Devils Lake on **Wednesday, May 10th**. Meeting was adjourned

Date approved: **May 10th, 2017**

Sherwood Haakenson, Chairman

Jeff W. Frith, Manager