

DEVILS LAKE BASIN JOINT WATER RESOURCE BOARD

Minutes of the regular monthly meeting held Wednesday, March 9th, 2022, Basement Meeting Room, Ramsey County Courthouse, Devils Lake, ND and Online via GoToMeeting.

Chairman Duaine Ash called the meeting to order at 9am. Roll call of the counties was taken. Pierce County was absent, all other County Representatives were present.

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

APPROVE AGENDA:

Chairman Ash asked if anyone had any additional items for today's agenda. **Jallo made a motion to approve the agenda as presented, seconded by Sateren, motion passed unanimously.**

APPROVE MINUTES:

Chairman Ash asked if everyone had an opportunity to review the minutes of the February 9th meeting and if there were any changes. **Howatt made a motion to approve the minutes as presented, seconded by Tweed, motion carried unanimously.**

The financial report for the month was presented:

28-Feb-22

ASSETS

Current Assets

Checking/Savings

Administration - \$1,453.01

Projects \$17,041.95

Total Bremer-Checking Account \$14,955.49

Bremer Investment Account

Administration \$85,792.96

Pilot Project Fund \$8,279.58

Projects \$135,865.60

Bremer Investment Account -

Other -\$8,875.23

Total Bremer Investment Account \$221,062.91

Total Checking/Savings \$236,018.40

Total Current Assets \$236,018.40

TOTAL ASSETS \$236,018.40

LIABILITIES & EQUITY

Equity \$236,016.58

TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY \$236,018.40

Tweed moved to approve the financial report, second by Howatt, motion carried unanimously.

March, 2022 Bills

The following list of bills was presented for payment:

March 2022 Bills		Amount	Ck #
Leevers - February 2022 Meeting Expense		\$36.90	4780
NDTC - Website Hosting		\$20.73	4781
Jeff Frith - Cell Phone Expense		\$101.25	4782
Ramsey County Auditor: Rent		\$190.00	4783
Ramsey County Auditor - Postage		\$22.65	4783
Ramsey County Auditor: Telephone		\$55.49	4783
Ramsey County Water Resource District (Copier Rent)		\$125.00	4784
Ramsey County Auditor - Wages & Withholding Taxes		\$5,301.59	4785
Ramsey County Auditor - Health Insurance		\$1,794.14	4786
IWI (International Water Institute) LiDAR Products		\$20,530.00	4787
Total Admin		\$7,647.75	
Total General Project		\$20,530.00	

Total

\$28,177.75

Sateren moved to pay the bills as listed, second by Jallo, motion carried unanimously.

VISITORS & INTRODUCTIONS:

Chairman Ash asked if there were any visitors present other than those that are a part of the agenda, there was none.

AGENCY REPORTS:

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE: Amanda Lee, Service Hydrologist/Meteorologist with the National Weather Service Office in Grand Forks was unable to attend today's meeting but did provide a report which was shared with attending.

ND GAME & FISH: Randy Hiltner District Fisheries Supervisor was in attendance and provided a report of Game & Fish activities within the basin. Randy stated that they have completed doing oxygen level surveys on within the basin and unfortunately, they did find a few lakes that showed signs of winter kill, specifically the Bisbee Dam and Island Lake. Randy mentioned the possibility of a fishpond in Ruger Park that would provide accessible fishing within the city limits of Devils Lake.

NRCS: No NRCS representative present, no report provided.

US FISH & WILDLIFE: Dave Azure, Regional Wetland Manager was in attendance and introduced new Devils Lake District Manager, Emily Furnan, they provided an update to the activities the staff is working on. Dave stated that they have been busy sending out easement maps to areas primarily in the Nelson County area of the Devils Lake Basin.

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES: Jeff Trana, Devils Lake Outlet Manger joined the meeting online and gave an update of activities that they are working on this winter, including repairs to one of the 50 cfs pumps from the West End Outlet at Round Lake. Snow water equivalency sample were done in the Northwestern parts of the basin using the same GPS coordinates as in the past and the amounts have varied greatly.

OLD BUSINESS:

