

DEVILS LAKE BASIN JOINT WATER RESOURCE BOARD

Minutes of the regular monthly meeting held Wednesday, June 10th, 2009 at Wolford School, Wolford, 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	John Elsperger
Walsh County	Bob Shirek

Others present: See list attached to original minutes.

Chairman Ash stated that the minutes were not sent out to board members and asked Frith to read through the minutes, after Frith finished Ash asked if anyone had any additions or corrections. There was some corrections pointed out by board members and after the corrections were made; **Heinz moved to approve the minutes as corrected of the May 13th meeting, second by Tweed, motion passed unanimously.**

The financial report for the month was presented:

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

JUNE, 2009 Bills

The following list of bills was presented for payment:

NDTC (Website Hosting)	\$26.75	3134
Leavers County Market - Meeting Supplies	\$28.80	3135
Ramsey County Auditor: Rent	\$190.00	3136
Ramsey County Auditor: Pstg *	\$67.58	3136
Ramsey County Auditor: Telephone: February -March	\$77.82	3136
Ramsey County Auditor: copies	\$162.00	3136
Ramsey County Water Resource District - Copier Rent	\$50.00	3137
Hoiberg's Office Sully & Printing - Office Supplies	\$98.46	3138
Joe's Sports Center - Test Project ATV Service	\$544.95	3140
ND PERs - Health Insurance	\$1,036.88	3141
Michael Connor - 10.5hrs Consulting Work	\$525.00	3142
Barry Hause - NDSU TEST PROJECT HOUSE RENTAL JUNE 09	\$400.00	3143
Barry Hause - NDSU TEST PROJECT HOUSE RENTAL JULY 09	\$400.00	3144

* Includes \$20.00 Postage Meter Fee

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

TEST PROJECT UPDATE:

Chairman Ash introduced Dr. Dean Steele from NDSU who handed out the “Final Report”. Dr. Steele stated that since the report is so extensive & lengthy it might be better if the board members had sometime to go through the report and have NDSU come back at a later date to discuss the report and answer any questions that come up. Both Chairman Ash & Frith thanked Dr. Steele for coming to the meeting and presenting the report. Chairman Ash asked if anyone had any questions for Dr. Steele? Mike Tweed asked what was the bottom line. Dr. Steele stated from a water usage standpoint the Test Project found that they did not use as much water as anticipated. He mentioned that on particular soils certainly utilized more water than others; particularly the Maddock soils which are scarce in the basin but certainly show potential for irrigation.

7th ANNUAL JOINT BOARD TOUR:

Frith reported on the progress of the upcoming tour and passed out the tentative schedule and map. Frith also stated Hawk was going to show him a potential route that would bring the tour up to the Hawk Museum that would highlight the most water on the way. Frith encouraged the other board members to do the same. Frith stated that he has been working with Jean Schafer from the Water Education Foundation and it appears that everything from the busses to the nametags and the door prizes are all in place. Frith stated that it is possible that all the members of the State Water Commission and possibly the Governor may be taking in the tour.

2010 ANNUAL BUDGET –FINAL REVIEW & APPROVAL:

Frith passed out the Final Budget for the board’s review; Frith reminded the board that because of the way the county budget timeline is the Joint Board’s budget must be submitted to county auditors by July 1st. Chairman Ash asked if anyone had any questions. Tweed asked whether or not we should increase the advertising budget to be more pro-active in what the Joint Board is doing and the various projects we are working on. It was stated that we are already doing some of those things through the website and the radio interviews the manager is doing. It was also pointed out that advertising, especially region or statewide can be very expensive and was decided to investigate the cost and benefits for next year’s budget. **Hawk moved to finalize the 2010 Devils Lake Joint Water Resource Budget, second by Heinz, motion carried unanimously.**

ESAP STORAGE PROGRAM UPDATE:

Frith stated that because of the wet conditions this spring and working around people’s schedules the ESAP site have not been inspected as of yet but himself along with Mike Noone and Erwin Curry from the SWC will be doing site inspection today and tomorrow. Frith also stated that he has asked the SWC to fund the project for an additional 10 years and will be asking for a similar increase as the Sweetwater/Morrison contract.

DOWNSTREAM ACCEPTANCE PROGRAM COST SHARE:

Frith passed out a letter addressed to the SWC asking for their assistance in cost sharing the Downstream Acceptance Program with the Joint Board. Frith stated that the Joint Board picks up \$10,000 of the \$45,000 Acceptance Program total cost. **Hawk moved to approve the letter to the SWC stating that the Joint Board will participate in the cost share of the Downstream Acceptance Program, second by Tweed, motion carried unanimously.**

OFFICE COST SHARE CONTRACT WITH SWC:

Frith passed out the letter addressed to the State Water Commission asking for their continued cooperation and cost sharing with the Joint Board's Administrative costs. Frith pointed out that he has asked for a slight increase from the SCW from \$26,000 to \$30,000 maximum per year for a two-year total of \$60,000 maximum. Gellner Moved to approve the letter Frith had drafted for the cost share contract with the SWC, second by Elsperger, motion carried unanimously.

