

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

Minutes of the regular monthly meeting held Wednesday, January 8, 2025, in the Commission Meeting Room, Ramsey County Courthouse, Devils Lake, ND, and Online via Teams.

Chairman Mike Tweed called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM. Roll call of the counties was taken.

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

**APPROVE AGENDA:** Tweed asked if anyone had any additional items for today’s agenda. **Jallo made a motion to approve the agenda, seconded by Sateren, motion carried unanimously.**

**APPROVAL of MINUTES:** Tweed asked if everyone had an opportunity to read the minutes from December 12th, 2024 and if there were any corrections or additions. **Ash made a motion to approve the December 12th, 2024 minutes, seconded by Jallo, motion carried unanimously.**

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

**APPROVAL of MONTHLY BILLS:**

	January 2025 Bills	Amount	Ck #
Intuit QuickBooks Online Monthly		\$99.00	ACH
NDTC - Website Hosting		\$21.83	5107
Jeff Frith - Cell Phone Expense & December Travel		\$351.83	5108
Bismarck Hotel & Conference Center - Frith - Winter Conference		\$297.00	5109
Ramsey County Water Resource District (Copier Rent)		\$125.00	5110
Ramsey County Water Resource District (Office Assistant Services)		\$300.00	5110
Ramsey County Auditor: Rent		\$190.00	5111
Ramsey County Auditor: Telephone		\$55.49	5111
Ramsey County Auditor - Health Insurance		\$2,062.94	5112
Ramsey County Auditor - Wages & Withholding Taxes		\$6,176.20	5113
Creel Bay Digital - Web Hosting		\$300.00	5114
Walsh County Water Resource Board - Winter Conference		\$310.00	5115
Ramsey County WRD - Drain Cleaning Cost Share on Morrison Outlet		\$300.00	5116
Total Admin		\$10,589.29	
Total General Project		\$0.00	
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$10,589.29</b>	

**Ash made a motion to pay the January 2025 bills listed, seconded by Sateren, motion carried unanimously.**

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Stacy Peters-Ramsey County WRD Office Manager, Amanda Lee-National Weather Service, Brian Sea, ND Game & Fish, and Dave Azure & Cody Jundt-US Fish & Wildlife. Online: Yaping Chi, Sindhuja Pillai-Grinolds, & Jeff Trana, ND Department of Water Resources, Julie Ellingson & Jack Dwyer, ND Water Association, Garland Hoistad, landowner, Randy Schemioneck, RCWRD board member, Karen Haussmann, landowner, Dr. Taufique Mahmood, UND Professor, Jim Olson, Blue Water Consultant, and Michele Ostwald, Ramsey County IT Coordinator.

**AGENCY REPORTS:**

**NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE:** Amanda Lee was in attendance, but she was also online. She went over her monthly report, mentioning that the current lake level is 1449.4. She reported that the next Exceedance Outlook would be January 23, 2025.

**ND GAME & FISH:** Brian Sea was in attendance. He said this time of year is slower for them, and the fishing in Devils Lake is a little slower this year. He mentioned that there was a higher sale of licenses this month. He said they will start looking at hiring seasonal help.

**NRCS:** No one in attendance.

**US FISH & WILDLIFE:** Dave Azure was in attendance. He said they are still waiting for the 2025 Budget, which usually takes until about March. He said they are looking at a 4-7% budget cut. He introduced Cody Jundt, who works with landowners on evaluating land for easements.

**DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES:** Yaping Chi, P.E., was in attendance online. She mentioned two areas of focus: the sediment at the East End Outlet and the motors to be serviced. The question was asked about the Outlet Advisory Committee meeting in April or May, and the board agreed to try to have it in April. Sindhuja mentioned the news release of a new director of the Department of Water Resources, Reice Haase.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**ND WINTER CONFERENCE:** Julie Ellingson mentioned that some of the seminars are available on the YouTube channel. She also mentioned that attendance was up this year. The summer conference would be held in Devils Lake at the Spirit Lake Casino.

**PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Frith asked the board's thoughts on how to help spread the word on ANS. After discussion, it was determined to table this item for next month's meeting.

**ENGINEERING CONSULTANT SERVICES:** Frith discussed the engineering consultant option. Jim Olson was in attendance and stated he would be available as needed. After discussion, the board tabled this item for next month's meeting and requested Jim attend.

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

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES COMMITTEE APPOINTMENT:** Frith mentioned his term is up on this board. **Ash made a motion for Frith to remain on the Aquatic Invasive Species Committee, seconded by Sateren, motion carried unanimously.**

**RAMSEY COUNTY OFFICE AGREEMENT:** Frith stated that this is the same office agreement the Joint Board has had with Ramsey County for office space, payroll, and NDPERs services. **Sateren made a motion to approve the Ramsey County Office Agreement as is, seconded by Jallo, motion carried unanimously.**

**2024 YEAR-END BUDGET AMENDMENTS:** Frith and Peters reviewed the 2024 year-end budget, with board members indicating that no changes were necessary. No action was needed.

**DESIGNATE DEPOSITIRES:** Frith mentioned to the board that this is an annual formality of where the Joint Board does its banking and deposits all public funds. **Jallo made a motion to keep Bremer Bank, seconded by Slaubaugh, motion carried unanimously.**

**UNIVERSITY OF ND STUDY PROPOSAL:** Dr. Taufique Mahmood was online. He is looking to apply for a grant to study “Building a Framework for Resilience Assessment and Action Related to Climate and Land Management Practices in a Terminal Lake Basin.” He is looking for the support of the Joint Board for this study and was asking for a letter of support to apply for the grant. **Ash made a motion to support this proposal for a grant for the study, seconded by Jallo, motion carried unanimously.**

**LEGISLATIVE UPDATES:** Jack Dwyer was online to share some legislative updates with the joint board. He discussed various bills. One he mentioned was SB2118 with Stream Crossing Determination. He noted that last week, the Water Resource District Association requested the State Water Commission to increase the cost share percentage for conveyance projects from 45% to 75%. Dwyer stated that Legislative Updates will be a weekly feature from the ND Water Users Association and sent out via email.

**CORRESPONDENCE & MISCELLANEOUS:** Frith mentioned he received a ballot for the NDIRF board.

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

**BASIN BOARD REPORTS:**

**Ramsey County:** Ash mentioned they met yesterday. He said the RC Water Board has a new Chairman, John Martinson. He said there was discussion on Channel A culverts and the Lawton Coulee Snag & Clear.

**Walsh County:** Jallo mentioned they met yesterday. He said they are working on assessed drains, and some landowners are getting double-assessed.

**Eddy County:** Tweed mentioned they met yesterday. He said they are working on a water complaint from a landowner regarding plugging culverts.

**Pierce County:** Slaubaugh mentioned they had their meeting on Monday. He said they met with Benson County on a creek backing up into town, and he mentioned that Benson County needs to do some areas of cleanout.

**Towner County:** Benson mentioned they met yesterday and are working on an issue along the border.

**Nelson County:** Sateren mentioned at their last meeting that they had officer changes, and he is now the Chairman. He also mentioned that they hired a new secretary.

**Cavalier County:** Howatt disconnected before giving an update.

**MANAGER'S REPORT:** Frith mentioned he will be attending the Red River Convention next week. He also mentioned that the State Water Commission's pre-commission meeting is on January 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Meeting adjourned at 12:10 PM.

Approved February 12th, 2025:

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Mike Tweed, Chairman

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Jeff W. Frith, Manager