2022 WATER TOUR – POTENTIAL ROUTE & ITINERARY:

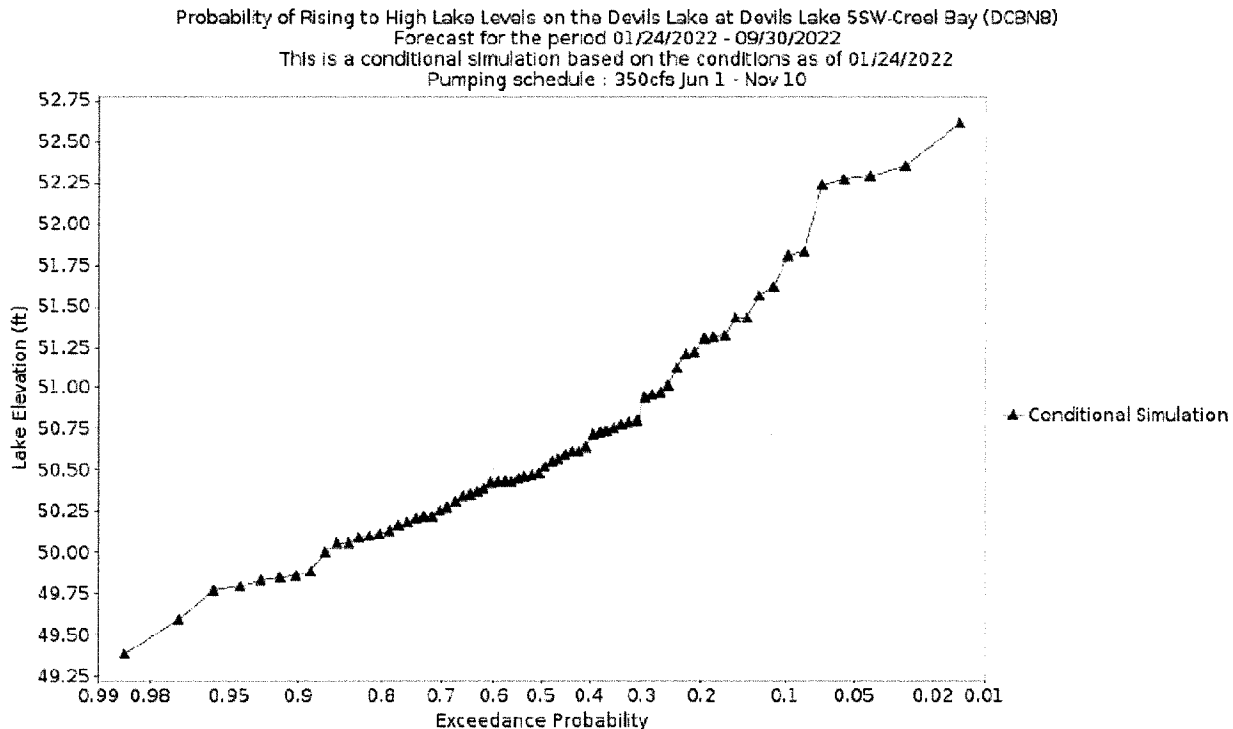
Frith stated that the annual water tour is scheduled for Wednesday, June 15th. It was recommended that we should again try to leave from the Hofstad Precision Agriculture Education Center on the campus of Lake Region State, if it is available, as everyone thought that was a great place to meet. It had been mentioned previously that this year's tour should try to concentrate on the western side of the basin, and we should try to arrange a stop at an NDAWN station. Frith asked everyone to please let him know if they have an idea for a potential visit.

INTERIM LEGISLATIVE UPDATE:

Dani Quissell, Executive Director of ND Water, also gave board members an update on the interim legislative committees, and upcoming legislative meetings and discussed WOTUS (Water of the United States) on the federal side. Dani discussed the National Water Resource Board's concerns regarding WOTUS and that they are submitting comments regarding the concerns. Dani encouraged board members to stay engaged in the discussions and reach out with their concerns.

SPRING FLOOD OUTLOOK:

Frith went through the most recent probabilistic outlook that the National Weather Service provided. Frith noted that there haven't been too many changes since the initial outlook was released in January; it was noted that a new forecast will be released tomorrow.



WATER MANAGEMENT PLAN UPDATE:

Frith stated that it has been a few years since the last management plan update was completed and he told the board that it would be good to update the plan prior to the next legislative session. Frith stated that he will work on the committee members for the sub-categories, Agriculture, Economic Development, Recreation, and Wildlife and Fisheries.

OTHER OLD BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

LiDAR PRODUCT ENHANCEMENTS –

CHUCK FRITZ, INTERNATIONAL WATER INSTITUTE:

Chuck gave a presentation on all of the capabilities that the IWI website has and stated that the LiDAR that is currently being used could be ten or more years old. Chuck stated that with the most recent LiDAR the system would have any new changes that took place not to mention the technical enhancements that have been made. Getting all of the basins included is a time-consuming and costly endeavor, and Chuck is asking if the Devils Lake Joint Board would be interested in contributing to that project. Chuck had the Devils Lake Basin broke down to a cost of 20,530 (twenty thousand, five hundred and thirty) dollars. Board members asked if there was money in the budget for such a contribution; Frith stated that within the project line item, there would be enough. **Howatt motioned that the Devils Lake Basin Joint Board contribute the 20,530 towards the LiDAR enhancement project with the International Water Institute, seconded by Jallo, motion passed unanimously.**

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

Frith gave board members and those in attendance a preview of upcoming meetings of interest, including legislative committee hearings.

CORRESPONDENCE & MISCELLANEOUS:

Frith stated that within the board member's packets are various correspondence and miscellaneous items along with the monthly basin lake levels and moisture reports.

OTHER NEW BUSINESS:

None

BASIN BOARD REPORTS:

Cavalier County: Howatt was in attendance and provided and stated that they would be meeting tomorrow.

Eddy County: Tweed stated that they hadn't met yet this month, and he didn't have any county business to report. Mike did provide an update on the Garrison Conservancy District.

Nelson County: Sateren reported they are still working on finding a new office space as their building was sold and will have to move.

Pierce County: Bohl was unable to attend today's meeting. Frith stated that Bohl stated that it has been relatively quiet.

Ramsey County: Ash stated that they haven't met yet this month, and he doesn't have too much to report.

Towner County: Benson stated that they hadn't met recently. Randy wondered about everyone's snow as he had heard that it had been a harsh winter. Everyone assured him that it was as bad as everyone was telling him.

Walsh County: Jallo stated they met yesterday and said that they have three dams within the county that have been identified as high risk and are currently being studied to see if they can be rehabilitated and the potential cost.

MANAGER'S REPORT:

Frith gave the board an update on all the activities he has been doing throughout the past month. Chairman Ash thanked everyone for coming today and reminded everyone that the April meeting would be Wednesday, April 13th at 9 am, either in person or online. Meeting adjourned at 12:02 pm.

April 2022 meeting was canceled due to illness. Regular meetings resumed in May.

Date approved: **May 11th, 2022**



Duaine Ash, Chairman



Jeff W. Frith, Manager