

DEVILS LAKE BASIN JOINT WATER RESOURCE BOARD

Minutes of the regular monthly meeting held Wednesday, February 8th, 2023, Historical Meeting Room, Ramsey County Courthouse, Devils Lake, ND, and Online via GoToMeeting.

Board member Duaine Ash called the meeting to order at 9:01 AM. Roll call of the counties was taken.

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

APPROVE AGENDA:

Ash asked if anyone had any additional items for today's agenda. Frith asked to move Dani Quissell after financials and minutes for Legislative updates. **Tweet made a motion to approve the agenda as presented, seconded by Slaubaugh, motion passed unanimously.**

APPROVAL of MINUTES:

Ash 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 January 11th, 2023, meeting, seconded by Howatt, motion passed unanimously.**

The financial report for the month was presented:

31-Jan-23

ASSETS

Checking/Savings

Administration	-\$1,643.14
Projects	\$17,043.20
Bremer-Checking Account - Other	-\$633.45
Total Bremer-Checking Account	\$14,766.61

Bremer Investment Account

Administration	\$67,854.56
Pilot Project Fund	\$8,279.58
Projects	\$126,556.18
Bremer Investment Account - Other	-\$8,875.23
Total Bremer Investment Account	\$193,815.09

Total Checking/Savings	\$208,581.70
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Total Current Assets	\$208,581.70
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TOTAL ASSETS	\$208,581.70
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Total Liabilities	\$1.82
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Opening Bal Equity	\$40,201.71
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Retained Earnings	\$150,989.84
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Net Income	\$17,388.33
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Total Equity	\$208,579.88
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TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	\$208,581.70
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Jallo made a motion to approve the financial report, seconded by Tweed, motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL of MONTHLY BILLS:

February 2023 Bills		Amount	Ck #
	NDTC - Website Hosting	\$20.75	4882
	Leevers North - January Meeting	\$16.88	4883
	Jeff Frith - Cell Phone Expense	\$101.25	4884
	Ramsey County Auditor: Rent	\$190.00	4885
	Ramsey County Auditor - Postage	\$22.28	4885
	Ramsey County Auditor: Telephone	\$55.49	4885
	Ramsey County Water Resource District (Copier Rent)	\$125.00	4886
	Ramsey County Water Resource District (Office Assistant Services)	\$300.00	4886
	Ramsey County Auditor - Wages & Withholding Taxes	\$5,301.61	4887
	Ramsey County Auditor - Health Insurance	\$1,794.14	4888
	USGS - Realtime Stream Gauge Quarterly Payment	\$4,810.00	4889
	NDAWN Center - 2023 Operation & Maintenance	\$2,000.00	4890
	Total Admin	\$7,927.40	
	Total General Project	\$6,810.00	

Total**\$14,737.40**

Frith mentioned that Daryl Ritchison received subsidiary funding years ago for the weather stations, so that is why we get a break in the amount we pay for the non-sponsored stations at Bocket, Clyde, Perth, and Wolford. Howatt asked Frith if the cattail spraying contractor provided a map of what he sprayed at Morrison. Howatt mentioned that we should have that map on file from year to year.

Jallo made a motion to pay the February 2023 bills as listed, seconded by Slaubaugh, motion unanimously passed.

OTHERS PRESENT:

Stacy Peters-Ramsey County WRD Office Manager, Matt Van Theyne-US Fish & Wildlife, David Remmen-NRCS. Online: Chris Korkowski & Sindhuja Pillai-Grinolds, Department of Water Resources, Dani Quissell-ND Water Users Association, Julie Ellingson-ND Water Users Association, and Jeff Trana-Department of Water Resources.

AGENCY REPORTS:

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE: Amanda Lee, Service Hydrologist/Meteorologist with the National Weather Service Office in Grand Forks was unable to attend. She did provide the Weather Service Update. Another update tomorrow on lake level and every 2 weeks after. Chris mentioned the gauge uses the bubbler satellite for computing water level and the amount of water to make it the lake (this is based upon the pressure at the gauge house).

ND GAME & FISH: Randy Hiltner was not in attendance.

NRCS: David Remmen was in attendance. He mentioned waiting on water bank money. He said they are working with Ducks Unlimited with the RCPP. David mentioned that it is tough getting trees right now.

US FISH & WILDLIFE: Matt Van Theyne was in attendance. He said that they are preparing for the spring.

