

DEVILS LAKE BASIN JOINT WATER RESOURCE BOARD

Minutes of the regular monthly meeting held Wednesday, January 11th, 2023, Historical Meeting Room, Ramsey County Courthouse, Devils Lake, ND, and Online via GoToMeeting.

Chairman Duaine Ash called the meeting to order at 9:01 AM. Roll call of the counties was taken. All Counties were present.

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

BOARD REORGANIZATION:

Chairman Dave Sateren, Vice-Chairman Van Howatt, Secretary/Treasurer Jeff Frith. **Jallo made a motion for nominations to cease and a unanimous ballot to be cast, seconded by Tweed. The motion passed unanimously.**

APPROVE AGENDA:

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

APPROVAL of MINUTES:

Chairman 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 November 9th, 2022, meeting, seconded by Howatt. Motion passed unanimously.**

OTHERS PRESENT:

Stacy Peters-Ramsey County WRD Office Manager, Dave Azure-US Fish & Wildlife, Randy Hiltner-ND Game & Fish, Ben Wendt-NRCS District Conservationist and David Remmen-NRCS. Online: Amanda Lee-National Weather Service, Chris Korkowski & Sindhuja Pillai-Grinolds, Department of Water Resources, and John Sutter-ND Water Association and Julie Ellingson-ND Water Association.

The financial report for the month was presented:

31-Dec-22

ASSETS

Checking/Savings

Administration - \$1,871.02

Projects \$17,043.20

Bremer-Checking Account - Other -\$633.45

Total Bremer-Checking Account \$14,538.73

Bremer Investment Account

Administration \$61,725.87

Pilot Project Fund \$8,279.58

Projects \$115,524.42

Bremer Investment Account - Other -\$8,875.23

Total Bremer Investment Account \$176,654.64

Total Checking/Savings \$191,193.37

Total Current Assets \$191,193.37

TOTAL ASSETS \$191,193.37

LIABILITIES & EQUITY

Opening Bal Equity \$40,201.71

Retained Earnings \$182,770.08

Net Income -\$31,780.24

Total Equity \$191,191.55

TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY \$191,193.37

Howatt made a motion to approve the financial report, seconded by Tweed. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL of MONTHLY BILLS (December 2022 and January 2023):

December 2022 Bills		Amount	Ck #
NDTC - Website Hosting		\$20.73	4864
Leavers - September Meeting Expenses		\$16.88	4865
Jeff Frith - Cell Phone Expense		\$101.25	4866
Ramsey County Auditor: Rent		\$190.00	4867
Ramsey County Auditor - Postage		\$23.09	4867
Ramsey County Auditor: Telephone		\$55.49	4867
Ramsey County Water Resource District (Copier Rent)		\$125.00	4868
Ramsey County Water Resource District (Office Assistant Services)		\$300.00	4868
Ramsey County Auditor - Wages & Withholding Taxes		\$5,301.61	4869
Ramsey County Auditor - Health Insurance		\$1,794.14	4870
Morten Aero Service - Morrison Channel Spraying		\$2,625.00	4871
International Water Institute - 4th Qtr. FY22 Hydro-Conditioning		\$8,153.75	4872
Total Admin		\$7,928.19	
Total General Project		\$10,778.75	

Total

\$18,706.94

January 2023 Bills	Amount	Ck #
NDTC - Website Hosting	\$20.75	4873
Creel Bay Digital - Annual Website Hosting	\$240.00	4874
Ramkota - December Conference	\$218.00	4875
Jeff Frith - December 2022 Travel	\$225.00	4876
Jeff Frith - Cell Phone Expense	\$101.25	4876
Ramsey County Auditor: Rent	\$190.00	4877
Ramsey County Auditor - Postage	\$22.28	4877
Ramsey County Auditor: Telephone	\$55.49	4877
Ramsey County Water Resource District (Copier Rent)	\$125.00	4878
Ramsey County Water Resource District (Office Assistant Services)	\$300.00	4878
Ramsey County Auditor - Wages & Withholding Taxes	\$5,301.61	4879
Ramsey County Auditor - Health Insurance	\$1,794.14	4880
ND Water Resource Association - 2023 Legislative Support	\$3,500.00	4881
Total Admin	\$8,593.52	
Total General Project	\$3,500.00	

