

DEVILS LAKE BASIN JOINT WATER RESOURCE BOARD

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

Chairman Dave Sateren called the meeting to order at 8:05 AM. Roll call of the counties was taken.

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

APPROVE AGENDA:

Sateren asked if anyone had any additional items for today's agenda. **Tweed made a motion to approve the agenda, seconded by Ash, motion carried unanimously.**

APPROVAL of MINUTES:

Sateren asked if everyone had an opportunity to read the minutes from June 14th, 2023, and if there were any corrections or additions. **Jallo made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 14th, 2023, meeting, seconded by Slaubaugh, motion carried unanimously.**

The financial report for the month was presented:

30-Jun-23

ASSETS

Current Assets

Checking/Savings

Administration - \$1,626.62

Projects \$14,043.20

Bremer-Checking Account - Other - \$633.45

Total Bremer-Checking Account \$11,783.13

Bremer Investment Account

Administration \$63,812.15

Pilot Project Fund \$8,279.58

Projects \$137,811.77

Bremer Investment Account - Other - \$8,875.23

Total Bremer Investment Account \$201,028.27

Total Checking/Savings \$212,811.40

Total Current Assets \$212,811.40

TOTAL ASSETS \$212,811.40

Equity



Opening Bal Equity \$40,201.71

Retained Earnings \$150,989.84

Net Income	\$21,618.03
Total Equity	\$212,809.58
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	\$212,811.40

Frith did mention that the assessment from Walsh County was received; however, it was received after July 1. Frith mentioned that financials will be handed over to Stacy Peters in the future. **Ash motioned to approve the June 2023 financial report, seconded by Slaubaugh, motion carried unanimously.**

APPROVAL of MONTHLY BILLS for July 2023:

July 2023 Bills	Amount	Ck #
NDTC - Website Hosting	\$21.83	4926
Leavers - June Meeting Expenses	\$22.50	4927
Reslock Printing - 2023 DL Facts Printing	\$185.00	4928
Jeff Frith - GoToMeeting 23 Months - 6 months @25.47 - 17 months@25.46	\$585.64	4929
Jeff Frith - Cell Phone Expense	\$101.25	4929
Jeff Frith -June 2023 Travel Expenses	\$72.05	4929
Ramsey County Auditor: Rent	\$190.00	4930
Ramsey County Auditor - Postage	\$23.00	4930
Ramsey County Auditor: Telephone	\$55.49	4930
Ramsey County Water Resource District (Copier Rent)	\$125.00	4931
Ramsey County Water Resource District (Administrative Assistance)	\$300.00	4931
Ramsey County Auditor - Wages & Withholding Taxes	\$5,301.61	4932
Ramsey County Auditor - Health Insurance	\$2,062.94	4933
Pekin Rod & Gun Club - Tolna Dam Recreation Picnic Shelter Cost-share	\$3,000.00	4925
 Total Admin	\$9,046.31	
 Total General Project	\$3,000.00	
Total	\$12,046.31	

For the cost share forms, Frith mentioned that we need to get the information on whom to send the check to with names and addresses. For the Pekin Rod & Gun Club cost share request for the Tolna Dam Recreation Picnic Shelter, a plaque will be inside with those who contributed, and the board will receive some pictures of the completed work. There was discussion on continuing to use GoToMeeting, or other options that may be cheaper. Frith will check into this. **Ash made a motion to pay the July 2023 bills, seconded by Tweed, motion carried unanimously.**

OTHERS PRESENT:

Stacy Peters-Ramsey County WRD Office Manager & Dave Azure-US Fish & Wildlife. Online: Sindhuja Pillai-Grinolds, Yaping Chi and Jeff Trana, Department of Water Resources, Amanda Lee, National Weather Service, & Dani Quissell, ND Water Users Association.

AGENCY REPORTS:

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE: Amanda Lee was in attendance, online and went over her monthly report. She mentioned that a new drought monitor will be coming out tomorrow. She mentioned that even with the precipitation, it is still pretty dry. Amanda mentioned that the lake level is currently 1450.4 & she mentioned it looks like it could drop a foot going into fall, as long as the outlets keep pumping at the 350 cfs. She mentioned that the next Lake Level Outlook is scheduled for July 27th, 2023. She said in this report it wouldn't include the max level of the lake. It will just show how low the lake will go. Amanda informed the board that she wouldn't be able to attend next month's meeting, but she hoped to have someone attend on her behalf.

