

DEVILS LAKE BASIN JOINT WATER RESOURCE BOARD

Minutes of the regular monthly meeting held Wednesday, August 9th, 2023, Historical Meeting Room, Ramsey County Courthouse, Devils Lake, ND, and Online via GoToMeeting.

Chairman Dave Sateren called the meeting to order at 8:00 AM. Roll call of the counties was taken.

Cavalier County	Van Howatt (Absent)
Eddy County	Mike Tweed
Nelson County	Dave Sateren
Pierce County	Floyd Slaubaugh (Absent)
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. **Frith asked for Chuck Fritz to be moved up the agenda due to his schedule. Jallo made a motion to approve the agenda as amended, seconded by Tweed, motion carried unanimously.**

APPROVAL of MINUTES:

Sateren asked if everyone had an opportunity to read the minutes from July 12th, 2023, and if there were any corrections or additions. **Ash made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 12th, 2023, meeting, seconded by Benson, motion carried unanimously.**

The financial report for the month was presented:

	31-Jul-23
Current Assets	
Administration	-\$1,623.85
Projects	\$17,043.20
Bremer-Checking Account - Other	-\$633.45
Total Bremer-Checking Account	\$14,785.90
Bremer Investment Account	
Administration	\$86,819.36
Pilot Project Fund	\$8,279.58
Projects	\$136,652.63
Bremer Investment Account - Other	-\$8,875.23
Total Bremer Investment Account	\$222,876.34
Total Checking/Savings	\$237,662.24
Total Current Assets	\$237,662.24
TOTAL ASSETS	\$237,662.24
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Opening Bal Equity	\$40,201.71
Retained Earnings	\$150,989.84
Net Income	\$46,468.87
Total Equity	\$237,660.42
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	\$237,662.24

Frith mentioned that the Eddy County, Nelson County & Walsh County payments have been received and posted. **Tweed made a motion to approve the July 2023 financial report, seconded by Ash, motion carried unanimously.**

APPROVAL of MONTHLY BILLS for August 2023:

August 2023 Bills	Amount	Ck #
NDTC - Website Hosting	\$21.83	4935
Leevers - July Meeting Expenses	\$16.88	4936
Jeff Frith - Cell Phone Expense	\$101.25	4937
Jeff Frith -July 2023 Travel Expenses	\$646.39	4937
ND Workforce Safety & Insurance	\$250.00	4934
Ramsey County Auditor: Rent	\$190.00	4938
Ramsey County Auditor - Postage	\$26.72	4938
Ramsey County Auditor: Telephone	\$55.49	4938
Ramsey County Water Resource District (Copier Rent)	\$125.00	4939
Ramsey County Water Resource District (Administrative Assistance)	\$300.00	4939
Ramsey County Auditor - Wages & Withholding Taxes	\$5,301.61	4940
Ramsey County Auditor - Health Insurance	\$2,062.94	4941
Ellingson Companies - Comments to Dept of Interior - USFW Tiling Setbacks	\$500.00	4942
USGS - Stream Gage Quarterly Payment -	\$4,810.00	4943
Total Admin	\$9,598.11	
Total General Project	\$4,810.00	

Total \$14,408.11

Frith mentioned the expense for July 2023 Travel was his trip to Dickinson with 2 nights stay for the Summer Water Conference. He also mentioned that the Ellingson Companies had asked those who had supported the comments to the Department of Interior on tiling for contributions to the fee and he had provided \$500 towards this. **Benson made a motion to pay the August 2023 bills, seconded by Jallo, motion carried unanimously.**

OTHERS PRESENT:

Stacy Peters-Ramsey County WRD Office Manager & Dave Azure-US Fish & Wildlife. Online: Sindhuja Pillai-Grinolds and Yaping Chi-Department of Water Resources. Other online guests: Chuck Fritz, Director of International Water Institute,

AGENCY REPORTS:

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE: Amanda Lee was unable to attend. She did provide a monthly report, Frith shared this monthly report with the water board. He mentioned that the report shows that the drought has expanded throughout the state. Frith mentioned that the latest outlook forecasts that the lake level may drop ½-1 foot before fall freeze up.

ND GAME & FISH: No one in attendance or updates provided.

NRCS: No one in attendance or updates provided.

US FISH & WILDLIFE: Dave Azure was present. He mentioned he would be going to look at Lamb's Lake Refugee today with Brian. He said an emergency spillway was put in, but it looks like the original spillway from the 1930s is the primary spillway and not the

emergency spillway that was put in. Azure mentioned that this land was still privately owned, and Fish & Wildlife had the right to impound water & closed it for hunting, but they had no other rights since it was still privately owned. Azure mentioned a complaint from a Cavalier County landowner about the plug that was put in the 1970s with the Big Dig Case. He mentioned that Matt is working with the Cavalier County Water Board & Houston Engineering. Azure said White Horse Hill only had 3 calves this year. He said White Horse Hill is getting 3 elk cows from the Rocky Mountain Reservoir. He said they continue to work on the handling facility. Azure mentioned that White Horse Hill is working with the tribe to get rural water because they currently are on a well, and the well water is not quality. He said next week there is a meeting with engineers on this. Tweed mentioned digging a new well, and he said they could look into it.