Total **\$12,093.52**

Frith did mention that the board may want to consider a motion at the beginning of the year to pay bills if there is no meeting, as some bills are monthly administrative bills that need to be paid each month. Frith asked how the board would like to handle this. Howatt made a recommendation just to notify a board member. No determination was made on this. **Jallo made a motion to pay the December 2022 and January 2023 bills as listed, seconded by Tweed. Motion carried unanimously.**

AGENCY REPORTS:

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE: Amanda Lee, Service Hydrologist/Meteorologist with the National Weather Service Office in Grand Forks joined today's meeting online and presented to those in attendance the National Weather Service Update. Amanda mentioned that the lake level is 2 feet higher than last spring. She stated that the next outlook is January 26, 2023. There was a question as to why we have been experiencing so much fog. She said some of their guesses are (1) the snow we received in December had a lot of moisture, (2) the wind has been more minimal, so it is not mixing up the air, (3) there is inversion of the atmosphere, which is as you move up into the atmosphere, temperatures increase and (4) snowpack temperature. Amanda mentioned that with the gauges, it is still hard to tell how dense the fog will be.

Jeff informed all attendees that the ND Department of Water Resources has a Map Service (Jeff will provide everyone with the link and instructions) that shows the water equivalent in the snow. Frith asked Chris regarding Boots on the Ground for GPS coordinates for equivalency. Chris did say it starts next week, and they go to the same areas.

AGENCY REPORTS CONTINUED:

ND GAME & FISH: Randy Hiltner was in attendance. He expressed concern about winter kill with the 50 inches of snow received. He mentioned that the heavy snow pack on the lakes slows down oxygen levels. He stated they will start checking the oxygen levels end of January into 2 weeks into February. He mentioned that they measure in the same spots each year. Randy mentioned that the fishing pond at Ruger Park has been completed. This pond is a joint project with the Park Board, the City of Devils Lake, and ND Game & Fish. This will allow children and the elderly the opportunity to fish. They will stock the pond with white bass and perch.

NRCS: Ben Wendt, District Conservationist, was in attendance, along with David Remmen. Ben mentioned the Water Bank had a good turnout with 35 applications, with 12 being approved. Ben stated that a significant amount of funding is coming nationwide for easement programs.

US FISH & WILDLIFE: Dave Azure, Regional Wetland Manager, was in attendance. He said it is a quiet time of year for his staff, while it is a busy time for him with his eye to the west in the legislature in Bismarck. There was a question with Fish & Wildlife easements buddying up to township roads.

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES: Chris Korkowski & Sindhuja Pillai Grinolds were in attendance, online. Chris informed the board that the capital improvement on the West end outlet would be with Bartlett & West Company. He mentioned that the total discharge of the outlet was 59,000 acre-feet, instead of 60,000. Jeff stated he uses Devils Lake & Stump Lake, where Chris uses just Devils Lake. Chris is looking at the script that is used for the inflow to see if just Devils Lake or Devils Lake & Stump combined.

ND WATER ASSOCIATION: John Sutter was in attendance, online. He pointed out some of the sessions in the Legislature Report, including SB2020 (DWR/SWC Funding), SB2017 (Game & Fish Department), and HB1073 (Operations Plans for Dams). John mentioned they are watching SB2036 (Drainage Statute Clean Up) and SB2037 (Economic Analysis for Drainage Projects). It was mentioned if a board member is not receiving the Legislature Report to let Julie know, and she will add you. John mentioned this will be his last update to the board, as he will no longer be in Bismarck, as he is moving. John thanked everyone.

OLD BUSINESS:

ND WATER CONFERENCE: Jeff mentioned he had talked to Dani, and some of the seminars from the conference will be posted online. There was a discussion if water boards still wanting to be notified of subsurface drainage projects that fall below the 80-acre threshold for permitting. This expires this summer.

