

## ***DEVILS LAKE BASIN JOINT WATER RESOURCE BOARD***

Minutes of the regular monthly meeting held Wednesday, September 11th, 2024, in the Historical Meeting Room, Ramsey County Courthouse, Devils Lake, ND, and Online via Teams.

Vice-Chairman Mike Tweed called the meeting to order at 8:00 AM. Roll call of the counties was taken.



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

**APPROVE AGENDA:** Tweed asked if anyone had any additional items for today’s agenda. Frith asked for the 2023 Goals & Resolutions and Keith Burt to be added under New Business. **Ash made a motion to approve the agenda with the additional addendums, seconded by Jallo, motion carried unanimously.**

**APPROVAL of MINUTES:** Tweed asked if everyone had an opportunity to read the minutes from August 14th, 2024, and if there were any corrections or additions. **Ash made a motion to approve the August 14th, 2024 minutes, seconded by Benson, motion carried unanimously.**

**APPROVAL of FINANCIALS:** The financial reports were presented. **Jallo made a motion to approve the financial reports, seconded by Benson, motion carried unanimously.**

**APPROVAL of MONTHLY BILLS:**

September 2024 Bills	Amount	Ck #
Intuit QuickBooks Online Monthly	\$99.00	ACH
Creel Bay Digital - Website Update Maintenance	\$125.00	5066
Ramsey County Water Resource District (Copier Rent)	\$125.00	5060
Ramsey County Water Resource District (Office Assistant Services)	\$300.00	5060
Ramsey County Auditor: Rent	\$190.00	5061
Ramsey County Auditor: Telephone	\$55.49	5061
Ramsey County Auditor - Wages & Withholding Taxes	\$5,882.09	5062
Ramsey County Auditor - Health Insurance	\$2,062.94	5063
NDTC - Website Hosting	\$21.83	5064
Leevers - July Meeting Expense	\$17.10	5065
Jeff Frith - Cell Phone Expense	\$101.25	5068
Laktoa American - Yearly Subscription	\$30.00	5067
 Total Admin	\$9,009.70	
 Total General Project		
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$9,009.70</b>	

Frith mentioned that QB Online did increase as the sale price was for one year. **Ash made a motion to pay the August 2024 bills listed, seconded by Sateren, motion carried unanimously.**

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Stacy Peters-Ramsey County WRD Office Manager, Julie Ellingson, ND Water Association, Brian Volk, RCWRD, & Keith Burt, landowner. Online: Amanda Lee-National Weather Service, Andrea Travnicek, Yaping Chi & Alexis Faber, North Dakota Department of Water Resources.

**AGENCY REPORTS:**

**NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE:** Amanda Lee was in attendance online. She reviewed her report with the board members. She pointed out that the precipitation for June, July & August was above average. She mentioned she would get the YTD precipitation for the next meeting. She reported that the Non-Exceedance Outlook from the end of August showed 1449.9 ft, which is a bit higher than last year. She said the next Non-Exceedance Outlook report is to come out on September 26<sup>th</sup>, and it will be the last one of the season.

**ND GAME & FISH:** Bryan Sea was unable to attend. He informed Frith that he has not received the survey information for the Rock Lake Carp barrier yet.

**NRCS:** No one is in attendance, nor is an update provided.

**US FISH & WILDLIFE:** Dave Azure could not attend and stated to Frith that it is a relatively slow time for his agency.

**DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES:** Yaping Chi was in attendance online. She reported that the combined pumping for the East and West End Outlets was 400cfs. She did report that for six days (8/20/24-8/26/24), the pumps ran at 475cfs. She gave some Engineering updates. She did mention that the flow meter would need replacement this fall, and it could cause the pumps to be turned off for a couple of hours.

**ND WATER ASSOCIATION:** Julie Ellingson was in attendance.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**2025 WATER STEWARDSHIP AWARD:** Frith mentioned to start thinking of nominations for the Water Stewardship Award. He stated that the forms are available online. Frith noted that the deadline is November 1, 2024.

**ND ANS COMMITTEE:** Frith mentioned attending this in Valley City on September 10th. He said it was very interesting and that he would get a PowerPoint from Ben to share at the October meeting.

**WATER TOPICS OVERVIEW INTERIM COMMITTEE:** Frith mentioned that several topics pertaining to Water Resource Districts will be discussed at this meeting, which he will attend tomorrow in Fargo. He did present the agenda for this meeting.

**OTHER OLD BUSINESS:** No other old business.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**KEITH BURT (DRAIN QUESTIONS):** Keith Burt presented the board with some questions he had regarding drains in Section 34 & Section 21. He mentioned that his daughter owns this land and is trying to determine if she should rent or sell it. He asked who is responsible for the drains in these sections. The Joint Board members did inform him that his daughter can maintain these drains at her own expense. Brian

Volk, RCWRD, did mention to Keith Burt that he would want to contact him about the questions he has regarding these drains.

