

DEVILS LAKE BASIN JOINT WATER RESOURCE BOARD

Minutes of the regular monthly meeting held Wednesday, September 13th, 2023, Historical Meeting Room, Ramsey County Courthouse, Devils Lake, ND, and Online via GoToMeeting.

Chairman Dave Sateren called the meeting to order at 8:02 AM. Roll call of the counties was taken.

Cavalier County	Van Howatt
Eddy County	Mike Tweed
Nelson County	Dave Sateren
Pierce County	Floyd Slaubaugh
Ramsey County	Duaine Ash
Towner County	Randy Benson
Walsh County	Albin Jallo

APPROVE AGENDA:

Sateren asked if anyone had any additional items for today's agenda. **Frith asked to add banking discussion to new business on the agenda. Tweed made a motion to approve the agenda by adding banking discussion, seconded by Slaubaugh, motion carried unanimously.**

APPROVAL of MINUTES:

Sateren asked if everyone had an opportunity to read the minutes from August 9th, 2023 and if there were any corrections or additions. **Ash made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 9th, 2023, meeting, seconded by Jallo, motion carried unanimously.**

The financial report for the month was presented:

Devils Lake Basin Joint Board Balance Sheet

As of August 31, 2023

	Total
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Bank Accounts	
Total Bremer Investment Account	\$ 247,208.74
Total Bremer-Checking Account	\$ 6,761.35
Total Bank Accounts	\$ 253,970.09
Other Current Assets	
Office Cash	0.00
Total Other Current Assets	\$ 0.00
Total Current Assets	\$ 253,970.09
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 253,970.09
LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	
Liabilities	
Long-Term Liabilities	
Equity	
Opening Bal Equity	69,570.78
Retained Earnings	151,141.30
Net Income	33,256.19
Total Equity	\$ 253,968.27
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	\$ 253,970.09

Frith did mention that he switched from QuickBooks Desktop to QuickBooks Online, so the reports do look different but provide the same information. **Benson made a motion to approve the August 2023 financial reports; seconded by Ash. Motion carried unanimously.**

APPROVAL of MONTHLY BILLS for September 2023:

September 2023 Bills		Amount	Ck #
NDC - Website Hosting		\$21.83	4944
Leevers - August Meeting Expenses		\$16.88	4945
Jeff Frith - Cell Phone Expense		\$101.25	4946
Jeff Frith -August 2023 Travel Expenses		\$262.90	4946
Lakota American - Annual Subscription Renewal		\$30.00	4947
Ramsey County Auditor: Rent		\$190.00	4948
Ramsey County Auditor - Postage		\$22.52	4848
Ramsey County Auditor: Telephone		\$55.49	4948
Ramsey County Water Resource District (Copier Rent)		\$125.00	4949
Ramsey County Water Resource District (Administrative Assistance)		\$300.00	4949
Ramsey County Auditor - Wages & Withholding Taxes		\$5,301.61	4951
Ramsey County Auditor - Health Insurance		\$2,062.94	4952
Intuit QuickBooks Online Monthly		\$45.00	
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center;"> <div style="width: 150px;"> <div style="background-color: yellow; width: 15px; height: 15px; margin-bottom: 5px;"></div> <div style="background-color: red; width: 15px; height: 15px; margin-bottom: 5px;"></div> </div> <div> <p>Total Admin</p> <p>Total General Project</p> </div> <div style="width: 150px;"> <p style="text-align: right;">\$8,535.42</p> <p style="text-align: right;">\$0.00</p> </div> </div>			
Total		\$8,535.42	

Frith mentioned the expense for QuickBooks Online will be coming out of the bank account directly. **Jallo made a motion to pay the September 2023 bills; seconded by Tweed. Motion carried unanimously.**

OTHERS PRESENT:

Stacy Peters-Ramsey County WRD Office Manager & Emily Fernan-US Fish & Wildlife. Online: Sindhuja Pillai-Grinolds and Yaping Chi, Department of Water Resources, Amanda Lee, Hydrologist, National Weather Service, Dani Quissell and Julie Ellingson, ND Water Users Association. Other online guests: Karen (did not respond to the board).

AGENCY REPORTS:

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE: Amanda Lee went over the report she provided. She mentioned it continues to be dry throughout the state. She mentioned the Non-Exceedance Outlook shows a 50% probability that the lake will be at 1448.8 with the drought conditions & the outlets pumping going into winter. She said the last Non-Exceedance Outlook comes out on the 28th.

Amanda mentioned that with the strong El Nino that will linger into the winter, we will see below-normal precipitation & warmer temperatures.

ND GAME & FISH: No one in attendance or updates provided.

NRCS: No one in attendance or updates provided.

AGENCY REPORTS CONTINUED:

US FISH & WILDLIFE: Emily Fernan was present and mentioned she had no real updates to give. She said at White Horse Hill, they continue to work on the handling facility. She mentioned the bison & elk at White Horse are getting bigger, and there are about 16 elk. Frith had mentioned he saw the moose out there, and she said yes, a moose has gotten in.

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES: Sindhuja Pillai-Grinolds & Yaping Chi were in attendance online. Yaping mentioned that the West End Outlet is at 200 cfs, and they had been experiencing overflow, they are looking to hire an engineering firm to investigate this once pumping is done for the year. The East End Outlet was at 150 cfs August 1st-24th due to water quality. She mentioned that combined for August 1st-24th the total output was 350 cfs, and currently combined is at 250 cfs. She said they did get the engineering information back regarding the CIP, and they are still working on it.

