

DEVILS LAKE BASIN JOINT WATER RESOURCE BOARD

Minutes of the regular monthly meeting held Thursday, November 12th, 2009 at the Ostby Hall, Sheyenne, 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
Eddy County
Nelson County
Pierce County
Ramsey County
Rolette County
Towner County
Walsh County

Larry Gellner
Mike Tweed
Mike Donohue
Duane Hawk
Duaine Ash
Ron Heinz
John Elsperger
Bob Shirek

Chairman Ash stated that minutes of the October 14th 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. **Hawk moved to approve the minutes as of the September 9th meeting, second by Shirek, motion passed unanimously.**

The financial report for the month was presented:

Tweed moved to approve the financial report, second by Hawk, motion carried unanimously.

November, 2009 Bills

The following list of bills was presented for payment:

November, 2009	Amount
Leever's Count Market (Meeting Expense)	\$34.42
Jeff Frith - Manager's July Travel	\$120.80
NDTC (Website Hosting)	\$26.75
Ramsey County Auditor: Rent	\$190.00
Ramsey County Auditor: Pstg *	\$57.85
Ramsey County Auditor: Telephone: August - September	\$58.47
Ramsey County Auditor: copies	\$104.40
Ramsey County Water Resource District - Copier Rent	\$50.00
Surety Title Company (Annual Insurance)	\$1,643.00
ND SWC - Downstream August & September Expenses	\$908.21
USGS - Stream Stats Website	\$2,500.00
ND State Water Commission 3rd Quarter Engineering	\$2,500.00
ND PERs - Health Insurance	\$1,037.16
NDSU TEST PROJECT	\$17,389.65

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

OLD BUSINESS:

DOWNSTREAM REPORT:

Chairman Ash state that Belford asked if he could be put on the agenda first as he has to leave early to head to Bismarck for the State Water Commission meeting later today as well as a meeting with Dennis Fewless from the State Health Department. Belford stated that he had been very busy again meeting with various people downstream discussing the Devils Lake situation and listening to their concerns. Belford mentioned he will be going to Valley City as well as Winnipeg to meet with officials from those communities later this month. Belford discussed the Devils Lake Task Force meeting that was held in Devils Lake on the 26th of October. He was in Lisbon a presented to their Kiwanis club.

TEST PROJECT – PILOT PROJECT UPDATES:

Frith stated that the monthly report from Dr. Hopkins, Soil Scientist from NDSU was included in the board's packets. Dr. Hopkins stated that they are wrapping up their activities for the year and removing the testing equipment from the various sites. Frith was asked about the ATVs that the board has for the Test Project and Frith stated that he wasn't sure if NDSU had used them or not this year, that after they were serviced this past spring they went back to the Ramsey County Highway Department's lot. Frith stated that the board will have to determine what to do with the ATVs especially if the project does not continue. Frith stated that all the pivots have been paid for with 8 of the ten landowners purchasing the equipment and KT Irrigation, the wholesaler for the project purchasing the remaining two. Frith said that the money from the pivot sales is

TEST PROJECT – PILOT PROJECT UPDATES CONTINUED:

sitting in the bank waiting for a resolution between North Central Planning and NRSC, he did mention that Mr. Anderson from NCP thought a resolution favoring the Joint Board would be coming soon. Frith stated that he traveled to Carrington to the Upper Sheyenne Joint Board meeting to give them an update on the Test Project and talk to them about the idea the DL Joint Board is kicking around about irrigating along the state outlet channel

TESTPROJECT – PILOT PROJECT UPDATE CONTINUED:

and along the Sheyenne River from the outlet towards Cooperstown. Frith stated that he had asked Jerry Shae from Bartlett & West to accompany him to the meeting to provide answers to any technical questions. Frith said that the Upper Sheyenne Board vote to support the DL Joint Board in looking into the possibility of irrigation in that area. Frith said that he would like the board to make a decision in regards to the Pilot Project, where its direction should be going and a timeline to get there. Frith suggested that if the board is interested in pursuing expanding the Test Project to the areas along the state outlet and the Sheyenne River they should have Bartlett & West determine if that will fit within the original scope of the Pilot Project and come up with a scope of work along with a time line and budget for doing so. **Tweed moved to have Bartlett & West check to see if moving the Pilot Project from the upper basin to the areas along the state outlet and along the Sheyenne River towards Cooperstown will fit with the original scope of the project, come up with a work plan, budget and timeline for that type of project as well as long term water supply issues, second by Hawk, motion carried unanimously.**

TOLNA COULEE:

Frith mentioned that has everyone knows what the city of Devils Lake is doing in regards to the Tolna Coulee and the removal of the one foot of sedimentation that the State Engineer has stated could be removed. Now the City of Devils Lake has written to the State Engineer asking permission to removal of an additional 5 feet of sedimentation they are also looking at an independent study of the sedimentation as well.

ESAP CONTRACTS:

Frith asked Noone how the contract at the state level were proceeding and Noone apologized that it was taking so long but he is awaiting answers from the various federal agencies involved in dealing with the wetlands issues concerning the contract. Noone stated that we certainly don't want to jump to gun in sending out the contract before the federal agencies sign off on them.

2010 WATER STEWARDSHIP AWARD NOMINATION INFORMATION:

Frith stated that the nominations ceased on Monday, November 2nd and that in order to keep the winner secret he would divulge the nominees. He reminded the board that the award will be presented on Wednesday, January 6th at 1pm during the Ramsey County Extension Round-Up.