OTHER OLD BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

RAMSEY COUNTY OFFICE AGREEMENT: Frith stated that this is the annual agreement between Ramsey County and the Joint Board. The agreement outlines what services and space Ramsey County provides to the Joint Board and outlines the terms of the agreement. Frith stated that the agreement hasn't changed in several years and seems to work for both entities. **Jallo made a motion to approve the Ramsey County Office Agreement, seconded by Ash. Motion passed unanimously.**

2022 YEAR-END BUDGET AMENDMENTS: Frith informed the board that the income from Towner County was changed from \$22,500 by their commissioners to \$19,000 at their budget hearings. It needed to be communicated more effectively between the two entities. Jeff informed the surplus for the joint cost sharing because some counties pay by (1) General Budget, (2) Assessment & (3) Invoice (Eddy, Nelson & Walsh Counties).

REVIEW PLEDGE OF ASSETS: Frith stated that he was informed that since the balance is below the FDIC's guarantee, a pledge wasn't necessary. The board reviewed this

DESIGNATED DEPOSITORIES: Jallo made a motion to approve Bremer Bank for the designated depository, seconded by Tweed. Motion passed unanimously.

AUTHORIZED SIGNATURES: Howatt made a motion to add Van Howatt, and keep Duaine Ash, Dave Sateren, and Jeff Frith as authorized signatures for check signing, seconded by Slaubaugh. Motion passed unanimously.

2023 PROJECTS: Frith stated that the board budgeted \$35,000 for projects within the basin. Currently, the board has committed and budgeted to the following projects (1) NDAWN maintenance-\$2000/yearly, (2) LIDAR Agreement 2 additional quarterly payments of \$8153.75 each, (3) Water District Association-\$3500, and (4) USGS Stream Crossing Cost Share-\$19,000. Jeff informed the board members to take the form back to the counties for any requests for Project or Program Support from the Joint Board.

CORRESPONDENCE & MISCELLANEOUS:

The water tour is scheduled for June 21, 2023. Julie asked for ideas for the route and stopping areas. Julie mentioned the summer's water convention is in Dickinson, and a bus will taken to Medora to meet up with rural water. Dates for the conference are July 19-21.

Jeff mentioned to the board that Dani, on behalf of The North Dakota Water Education Foundation, did send a "thank you" for donating to the silent auction to help raise funds for the Dushinske-Jamison Water Resources Scholarship Endowment.

OTHER NEW BUSINESS: None

BASIN BOARD REPORTS:

Cavalier County: Howatt mentioned they had a cleanout assessment before a vote, and the Cavalier Courthouse had closed, and they had to redo the process completely over. It led to new ballots being mailed out, which were colored coordinated and then wrong ballots being returned. Howatt mentioned Cavalier County Commission did approve the LiDar program.

Eddy County: Tweed mentioned they had their meeting last week and it is pretty quiet. He thanked the board for paying for his convention registration.

Nelson County: Sateren informed the board that they continue to work on the Petersburg Drain enhancement. He informed that their board had yet to meet for 2023.

Pierce County: Slaubaugh informed the board of the drain cleanout near Rugby. He said the area filled with cattails.

Ramsey County: Ash informed the water board had the advisory committees for Hammer-Sullivan and Starkweather Coulee attend their meeting. He said it was a good meeting.

Towner County: Benson reported he was not able to attend the meeting last week and that there was nothing new to report.

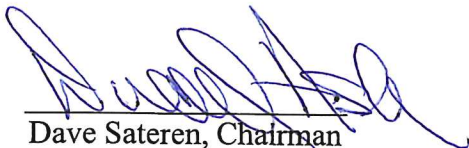
Walsh County: Jallo mentioned the water board hired a new office manager. He said no new projects in the making right now.

MANAGER'S REPORT:

Frith informed the board the contours that were available on the IWI (International Water Institute) website. He pointed out NDAWN weather reporting information, which includes soil temperatures. He mentioned during the NDSU Roundup held at the Memorial Building that Darryl mentioned 2023 should be a better planting season.

Meeting adjourned at 11:46 AM.

Approved February 8th, 2023:


Dave Sateren, Chairman


Jeff W. Frith, Manager