ND WATER ASSOCIATION: Dani Quissell mentioned she attended the kickoff meeting for the Water Topics Overview meeting. She said there are several new members on water topics. She mentioned there is a series of public meetings on the Importance of the Missouri River that will be presented by the Missouri River Joint Board. Meetings will be held in Linton, Fargo & Devils Lake. She mentioned the meeting in Devils Lake will be held on October 19th, 2023 at 7-8:30 PM at Lake Region State College. There was discussion on the Award Ceremony that is done at the December Water Conference but it was determined to keep everything the same for this year. It was mentioned that they do plan to print all bios for award winners, so it will be harder to keep as a surprise to the winners. The water conference will be held December 6-8th, with the reception the evening of December 5th.

OLD BUSINESS:

2024 WATER STEWARDSHIP AWARD: Frith mentioned that the news release was published in the Lakota America newspaper. He mentioned the deadline is October 31st, 2023. Tweed asked if a nomination could be to an individual doing drain tile & irrigation in his area, and Frith said yes.

JOINT BOARD BYLAWS: Frith mentioned he talked with Sean Fredericks, an attorney with Ohnstad Twichell, and he mentioned he is working with other joint boards, so there is consistency. He said Sean needs more time, but it will save the board money in the long run.

ECONOMIC ANALYSIS DISCUSSION: Frith kept this item on the agenda for further discussion. He mentioned he was not sure if this was something the joint board wanted to proceed with. He showed the information provided on an economic analysis that the Department of Water Resources had requested on Aquatic Nuisance Species. The results were ANS, specifically Zebra Mussels, would have an economic impact of \$81 million. After discussion, the board decided to table this & Frith mentioned bringing this back to each water board.

OTHER OLD BUSINESS: No other old business

NEW BUSINESS:

WEBSITE UPGRADE QUOTES: Frith mentioned he received 2 separate quotes from Josh from Creel Bay Digital. **Ash made a motion to proceed with the \$1400 proposal for an upgrade to the joint board's website, seconded by Jallo, motion carried unanimously.**

ANNUAL WATER CONFERENCE: Frith mentioned it is December 6th-8th in Bismarck. Julie Ellingson mentioned they plan to have something out at the beginning of October. This year will be the 60th year of the Water Conference.

IMPORTANCE OF THE MISSOURI RIVER: Frith mentioned the public meeting in Devils Lake will be on October 19th, 2023, at 7-8:30 PM at Lake Region State College. Frith pointed out that the Missouri River is the largest river in North Dakota, as far as annual flows, has 6 mainstem dams, flows through 7 states, and the reservoir systems was created for flood control, water supply, recreation, irrigation, hydropower, water quality, fish & wildlife, and navigation.

BANKING INFORMATION: Frith mentioned he received some information on pricing for services offered for online banking. To add another user to have access to online banking is \$15 per month. Frith mentioned he did provide Peters with the online banking information for helping with financials for the joint board. This item was tabled for further discussion at a later time.

Tweed had asked Frith and Peters what their office hours were, because he had stopped and no one was in the office. He asked with Frith's new role on the State Water Commission how much time is spent towards this. Frith mentioned his normal business hours are Monday-Friday 8 AM to 5 PM. Peters mentioned she is part-time with her normal business hours of Monday-Friday 8 AM to 2 PM. Tweed suggested for Frith to send a report every 2 weeks on what he is working on.

CORRESPONDENCE & MISCELLANEOUS: Frith mentioned he had forwarded the lake levels and precipitation amounts for August. Frith mentioned that the joint board got an invite for the Key Event, a big Lake Region College Foundation fundraiser. The theme this year is Rockin' 80's. It is \$60 per person, with the event being held at the Hofstad Ag Center on Friday, October 27th, 2023.

BASIN BOARD REPORTS:

Ramsey County: Ash mentioned that the water board had their meeting on September 5th. They just reviewed and gave updates on water complaints. He mentioned they need to repair a hole/culvert on Channel A. He mentioned their cattail spraying had been completed.

Walsh County: Jallo mentioned they had their board meeting yesterday. He said they have been working on permits for tile application and surfacing draining. He said landowners don't come in and see if what they are doing for draining is legal.

Eddy County: Tweed stated their water board met last week. He said the engineering firm's report came back and they stated there is no way to move the water in the New Rockford Canal from north to south. They are looking at how to move the water west. He said they are going to be looking at this option with the engineering firm. He said they will need a culvert through the railroad tracks. He said they are working on drainage permits with a landowner east of New Rockford who is putting in drain tile & irrigation systems. Tweed had mentioned that the Stump Lake Road project has been completed and dedicated.

Pierce County: Slaubaugh stated they are working on the waterway out of Rugby. He said there was a lot of cleaning out this fall. He said this project will take several years.

Towner County: Benson mentioned they had beaver dams up north in their county. He said get rid of the beavers before removing the dams because they build the dam back up fast. He said their cattail spraying has been completed with a drone like last year.

Nelson County: Sateren stated their board has been working on some complaints & working on a legal drain.

Cavalier County: Howatt mentioned the Dressen Drain did pass and it is moving forward. He said their county is very dry. He mentioned there is a conference call with Ramsey County regarding Ramsey County Drain #10. He said their cattail spraying has been completed.

MANAGER'S REPORT: Frith reported he will be out of the office tomorrow to attend the State Water Commission Orientation, and he had nothing further to report that wasn't covered in the meeting itself.

Meeting adjourned at 10:15 AM.

Approved October 11th, 2023:

Dave Sateren, Chairman

Jeff W. Frith, Manager