

DEVILS LAKE BASIN JOINT WATER RESOURCE BOARD

Minutes of the regular monthly meeting held Wednesday, October 11th, 2023, Historical Meeting Room, Ramsey County Courthouse, Devils Lake, ND, and Online via GoToMeeting.

Chairman Dave Sateren called the meeting to order at 8:01 AM. Roll call of the counties was taken.

Cavalier County	Van Howatt (absent)
Eddy County	Mike Tweed (absent)
Nelson County	Dave Sateren
Pierce County	Floyd Slaubaugh (absent)
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 manager review to New Business on the agenda. **Benson made a motion to approve the agenda with adding manager review to the agenda, seconded by Ash, motion carried unanimously.**

APPROVAL of MINUTES:

Sateren asked if everyone had an opportunity to read the minutes from September 13th, 2023, and if there were any corrections or additions. **Ash made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 13th, 2023, meeting, seconded by Jallo, motion carried unanimously.**

The financial report for the month was presented:
Balance Sheet
As of September 30, 2023

	TOTAL
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Bank Accounts	
Bremer Investment Account	239,743.04
Bremer-Checking Account	6,759.61
Total Bank Accounts	\$246,502.65
Other Current Assets	
Office Cash	0.00
Total Other Current Assets	\$0.00
Total Current Assets	\$246,502.65
TOTAL ASSETS	\$246,502.65
LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	
Liabilities	
Long-Term Liabilities	
Country Bank Test Project LOC	1.82
Total Long-Term Liabilities	\$1.82
Total Liabilities	\$1.82
Equity	
Opening Bal Equity	69,570.78
Retained Earnings	151,141.30
Net Income	25,788.75
Total Equity	\$246,500.83
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	\$246,502.65

Jallo made a motion to approve the September 2023 financial reports; seconded by Benson. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL of MONTHLY BILLS for October 2023:

	October 2023 Bills	Amount	Ck #
	NDTC - Website Hosting	\$21.83	4961
	Leevers - August Meeting Expenses	\$16.88	4953
	Jeff Frith - Cell Phone Expense	\$101.25	4956
	Devils Lake Journal - Annual Subscription Renewal	\$116.00	4950
	Towner County Record Herald	\$40.00	4954
	Ramsey County Auditor: Rent	\$190.00	4960
	Ramsey County Auditor - Postage	\$20.00	4960
	Ramsey County Auditor: Telephone	\$55.49	4960
	Ramsey County Water Resource District (Copier Rent)	\$125.00	4959
	Ramsey County Water Resource District (Administrative Assistance)	\$300.00	4959
	Ramsey County Auditor - Wages & Withholding Taxes	\$5,301.61	4958
	Ramsey County Auditor - Health Insurance	\$2,062.94	4957
	Intuit QuickBooks Online Monthly	\$45.00	
	USGS - Quarterly Stream Gauges	\$4,837.50	4955
	Total Admin	\$8,396.00	
	Total General Project	\$4,837.50	
	Total	\$13,233.50	

Frith mentioned he did get a yearly subscription to the Devils Lake Journal. **Ash made a motion to pay the October 2023 bills, seconded by Benson, motion carried unanimously.**

OTHERS PRESENT:

Stacy Peters-Ramsey County WRD Office Manager & Dave Azure-US Fish & Wildlife. Online: Sindhuja Pillai-Grinolds, Yaping Chi & Alexis Faber, Department of Water Resources, Amanda Lee, National Weather Service, Dani Quissell, ND Water Users Association. Other online guests: Suzie Kenner, Devils Lake Chamber of Commerce. Other guests present: Paul Becker & Alvina Ebensteiner, Ramsey County Fair Board.

AGENCY REPORTS:

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE: Amanda Lee went over the report she provided. She mentioned the Drought Monitor has improved with recent precipitation. She said the next outlook comes out tomorrow morning. She mentioned the 2023 Non-Exceedance Outlook for the lake level is evening out. She said the lake is currently at 1449.5, and may drop another 1/10 yet. She said it is interesting that one year ago, the lake level was 1449.5, the same level currently. She said there will be no more outlooks for this year. She said for the next 2 weeks, it looks like above-normal temperatures & below precipitation. The question was asked why there wasn't much evaporation on the lake with the dry temperatures. She was not sure. It was mentioned maybe with the smoke we had this summer or wind conditions.

AGENCY REPORTS CONTINUED:

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

NRCS: No one in attendance or updates provided.

US FISH & WILDLIFE: Dave Azure was present, and he said they are working on the Lambs Lake Refugee in Nelson County. He said a survey had been done yesterday and that he would contact Ben Varnson, Nelson County Water Board, to set up a meeting. He said the dam has been in operation for 85 years. He said Matt is working with the Cavalier County Water Board on a drain in Cavalier County and determining if the area is a natural or artificial drain. He said at White Horse Hill, they will be doing a tour route this Sunday, which will be the last for the year. He mentioned at White Horse Hill, they will be adding to the bison herd. He said they continue to work on the handling facility.

