

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

Minutes of the regular monthly meeting held Wednesday, April 12th, 2023, Historical Meeting Room, Ramsey County Courthouse, Devils Lake, ND, and Online via GoToMeeting.

Chairman Dave Sateren called the meeting to order at 8:59 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
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. **Benson made a motion to approve the agenda as presented, seconded by Ash, motion passed unanimously.**

### **APPROVAL of MINUTES:**

Sateren asked if everyone had an opportunity to read the minutes and if there were any corrections or additions. **Jallo made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 8th, 2023, meeting, seconded by Benson, motion passed unanimously.**

### **The financial report for the month was presented:**

	31-Mar-23
Checking	
Administration	-\$1,629.45
Projects	\$17,043.20
Checking Account - Other	-\$633.45
Total Checking Account	\$14,780.30
Bremer Investment Account	
Administration	\$83,142.89
Pilot Project Fund	\$8,279.58
Projects	\$142,346.06
Investment Account - Other	-\$8,875.23
Total Investment Account	\$224,893.30
Total Checking/Savings	\$239,673.60
Total Current Assets	\$239,673.60
TOTAL ASSETS	\$239,673.60
Opening Bal Equity	\$40,201.71
Retained Earnings	\$150,989.84
Net Income	\$48,480.23
Total Equity	\$239,671.78
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	\$239,673.60

Frith mentioned invoices are still pending for Walsh, Eddy & Nelson Counties. **Ash made a motion to approve the financial report, seconded by Slaubaugh, motion carried unanimously.**

**APPROVAL of MONTHLY BILLS:**

April 2023 Bills		Amount	Ck #
NDTC - Website Hosting & Email Maintenance		\$76.22	4899
Leever's North - March Meeting		\$16.88	4900
Jeff Frith - Cell Phone Expense		\$101.25	4901
Ramsey County Auditor: Rent		\$190.00	4902
Ramsey County Auditor - Postage		\$21.80	4902
Ramsey County Auditor: Telephone		\$55.49	4902
Ramsey County Water Resource District (Copier Rent)		\$125.00	4903
Ramsey County Water Resource District (Office Assistant Services)		\$300.00	4903
Ramsey County Auditor - Wages & Withholding Taxes		\$5,301.61	4904
Ramsey County Auditor - Health Insurance		\$1,794.14	4905
International Water Institute - 2nd Qtr. FY23 Hydro-Conditioning		\$8,153.75	4906
Total Admin		\$7,982.39	
Total General Project		\$8,153.75	

**Total** **\$16,136.14**

Frith mentioned that the IWI was divided into quarterly payments, and the final payment is being sent this month.

**Jallo made a motion to pay the April 2023 bills as listed, seconded by Slaubaugh, motion carried unanimously.**

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Stacy Peters-Ramsey County WRD Office Manager, Dave Azure-US Fish & Wildlife, and Randy Hiltner-ND Game & Fish. Online: Thomas Grafenauer-National Weather Service, Sindhuja Pillai-Grinolds, Jeff Trana, Department of Water Resources, Dani Quissell and Julie Ellingson, ND Water Users Association. Visitors: Paul Christenson, Ramsey County WRD Board Member, Jim Berg, Dan Webster & Karen Hausmann, local landowners.

**AGENCY REPORTS:**

**NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE:** Thomas Grafenauer, with the National Weather Service Office in Grand Forks, reviewed the Weather Service Update. He mentioned that not too much has changed from last month's meeting. He mentioned that the lake level is up 2 feet higher than last year. Thomas mentioned that January-March temperatures have been below normal, and summer is looking to have lower-than-normal temperatures. He mentioned that the next Outlook Lake Level will be on April 27<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

**ND GAME & FISH:** Randy Hiltner informed the board that the oxygen levels are low in our lakes. He mentioned that there are 70 lakes of concern. He mentioned that fish spawning this year be delayed. He mentioned that deer are tipping over due to the long winter. Randy informed the board that the Advisory Board meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 17<sup>th</sup>, 2023, at 7 PM at Lake Region State College. This meeting is combined districts.

**NRCS:** No one in attendance.

**US FISH & WILDLIFE:** Dave Azure was in attendance. He mentioned they are starting to see birds around the Jamestown area, so they should start moving up our way. He did state that it has been quiet on the Bird Flu, so that is a positive side. Dave informed the board that they would be receiving money for a Low-Stress Bison Handling Facility at White Horse. He did mention they do plan to upgrade the fence along the highway at White Horse.

**DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES:** Sindhuja Pillai Grinolds and Jeff Trana were in attendance, online. Sindhuja mentioned that Bartlett & West/AECOM joint venture is not looking at the capacity of the outlets, but what needs to be done. It was asked if the maintenance is all done this year to get the outlets up and running. She mentioned they are waiting on a switch gear, there is one pump on the west end not working, and that the canal did get a temporary fix, not knowing yet if the permanent fix can be done before operations. Sindhuja mentioned that the Devils Lake Outlet Management Advisory Committee meets on Wednesday, May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2023, at Lake Region State College. She said they are just watching conditions for operations to start back up with the outlets.

Jeff Trana mentioned that things are drying up quickly. He mentioned he drove the canal this morning, and snow is still in the canal, level with the top and some even beyond.

**ND WATER ASSOCIATION:** Dani Quissell was in attendance, online. She went through the Legislative Report as follows:

**SB2020 DWR/SWC Funding:** After being in the House, it is being sent back to the Division today.

**SB2017 Game & Fish:** This passed in the House. It will go back to the Senate. This includes ANS Funding. It is anticipated will be signed into law shortly.