**REQUEST FOR SUPPORT OF RC WRD COMP PLAN:** Brian Volk discussed the importance of a Ramsey County Comprehensive Water Management Plan. Frith stated from a County Commissioner he sees that the water board needs to get the stakeholders and start a working group of discussion which includes partners at the state & federal levels. Volk asked the Joint Board about their involvement in this. There was much discussion on this, and stressed that a working group needs to be established for the conversations needed.

**ANNUAL WATER CONFERENCE:** Julie Ellingson told the joint board that she and Dani continue to work on the agenda. She mentioned some agenda items were the Legislative updates, Major Projects updates & Andrea Travnicek. She reminded everyone that the conference will be in Bismarck from December 10th to December 13th, and the joint board's meeting will be at noon on December 12<sup>th</sup>. She mentioned that the block rooms are available now. She also mentioned that the Upper Missouri would be meeting on October 15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup> in Montana. Ellingson informed the joint board that the Missouri Joint Board would be conducting meetings throughout the state coming up.

The discussion went into the 2023 Goals and resolutions, which are covered at the conference in December. These are goals and resolutions that are discussed, considered for adoption, and brought to the Legislature.

**COST SHARE REQUEST:** Frith mentioned he did receive the Cost Share Request from the Department of Water Resources for \$30,000 annually for administration costs for the Joint Board. **Jallo motioned to approve the Cost Share Request for \$30,000 for the Joint Board; seconded by Ash. Motion carried unanimously.**

Frith mentioned a cost share from the joint board for ANS support for educational information with the Devils Lake Basin. Frith will come up with some different ideas for the October meeting on how the joint board could assist. He did mention that Suzie Kenner, Chamber of Commerce, is still coming up with dollar amounts for the Wheelchairs & Walleyes project.

**MANAGER REVIEW COMMITTEE:** Frith mentioned it is getting to be that time of year for the Manager's Review. He mentioned previous it was Chairman, Vice-Chairman & last year's Chairman. Frith will get some wage scale information available for the committee.

**MORRISON OUTLET-WEBSTER CHANNEL:** Frith mentioned it was discussed some at last month's meeting & he is wondering if some cleaning should be done yet this fall. He said at Leet Road, right west of Hwy 20, there is a built up of sediment. He mentioned possibly checking with RCWRD about money for a contractor to come out and do some work in troubled areas to get better flow. He mentioned that the discharge area into Dry Lake is full of cattails.

**CORRESPONDENCE & MISCELLANEOUS:** Nothing to report.

**OTHER NEW BUSINESS:** No other new business.

**BASIN BOARD REPORTS:**

**Ramsey County:** Ash mentioned that their meeting was last week. He said the contractor completed the culvert repair at Channel A. He said the board reviewed some water complaints and worked with a group of landowners for a Snag & Clear in Lawton area. He said they reviewed the 2023 Goals & Resolutions and the RC Comprehensive Water Management Plan.

**Walsh County:** Jallo mentioned they have 3 high-hazard dams and are trying to determine what plan to accept for them. He mentioned the NRCS has a plan to build a road and pave for 3 miles. The County Superintendent and Commissioners are not in favor of that plan.

**Eddy County:** Tweed reported that their board discussed the Snag & Clear project at Johnson Lake. He said the lake dropped over 4 feet. He mentioned that Nelson County partially plugged to raise the lake level. He mentioned that a landowner wants to plug a drain, which they had problems with a few years ago, and their board advised landowners to resolve. He believes this is the same route they will inform the landowners to take this time.

**Pierce County:** Slaubaugh was not in attendance, and no updates were provided.

**Towner County:** Benson reported they did not have a meeting, so no updates to provide.


**Nelson County:** Sateren was not in attendance, and no updates were provided.

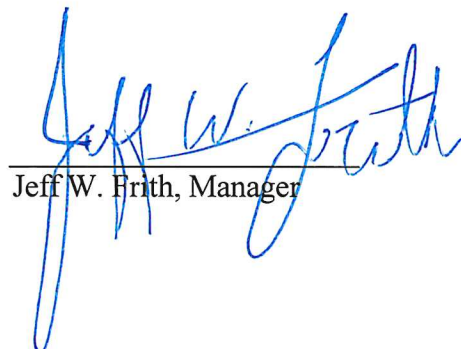
**Cavalier County:** Howatt is not in attendance, and no updates were provided.

**MANAGER'S REPORT:** Nothing to report.

The meeting adjourned at 10:16 AM.

Approved October 9th, 2024:

  
Mike Tweed, Vice-Chairman

  
Jeff W. Frith, Manager