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES: Sindhuja Pillai-Grinolds & Yaping Chi were in attendance, online. Sindhuja mentioned that the memo that was submitted for the State Water Commission meeting has some changes. Yaping mentioned that the West Outlet in August went from 250cfs to 200cfs as there was pipe blockage. She mentioned that the East Outlet is pumping at 150cfs. Yaping mentioned that the East & West Outlets averaged 400cfs in July, and so far in August, they are averaging 350cfs. She mentioned that the water quality is good but did mention that the sulfate was a bit higher with the sample at Cooperstown.

OLD BUSINESS:

RECAP 2023 SUMMER WATER CONFERENCE: Ash, Frith & Tweed were in attendance for the summer conference in Dickinson. Frith mentioned that the video presentations should be uploaded to the YouTube channel. He also mentioned that Dani & Jack were working on a cheat sheet for the Legislative change for the two century codes being combined for water districts. Frith informed the board of the change of having to post the unofficial meeting minutes within 10 days of the meeting and that he may have to request some changes to the website.

2024 WATER STEWARDSHIP AWARD: Frith mentioned that the news release, criteria & form was in everyone's packets. The question was whether a nominee could be someone outside the basin, and Frith believed they had to be within the basin.

BENSON COUNTY DISCUSSION: Frith mentioned he has not heard anything from Benson County.

JOINT BOARD BYLAWS: Frith asked for permission from the board to have Sean Fredricks, Attorney with Ohnstad Twichell review & make updates to meet Century Code requirements. He said the last time was in 2017, when the Bylaws had been reviewed and changes made. **Ash motioned to have Frith have Shawn review & make changes to the Bylaws for the Joint Board, Tweed seconded, motion carried unanimously.**

OTHER OLD BUSINESS:

2024 BUDGET: Frith mentioned that the budget was submitted to all County Auditors in July. He asked the board members if they have heard from their County Commissioners on any submitted budget changes.

NEW BUSINESS:

ECONOMIC ANALYSIS DISCUSSION (CHUCK FRITZ): Chuck Fritz, Director of International Water Institution, was in attendance, online. He said that Frith had asked him about an Economic Analysis of the rise in the lake level. Fritz mentioned that he did not want to discourage the analysis but wants the board to realize the results may not be what you were expecting. Fritz mentioned he did send some information & a template to Frith, who will share the information with the board, on an Economic Analysis. Fritz mentioned the board needs to be very clear on what you are asking for when wanting to conduct an Economic Analysis. Fritz mentioned that an Economic Analysis Study starts from the start of the study and going forward, previous years of data cannot be used in this study. After discussion with Fritz, the board is looking to work more on ways to compensate landowners that have lost ag land from the rise of the lake.

CORRESPONDENCE & MISCELLANEOUS:

BASIN BOARD REPORTS:

Ramsey County: Ash mentioned that the water board had their meeting on August 1st. He said their meeting discussed updates on water complaints & cattail spraying.

Walsh County: Jallo mentioned their meeting was held yesterday and their lawyer was present to give clarification on the combination of the two Century Code sections for water boards. He said they are having problems with their signage being knocked over on their assessed drains & spraying. He said their water board did make resolution to charge those parties that are causing these problems. He said there is question now about dikes that are too high & were they permitted.

Eddy County: Tweed stated their water board met last Tuesday. He said they received several drain permit requests for tiling. He said the crossing at the New Rockford Canal on Hwy 281 that their engineering firm is still trying to figure out a resolution.

Pierce County: Slaubaugh not present and no updates provided.

Towner County: Benson mentioned their water board meeting is tomorrow. He said he had nothing new to report.

Nelson County: Sateren stated their board meets tomorrow. He said they have just been working on some Snag & Clears.

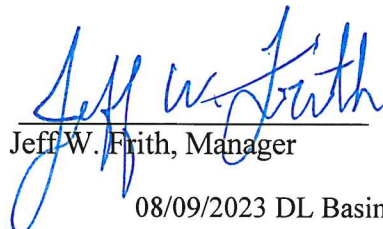
Cavalier County: Howatt not present and no updates provided.

MANAGER'S REPORT: Frith reported it has been a busy month. He said he missed out on the water day at the ND State Fair.

Meeting adjourned at 9:49 AM.

Approved September 13th, 2023:


Dave Sateren, Chairman


Jeff W. Frith, Manager