TOLNA COULEE CLEANOUT:

Frith stated that at the last meeting the board approved sending a letter to SWC State Engineer requesting that the State remove the foot or foot and half of sedimentation that the State Engineer had previously state could be removed without a permit. Since Mr. Frink was in attendance Frith asked if he had a response yet. Mr. Frink state that he did have one in draft format and the official letter should arrive to the board soon. He did mention that he didn't think that the state would remove that though and that they would still stand by the 2002 letter stating that the coulee could me maintained to a level of 1458 without requiring a permit. Frith stated that in talks with the City of Devils Lake they did mention that regardless of what the SWC decided they themselves would be interested in doing the work and they would just require that directive to be given to them by either the Joint Board or the Nelson County WRD or both.

OTHER OLD BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

COMPUTER UPDATE:

Frith advised the board that the office computer was running extremely slow and that the CD-ROM Drive had stopped working. He told the board that he had ordered 4Gb of RAM for the computer which should really improve the speed of the computer and a new DVD/CD-ROM drive from Dell Computer for less than \$200.

ESAP CD RENEWAL:

Frith mentioned that the ESAP CD at the First State Bank of Munich had matured with a little over \$39,000 and of that the Joint Board had to pay the ESAP contracts in the amount of 12,7885. Frith asked the board what they would prefer doing with the remainder of the ESAP funds? Either reinvest in a 12 month CD or put the money into the Mutual Funds Account at Bremer. Frith mentioned the CD rates varied from 2.00% to 2.25%. It was brought up that Western State Bank had an 11 month CD at the 2.25% interest with the option of changing the interest once without penalty. Chairman Ash thought that the flexible CD at Western sounded like a good deal. **Hawk moved that Frith reinvest the ESAP money into an 11 month CD at Western State Bank, second by Gellner, motion carried unanimously.**

OTHER NEW BUSINESS:

Devils Lake Elevation Committee – Joe Belford reported that the Elevation committee met on June 10th and after much discussion they decided to adopt a Devils Lake elevation of 1446.00’ MASL based on the natural elevation between Devils Lake & Stump Lake. **Elsperger moved to support the Devils Lake Elevation Committee’s elevation of 1446 feet, second by Hawk, motion carried unanimously.**

BASIN BOARD REPORTS:

Cavalier County Gellner stated that they are getting the roads, bridges and culverts back in shape. They haven’t heard anything about the carp issue. Gellner mention that the western part of the county seemed drier than the eastern. He also mentioned that a group of landowners have hired a lawyer to look into putting a bigger culvert in Highway 66.

Eddy County: Tweed mentioned that their board met yesterday. Culverts needs replacing, roads are in need of repair especially in the Hamar area and mentioned that they would like to have Erwin come by and take a look at that area

Nelson County: Donohue reported that they have a lot of problems. They had a meeting with the city of Michigan and they are waiting for a permit to get rid of the water that keeps backing up into the city.

Pierce County: Hawk reported that it has been fairly quiet. There need to be a lot of work to be done on culverts & roads like everyone else. He mentioned that Hurricane Lake is down but still flowing.

Ramsey County: Ash reported that they met yesterday and again they had a very interesting meeting with a lot of people stopping in with water problems. They also spent a lot of time discussing Tolna Coulee and what should be done with that project. They are going to try to meet with both the City of Devils Lake and the Ramsey County Commission to let them both know what the WRB is thinking when it comes to that project.

Rolette County: Heinz reported that it has been quiet there are a lot of people still trying to get a crop in and that could explain why it has been so quiet. He did mention like the other counties Rolette is also trying to get their roads and culverts back in shape after a ruff winter and spring.

BASIN REPORTS CONTINUED:

Towner County: Elspenger reported that they are working to repair all the culverts and roads that were damaged by the spring flooding. They are also working with NRCS on another water restoration project similar to the New City/Zion Township project that is part of the water tour.

Walsh County: Shirek reported that they have water problems all over the county and it is especially bad in Western Walsh County. They will be having their O & M inspections on the 22nd & 23rd but they should go fine.

RED RIVER BASIN COMMISSION:

Joe reported to the board on behalf of Julie: Joe stated that the RRBC held their meeting and toured the Devils Lake area. He stated that people were amazed at the amount of water in the basin and it really opened a lot people's eyes.

STATE WATER COMMISSION REPORT:

Erwin Curry, P.E. Presented the SWC report for May; a copy of his report is attached to the official minutes. Erwin stated that the level of Devils Lake was 4 tenths high then the previous month and is currently at 1447.61 and combined Devils Lake & Stump Lake were storing 3 million acre-feet of water.

USF&W UPDATE:

No Report

NRCS REPORT:

No Report

DOWNSTREAM ACCEPTANCE REPORT:

Joe Belford gave the report for the Downstream Acceptance Program he spent an awful lot of time working on county business as he maintains the Roads Portfolio. He mention that Ramsey County had over 720 roads that need repair. He also stated that he has been doing a lot of work with the Roads Acting as Dikes issue and working with the City of Devils Lake on the Dike Re-Alignment project as well. He went downstream to Lisbon, Cooperstown and Valley City and those people are pledging their support to the people of Devils Lake and they see the potential for a future disaster. He then showed a short video presentation that the Army Corp put together of what if Devils Lake goes out on it own.

MANAGER'S REPORT:

Frith stated that in his haste he forgot to include his monthly report and proceeded to give a verbal report of the activities during the past month.

Date approved: **July 15th, 2009**

Duaine Ash, Chairman

Jeff W. Frith, Manager