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES: Sindhuja Pillai-Grinolds, P.E., Yaping Chi & Alexis Faber were in attendance online. Yaping mentioned that the West End Outlet for September was at 200cfs, and will probably continue through to the end of October. She mentioned the East End Outlet did go from 75cfs to 50cfs due to water quality. She said on September 15th, the East End Outlet was shut off, dewatered & winterized. She mentioned for the CPI for the West End Outlet, they are still waiting for inspections to be completed this fall. They introduced Alexis Faber, a new member of the Department of Water Resources, to the board.

ND WATER ASSOCIATION: Dani Quissell went over the Policy Update information that was provided on October 6th, 2023. She said legislature will meet for a special session. She said she doesn't anticipate many water issues for discussion. She said the special session will be held to pass the OMB Budget, as well as other provisions in SB2015 and to discuss SB2372, counties to contribute a mill levy to a joint board. She did discuss the water conference. She said nominations are due tomorrow for Hall of Fame, Commodore & Water Wheel awards. She said they plan to have some really good speakers this year. She said everyone should be getting their registration in the mail, along with the voting delegate form for ND Water Users/ND Water Resource District Association/Irrigation Association, which can be brought to the conference.

OLD BUSINESS:

2024 WATER STEWARDSHIP AWARD: Frith mentioned the deadline is October 31st, 2023.

JOINT BOARD BYLAWS: Frith mentioned he talked with Sean Fredericks, attorney with Ohnstad Twichell, and he mentioned he is still working on the Bylaws. He said that Sean needs some more time, because there are questions regarding SB2372 with participation in joint boards.

WEBSITE UPGRADE: Frith mentioned there have been some updates to the website with additional partner links added. Josh will continue this week with adding past minutes, agendas and other items. He mentioned that Josh will have majority of the updates done by October 15th, 2023.

MISSOURI RIVER PUBLIC MEETINGS: Dani mentioned the importance of attending the Missouri River public meetings. The one held in Devils Lake will be Thursday, October 19th, 2023 at 7:00 PM at Lake Region State College.

OTHER OLD BUSINESS: No other old business

NEW BUSINESS:

ANNUAL WATER CONFERENCE: Frith mentioned he received a conference sponsorship form. The levels of sponsorship are Water Champion \$2000, Water Partner \$1250, & Water Supporter \$750. **Ash made a motion to sponsor the \$1250, seconded by Benson, motion carried unanimously.**

Frith also mentioned in years past, the joint board donated an ice fishing package at Woodland Resort for the silent auction for the Dushinske-Jamison Scholarship Endowment. **Benson motioned to donate the ice fishing package with Woodland Resort for the silent auction, seconded by Jallo, motion carried unanimously.**

RAMSEY COUNTY FAIR FOUNDATION: Paul Becker & Alvina Ebensteiner provided the board with a pamphlet outlining an event center the Fair Board is looking to build. The estimated cost is \$2.8 million dollars. Becker said they are requesting a grant of \$25,000 from the joint board, which could be pledged over years' time. They both mentioned they continue to apply for grants. They provided various events they look forward to conducting in the new event center. The joint board will discuss at next month's meeting & determine their pledge amount.

MANAGER REVIEW: Frith mentioned that the manager review will need to be done before next month's meeting, because any pay increase would have to be determined by December as January 2024 payroll is done in December 2023. It was determined that Howatt, Sateren & Ash would conduct the executive review at 8:30 AM before next month's meeting, November 8th, 2023.

CORRESPONDENCE & MISCELLANEOUS: Frith mentioned correspondence regarding the precipitation and lake levels he emailed. Frith mentioned some meetings coming up are State Water Commission (10/12/2023 in Grand Forks), Upper Sheyenne (10/18/2023 at 9 AM in Carrington), Missouri River (10/19/2023 in Devils Lake at Lake Region College at 7 PM) & Red River Basin Stream Gaging (11/15/2023 in Fargo).

BASIN BOARD REPORTS:

Ramsey County: Ash mentioned that the water board had their meeting on October 3rd. They reviewed and gave updates on water complaints. He mentioned they need to repair a hole/culvert on Channel A. He said there were some landowners with some concerns.

Walsh County: Jallo mentioned they continue to work on permits. He said yesterday, their board met with their lawyer regarding a project where a request was made to change the direction of a stream, take out trees, etc. He said it is being determined if this is legal.

Eddy County: Tweed was not present—no update provided.

Pierce County: Slaubaugh was not present. No update was provided.

Towner County: Benson mentioned it is slow in their area. He said they are working on some beaver dams. He said some Cavalier County Water Board members were at their meeting regarding a coulee.

Nelson County: Sateren stated they did not have a meeting last week & he had nothing to report.

Cavalier County: Howatt is not present. No update was provided.

MANAGER’S REPORT: Frith reported the upgrade to the NDAWN station in Webster would be done this afternoon. He mentioned the entire tower is being moved 1 mile south. He said the upgrade will also consist of a soil data gauge. He mentioned he has not heard anything from the Benson County Water Board or Rolette County Water Board on joining the joint board.

The meeting adjourned at 9:37 AM.

Approved November 8th, 2023:

Dave Sateren, Chairman

Jeff W. Frith, Manager

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