

DEVILS LAKE BASIN JOINT WATER RESOURCE BOARD

Minutes of the regular monthly meeting held Wednesday, February 14th, 2024, Historical Meeting Room, Ramsey County Courthouse, Devils Lake, ND, and Online via Teams.

Chairman Van Howatt called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM. Roll call of the counties was taken. All were present.

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

APPROVE AGENDA:

Howatt asked if anyone had any additional items for today's agenda. Frith asked to add postage & credit card to the agenda. **Sateren made a motion to approve the additional new item to the agenda, seconded by Slaubaugh, motion carried unanimously.**



APPROVAL of MINUTES:

Howatt asked if everyone had an opportunity to read the minutes from January 10th, 2024, and if there were any corrections or additions. Frith mentioned that the approved date should be February 14th, 2024, and signed by Van Howatt, Chairman. **Jallo made a motion to approve the changes to the minutes from January 10th, 2024, seconded by Ash, motion carried unanimously.**

The financial report for the month was presented:

Tweed made a motion to approve the January 2024 financial reports, seconded by Jallo, motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL of MONTHLY BILLS for February 2024:

February 2024 Bills		Amount	Ck #
NDTC - Website Hosting		\$20.75	4998
NDTC - Website Hosting		\$1.08	5004
Leevers - January Meeting Expense		\$16.88	4996
Ramkota - December Conference		\$436.00	4994
Jeff Frith - January 2024 Travel		\$255.20	4995
Jeff Frith - Cell Phone Expense		\$101.25	4995
Ramsey County Auditor: Rent		\$190.00	4999
Ramsey County Auditor - Postage		\$21.90	4999
Ramsey County Auditor: Telephone		\$55.49	4999
Ramsey County Water Resource District (Copier Rent)		\$125.00	5002
Ramsey County Water Resource District (Office Assistant Services)		\$300.00	5002
Ramsey County Auditor - Wages & Withholding Taxes		\$5,882.09	5000
Ramsey County Auditor - Health Insurance		\$2,062.94	5001
Intuit QuickBooks Online Monthly		\$45.00	ACH
NDAWN - Annual Service Contract		\$2,000.00	4997
USGS - Quarterly Stream Gage		\$4,837.50	5003
 Total Admin		\$9,513.58	
 Total General Project		\$6,837.50	
Total		\$16,351.08	

Ash made a motion to pay the February 2024 bills listed, seconded by Sateren, motion carried unanimously.

OTHERS PRESENT:

Stacy Peters, Ramsey County WRD Office Manager, Dave Azure-US Fish & Wildlife, & Brian Sea, ND Game & Fish. Online: Amanda Lee, National Weather Service, Sindhuja Pillai-Grinolds, Yaping Chi, Jeff Trana, Del Nordrum & Alexis Faber, all with the ND Department of Water Resources, Julie Beckstrand, Benson County Water Resource District, and Daryl Ritchison, Director of NDAWN.

AGENCY REPORTS:

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE: Amanda Lee, online, presented her report. She mentioned it has been quiet. She said the current lake level is 1449.1. She said the Lake Level Outlook is scheduled to come out tomorrow and another one on February 29th. Frith asked if anyone had heard about the Hunga-Tunga underwater volcano eruption. He said at the Extension Roundup this was discussed by Meteorologist Drew Lerner and that this may be contributing to the warmer temperatures.

ND GAME & FISH: Ben Sea was in attendance. He said they are working on a survey in Creel on Devils Lake to look at the harvesting. He said he does not have numbers to share yet. He mentioned they are just getting ready for spring. He said the stocking will be similar to last year. They are looking to stock more pike this year.

NRCS: No one in attendance or updates provided.

AGENCY REPORTS CONTINUED:

US FISH & WILDLIFE: Dave Azure was in attendance. He mentioned there was not a whole lot to report. He stated this time of year they attend training and meetings. He said for field season they are waiting to hear on the budget. He is waiting for the analysis for Lamb's Lake.

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES: Sindhuja Pillai-Grinolds, Yaping Chi, Jeff Trana, Del Nordrum, & Alexis Faber were in attendance, online. Yaping Chi mentioned that for the West End Outlet, they should receive a report on January 26th. She mentioned the finalized comments for the CIP is due at the end of February. She mentioned two engineering firms applied for the services for the East & West End Outlets in Devils Lake. Frith asked if the Devils Lake Fact Sheet on the website would have an additional chart and Sindhuja said yes. Yaping mentioned they are working with Frith on the Devils Lake Outlets Advisory Meeting date.

ND WATER ASSOCIATION: No one is in attendance. Frith mentioned that everyone should have gotten the Policy Updates and if you aren't receiving them to contact Julie Ellingson. He mentioned that the ND Water Directory is now online.