AGENCY REPORTS CONTINUED:

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES: Chris Korkowski & Sindhuja Pillai Grinolds were in attendance, online. Chris informed the board that the Devils Lake crew is busy getting snow samples, doing regular cleanup, and ordering supplies. Chris mentioned they are waiting on the engineering contractor regarding CIP (Capital Improvement Project) for the West End Outlet. Chris said, Jeff Trana, did mention that the soil under the samples they are pulling are staying attached & are dry. He noted while doing samplings very little frost and snow and soil both very dry.

ND WATER ASSOCIATION: Dani Quissell was in attendance, online. She mentioned it is getting close to crossover time period in the House & Senate. She went through the Legislative Report as follows:

SB202: SW Commission bill. Updated projection in March.

SB2017: Budget for Game & Fish. One of the first budgets to move on. Budgeting \$3 million for ANS (additional funding with Army Corps of Engineers—about \$1.5 million was budgeted before).

HB1239: Hear this week. Tiling projects under 80 acres. This bill would renew & extend current requirement.

HB1391 & HB1462: Working with committees still. HB1391 to be moved out quickly & amended. HB1462 doesn't give enough time to appeal. It was passed out of the committee. This bill is opposed by so many entities. Senate side more understanding to water board's concern. Would sending out a letter be good? What happens if you miss someone?

HB2036: Passed Senate & just waiting on the House.

HB2037: The way it is currently drafted will not work. Final resolution next week (Jack has had extended conversations on this).

SB2326: Could not lower threshold down to \$200,000 for cost sharing. Has support in Senate and House a little more challenging. In 2019, State Water Commission lowered down to \$200,000 in their policy and they would need to change to match statute.

SB2372: This would establish watershed districts (monitoring this bill).

Let Julie Ellingson know if you are not receiving the weekly Legislative Report.

OLD BUSINESS:

2023 WATER TOUR DISCUSSION: Frith reviewed the tours that had been done from 2007 to 2022. Tweed asked if a map could be put together with pinpoints of where the tours had visited in the past. Julie mentioned some ideas for the tour is White Horse Hill, Historical Site in Ft Totten, Tolna Café, Stump Lake, and drive on the dike. It was mentioned for everyone to come up with ideas. The water tour is planned for Wednesday, June 21st, 2023. An alternative date for the water tour could be Wednesday, June 28th, 2023, which could be added in the pamphlet, if needed due to weather.

OTHER OLD BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

SPRING OUTLOOK: The information was provided to the board. A new outlook comes out tomorrow.

CORRESPONDENCE & MISCELLANEOUS:

Frith indicated a couple of letters from ND Water. Remember, the deadline for the Dushinske-Jamison Water Resources Scholarship is April 1st, 2023. Water Commission meeting next week, February 13th, 2023. Frith mentioned that Greater Ramsey Water District will be expanding capacity east of town and is on the Water Commission's agenda to receive a substantial cost share to assist with

OTHER NEW BUSINESS: None

BASIN BOARD REPORTS:

Cavalier County: Howatt mentioned they had a cleanout assessment before a vote and it passed by 50.4%. He mentioned there is nothing else up in their area.

Eddy County: Tweed mentioned they had their meeting yesterday. He stated they are having problems with the canal coming off the continental divide. They want a 30-inch culvert to go through the canal and may cause some problems to farmers to the south. The engineering cost came in at \$19,000, and the water board will pay about \$6,000.

Nelson County: Sateren was absent from meeting. No information to report.

Pierce County: Slaubaugh mentioned he had nothing to report.

Ramsey County: Ash informed during the monthly RCWRD's meeting that they met with Jesse Morten, who will be doing cattail spraying. He mentioned there is no update on RC Drain #10.

Towner County: Benson reported his water board did not meet this month and had nothing to report. He was asked how the drone worked for cattail spraying and he said some people were happy with it and some not. He said they would look at what was sprayed this spring and they plan to meet with the contractor this winter.


Walsh County: Jallo mentioned the water board met last Tuesday. He said they have a meeting with Pembina County Water Resource tomorrow and landowners regarding funding for a project that goes into Walsh County.

MANAGER'S REPORT:

Frith informed the board that he and Stacy continue to make progress in his office.

Meeting adjourned at 11:17 AM.

Approved March 8th, 2023:


Dave Sateren, Chairman


Jeff W. Frith, Manager