**HB1391 Assessment Authorities:** This is still being looked at. It is starting to publish draft minutes within 10 days of a meeting. At one point, it was draft minutes published in newspapers or websites, but looking at it, it includes draft minutes published in newspapers and websites. This is still being reviewed.

**SB2372 Watershed Districts:** This bill is looking to help with draining disputes between counties. It will mandate counties to participate within a basin, and Devils Lake Basin would be required. It passed in the House yesterday, with some amendments so that it will go back to the Senate. Frith mentioned that the Association of Counties would be in question with *shall approve mill levy or may approve mill levy*.

**HB1098 Floodplain Management Ordinances:** Frith asked Dani what she knew about this House bill. She said it passed quickly on the front end, but she didn't know much about this bill. She said Aaron would be someone who could answer questions on this.

## **OLD BUSINESS:**

**2023 WATER TOUR DISCUSSION:** Frith mentioned him and Julie have been meeting on the route. It was determined during the meeting to drive on the top of the dike, making the way to Camp Grafton for a 2-hour tour and lunch. Frith & Julie will finish up the route details. Julie mentioned that the tour sponsorship is \$3000 this year. She is planning to get the brochures out soon. **Jallo motioned to designate tour sponsorship, seconded by Ash, motion passed unanimously.**

**2023 SUMMER WATER CONFERENCE:** Julie informed the board that the summer conference is scheduled for July 19 – 20<sup>th</sup>, 2023, in Dickinson. Julie said there is a block of rooms for the 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup>, and the deadline for the block of rooms is June 26<sup>th</sup>, 2023. She said the only thing planned for the 19<sup>th</sup> is the Water User's Meeting later that night at 6 PM. She said registration would be going out soon with further details.

**INTERNATIONAL WATER INSTITUTE:** Frith said he did receive an email from Chuck that all Devils Lake data is on their website for the hydro conditioning. Frith mentioned that he would demo this at another time.

**AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES AWARENESS WEEK:** Frith reminded the board that this is the week of May 14<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup>, 2023. **Ash motioned to approve the Resolution of Support for the Devils Lake Basin Joint board, seconded by Benson, motion passed unanimously.**

## **OTHER OLD BUSINESS:**

None

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

**DEVILS LAKE OUTLETS ADVISORY MEETING:** This meeting is Wednesday, May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2023, at Lake Region State College at 1 PM. The board held a discussion about members attending in a unified board. **Jallo motioned to move the Devils Lake Basin Joint Board meeting to Wednesday, May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2023, starting at 9 AM, so after the meeting, members could attend the DL Outlets Advisory meeting, seconded by Benson, motion passed unanimously.**

**2024 BUDGET 1<sup>ST</sup> READING:** Frith asked if there were any big changes for the upcoming year. Frith mentioned last year's budget, everything was left the same as the previous year. The question was asked should we increase \$15000-\$20000? Frith mentioned that 2021 was the last year there was an increase in county assessment amounts. Frith mentioned abvng back Morrison Outlet to the Ramsey County Water Board District if Ramsey County Drain #10 passes.

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

### **OTHER NEW BUSINESS:**

Dan Webster, landowner in Penn, talked with the joint board regarding the flooding in his area. He asked for the support of the Devils Lake Basin Joint Board to find a resolution for the flooding problem. Webster mentioned there need to be some options for the landowners, whether it is buyouts, or annual payments, and when lake levels go down, the landowner can farm the land. It was asked if the joint board could send a letter to the State Water Commission on behalf of the landowners. Jim Berg mentioned there could be a request for increased pumps, negotiating the sulfate levels in case of an emergency. All landowners that were in to talk to the joint board feel something needs to be done for these landowners. Sindhuja mentioned that she made notes on what has been discussed, with a possible Governor meeting. Frith will send a letter to request for the Governor to attend the Devils Lake Outlets Management Advisory Committee Meeting on May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

### **BASIN BOARD REPORTS:**

**Ramsey County:** Ash mentioned that there was not much discussed at the monthly meeting. Ash asked the others if they clean out the snow around culverts & bridges. Jallo mentioned they did in some areas where water would run over the road, and that they talk with townships and counties on this. Ash said it was discussed during the Ramsey County Water board's meeting, and nothing will be done because where do you start and where do you end?

**Cavalier County:** Howatt was absent—nothing to report.

**Walsh County:** Jallo mentioned they had a meeting yesterday with a discussion on what needs to be done with drains. He said that on April 18<sup>th</sup> landowners are coming in about a Snag & Clear in Park River.

**Eddy County:** Tweed was absent. Nothing to report.

**Pierce County:** Slaubaugh stated that Benson County wanted to know if Pierce County could hold more water in Hurricane Lake. Pierce County can take out one block, and Slaubaugh stated his recommendation would be to take it out after spring runoff. Ash mentioned that Duane Hawk took care of this in past years.

**Towner County:** Benson had nothing to report.

**Nelson County:** Sateren mentioned they approved a Snag & Clear in Central Township.

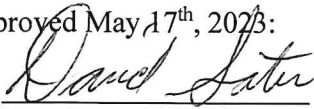
### **MANAGER'S REPORT:**

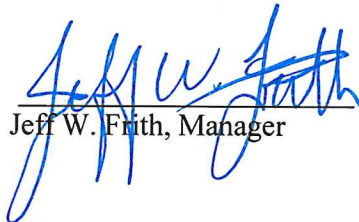
Frith had nothing further to report.

**Benson motioned for the meeting to adjourn, seconded by Slaubaugh, motion carried unanimously.**

The meeting adjourned at 11:56 AM.

Approved May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2023:

  
Dave Sateren, Chairman

  
Jeff W. Frith, Manager