OLD BUSINESS:

AUTHORIZED SIGNATURES: Frith mentioned that the board should consider adding all board members as authorized signatures for the checking account & money market account. Frith asked for Peters to be added as well. **Jallo motioned to approve all board members and Stacy Peters to be authorized signees for the checking account and money market account, seconded by Slaubaugh, motion carried unanimously.**

WATER TOUR FOR 2024: Discussion was held for the water tour on June 20th, 2024. The idea is to start in Rugby, go to the Hawk Museum, and tile project by Slaubaugh. There was a discussion about checking with the Corrigidor in Walford to serve lunch or to cater lunch at the Hawk Museum. Frith will continue working with Julie Ellingson and Slaubaugh on the route. Frith will check on state rates at the Cobblestone Inn in Rugby.

OTHER OLD BUSINESS: No other old business

NEW BUSINESS:

NDAWN ALL SEASON PRECIPITATION ENHANCEMENTS: Daryl Ritchison attended the meeting online and mentioned he received additional funding to place 2 all-season gauges & shields at two places in the DL Basin. He was asking for feedback of the joint board on where they would like these installed this summer. He did mention that the Crary site would not work due to the size of the gauge. He said the cost of the all-season gauge is roughly \$6500, and the shield \$7500. He mentioned that McHenry, Langdon, and Baker would be receiving one this summer. He said Maddock currently has one. Some of the suggestions were Edmore and Brockett. He did mention that State Parks want NDAWN Stations, so there should be one at Graham's Island. He asked for the board to decide and Frith could just email him with the locations.

CORRESPONDENCE & MISCELLANEOUS: Frith stated he emailed out the brand-new County Maps that were provided by the Department of Water Resources. He said he received a “thank you” from the Ramsey County Fair Foundation for the donation provided by the Joint Board. He said Paul Becker did contact him and said the Joint Board had the option to sponsor an overhead door or comfort station based on the donation they provided. The board decided on no specific item for their sponsorship. Frith mentioned he received “thank you” from the Irrigation Association and Water Users for their sponsorship. Frith mentioned he also received a letter, along with the hearing information, on the Nelson County Hwy 19 Drain Project.

OTHER NEW BUSINESS: Frith reviewed the Water Management Plan letter from Andrea Travnicek. Frith mentioned that the State Water Commission approved \$14.8 million in cost share for water projects. He mentioned the range for the State Water Commission for cost shares is ranging from 35-65%, depending on the project. He mentioned that the Commission is hosting meetings this summer for the basins.

POSTAGE & CREDIT CARD: Frith mentioned that each month the joint board pays a meter charge of \$20 for the postage machine with the County. He said that he mails out about 2-5 pieces of mail per month. Frith stated he would like to discontinue the postage machine and just purchase stamps for the bills that go out each month. **Ash motioned to discontinue the postage meter and to buy a roll of Forever Stamps, seconded by Slaubaugh, motion carried unanimously.**

Frith also asked about applying for a company credit card through Bremer Bank for purchasing of the stamps and office supplies. **Ash motioned for Frith to apply for a company credit card through Bremer Bank, seconded by Tweed, motion carried unanimously.**

BASIN BOARD REPORTS:

Ramsey County: Ash mentioned that the water board had their meeting on the 6th. He mentioned it was a short meeting. He mentioned there was a discussion on Channel-A about the maintenance needed and how to proceed with the costs. He mentioned there was a meeting with the Cavalier County Water Board to discuss Ramsey County Drain #10.

Walsh County: Jallo mentioned they met yesterday. He said they worked on a plan to submit to the State Water Commission for some upcoming projects. He said they have landowners and township boards having some issues with one another.

Eddy County: Tweed mentioned they had their meeting last week. He said they just paid some bills with one being a \$15,000 one to a contractor for cleanout work. He said they had discussion on NDAWN sites.

Pierce County: Slaubaugh mentioned they met on the 5th. He said they did the last of the cleanout by Rugby. He said they are looking at purchasing equipment for their water board.

Towner County: Benson mentioned he was not at their meeting & had no update to give. He did mention for the water tour this summer if there was a need for catering that there is one out of Rolette (Brenda) that is good.

Nelson County: Sateren mentioned they met a week ago. He said they worked on a drain complaint.

Cavalier County: Howatt mentioned they had their meeting last week. He said that the landowner in Canada had more plugs than just the one they thought. He said they are working with the Canadian Water Board, but they have to go through a process, starting at the bottom of the ladder.

MANAGER'S REPORT: Frith mentioned he attended the Water Education Meeting on January 18th. He said last week he attended the State Water Commission online. He said Friday he'd be in Bismarck for the ND Water Users Association Strategic Planning meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 11:42 AM.

Approved March 13th, 2024:

Mike Tweed Vice Chairman

Van Howatt, Chairman

Jeff W. Frith

Jeff W. Frith, Manager

*on behalf of the
Chairman*