STATE CONVENTION REMINDER:

Frith stated that he know the board is well aware of the upcoming State Convention in Bismarck next month and just want to make sure that everyone who plans on attending has their reservations.

WATER STORAGE DISCUSSION:

Frith mentioned that he received some points of interest; areas that could possibly work for testing the concept of storing water in the spring until the frost go out. He stated that he marked the areas on a map and forwarded them to the basin engineer for his review. Frith pointed to the Grand forks Herald article in the board's packets entitled "Corps: Waffle Plan might work, but political hurdles stand in way" and that it may sum up many of the problems that the board might face.

OTHER OLD BUSINESS:

SOIL SALINITY SPECIALIST:

Frith mentioned that he received a letter stating that there has been a meeting scheduled to discuss the Salinity Specialist position that the Joint Board voted to support at last months meeting. Frith stated that the letter asked for a representative and chairman Ash asked if there was a volunteer from the Joint Board that would be able to represent the board at next weeks meeting. Tweed said that he would be able to make it and all members agreed to have Tweed represent the Joint Board.

SWEETWATER/MORRISON STORAGE LOGS:

Frith stated that the storage logs at the Morrison control structure have been removed and reminded the board of the 3 logs that were damaged by ice last spring. Frith said that no one seems to remember where the replacement logs are being stored at so he was wondering how many he should order, just the three that are needed or order more to have some replacements on hand. One of the concerns the board had was where the extra logs were to be stored so the same thing doesn't happen again. Frith stated that he would store them at his residence and also put a mention of where the logs are in the Morrison Channel Recap report. **Gellner moved that the board order six logs, three to replace the one that were damaged and three as extras to have on hand, second by Hawk, motion carried unanimously.**

NEW BUSINESS:

2010 MEETING & WATER TOUR DATES:

Frith stated that at last meeting when discussing the 2010 schedule and tour date the board only decided on the tour date. Frith stated that the reason he brought it up was that he noticed that Towner County will have two meetings next year because of Benson County not being a member and not meeting any longer in Minnewaukan and wondering if the board would like to change that or any location. It was decided that what Frith had scheduled was just fine.

CORRESPONDANCE & MISCELLANEOUS:

Frith stated that there are several newspaper articles and editorials included in the board member's packets, also in their packets are lake levels and coulee flows, monthly moisture reports, NDSU Crop & Livestock report and top soil reports.

OTHER NEW BUSINESS:

None

BASIN BOARD REPORTS:

Cavalier County Gellner reported that things have been pretty quiet, they have replaced a few culverts that were damaged from last spring, other than that people have been busy trying to finish up with harvest.

Eddy County: Tweed stated that they received the sign for the Sheyenne Dam that list all the partners on the project and that should be installed soon. They have put the Warwick Dam project on hold and have sent a letter to the SWC in that regards.

Nelson County: Donohue stated that they are still pumping water north of Michigan and it does seem to be helping.

Pierce County: Hawk stated that they are dealing with beaver dams, .

Ramsey County: Ash stated that it was quiet and a fairly short meeting compared to the previous months. .

Rolette County: Heinz reported that they have had a few request for culverts, help with home made dam, other than that it has been pretty quiet.

Towner County: Elesperger stated that their water board spent the last meeting acting as referees because of water complaints. Elesperger also mentioned that there isn't very much storage in the upper basin, in there county anyways.

Walsh County: Shirek reported working general water issues plus a few dike/dam and drainage complaints and permits.

STATE WATER COMMISSION REPORT:

Erwin Curry, P.E. stated that Devils Lake is at a level of 1449.93' which is .10' lower than a month ago and Stump Lake is at 1450.08' which are also .05' lower than last month as well. The combined storage of the two lakes is 3.7 million acre feet a decrease of 17,000 from a month ago. Mr. Curry added that the State Outlet removed 27,000 acre feet of water this past year which equates to about 2" off of the lake.

The complete SWC monthly report will accompany the official minutes. Chairman Ash thanked Erwin for his presentation.

RED RIVER BASIN COMMISSION:

Julie reported that they are working on their long term flood solutions project/plan and have been holding public flood forums around the basin getting public input on flooding, the impacts that people faced and recommendations on how to alleviate the flooding situations. She passed out a sample agenda and said that they modify the agenda based on where the meeting is held so that it pertains to that area. She said they also have a flood survey that they are gathering data from and reminded the board that it is short and simple to fill out and they would appreciate getting as many of the surveys back as possible. Julie also mentioned the upcoming conference to be held in January in Grand

RED RIVER BASIN COMMISSION CONTINUED:

Forks with the focus on flooding and mentioned that Frith will be a presenter at the conference. Frith stated that he will be contacting each county's Emergency Managers, and Highway Department personnel to get dollar amounts that each county faced because of the spring flooding. Chairman Ash thanked Julie for her report.

USF&W UPDATE:

No Report

NRCS REPORT:

Chris Nelson said that he didn't have too much for us today but did have some numbers on program enrollments with in the basin thus far. Chris went over the programs and their cut off dates as well, he said that he will send Firth his report. A copy of Nelson's report will be included in the official minutes

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 during the State Water Convention in Bismarck on Thursday, December 10th at 11:30am at the Sheyenne Room located on the lower level of the Ramkota Hotel.

Date approved: **December 10th, 2009**

Duaine Ash, Chairman

Jeff W. Frith, Manager