ND GAME & FISH: No one in attendance or updates provided. Frith will check to see who took Randy Hiltner's position.

NRCS: No one in attendance or updates provided.

US FISH & WILDLIFE: Dave Azure was present. He mentioned they are looking at the Lamb's Lake Refugee spillway. He said he is working with headquarters on the 8 written comments received about the Drain Tile Rule. Dave said White Horse Hill will be having an event on July 29th, 2023 starting at 10 AM. This event will discuss the Great Bison & Indigenous culture. He explained in the past how easement work consisted of individuals, like himself, who carried a badge & basically was a law enforcement officer. He said that has changed with having Federal Game Wardens (Matt Carmen) & then Refugee Managers (Matt, Dave & Brian). He said back in 2014, there were 28 Federal Officers, down to 5 Federal Officers for federal refugee.

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES: Sindhuja Pillai-Grinolds was in attendance, online. She mentioned that Chris Korkowski has left their department. She mentioned that the switch gear was fixed on the west outlet and was turned on June 21st to full capacity. She said the pumps did have to be lowered but would be back to full capacity by the end of the week. Pillai-Grinolds mentioned that the engineering firm would have a draft to their department by the end of this month or the beginning of next month with the Capital Improvement information.

OLD BUSINESS:

2023 WATER TOUR DISCUSSION: Frith mentioned that the tour went well. Frith thanked everyone & board members for attending. He said they did receive 13/25 evaluations. There was a discussion on Camp Grafton & how much is going on out there. Frith mentioned it was nice to have 4 legislatures attend the water tour.

2023 SUMMER WATER CONFERENCE: Dani Quissell had nothing new to report about the conference. She did mention that the registrations are a little lower than last year when it was in Fargo. She said Julie Ellingson is in conversation with the Spirit Lake Casino about the 2025 conference being held in Devils Lake.

BENSON COUNTY DISCUSSION: Frith mentioned he did talk with Julie Beckstrand (Chairman of Benson County Water Board) & Brian Maddock. Julie mentioned to Frith that they were interested & wanted to sit in on regular meetings. Frith said he sent the assessment information about joining the joint board. He said some of the issues they had in the past were drains in the upper basin & they are at the bottom of the basin, and they wanted controls or slowing down the drains for the flow into Devils Lake. Also, there is so much Tribal Land not taxed in Benson County. Frith will wait to hear back from Benson County.

JOINT BOARD BYLAWS: Frith mentioned the bylaws were provided in the shared folder he emailed everyone. He said there are some changes & rewrites that need to be done.

OTHER OLD BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

USGS FY23-24 COST SHARE CONTRACT: Frith informed the board that the contract had to be signed & returned by July 1, 2023, so he did do that. He said this is for the gages near Webster, Penn, Churchs Ferry, Devils Lake & Lakota. **Jallo motioned to approve the signed contract, seconded by Tweed, motion carried unanimously.**

2024 WATER STEWARDSHIP AWARD: Frith mentioned that no award was given last year. He is hopeful to have one this year. He said he has set the deadline for the applications to be returned by October 31st, 2023, and the award to be presented at the Award Banquet at the December 7th, 2023, conference.

2024 & BEYOND-BASIN STRATEGIC & PROJECT PLANNING: Frith mentioned to the board that they would want to start planning for projects for the joint board. He put the question out there as to what kind of things the joint board want to participate in & how to prioritize them. He mentioned a possible economic analysis in the basin. There was discussion on lake stabilization & the fine line with economic impacts on ag land & recreation activities. He mentioned that Duane Pool (Water Resources Department) gave him some direction on where to look for projects & Chuck Fritz (Water Institute) on what specific questions to ask & how to ask those questions. Tweed mentioned the joint board making another video. Frith mentioned he had visited with Dennis Folgelson, who lives in Fargo & originally from the Leeds area, who mentioned how much has changed with the recreation activities in the Devils Lake area. Frith will get everyone the most recent Water Management Plan so further discussion can occur at next month's meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE & MISCELLANEOUS: Frith did mention that he continues to provide weekly and monthly lake levels. He did mention that the three additional all-season precipitation will be installed on basin stations. Frith mentioned that the Webster NDAWN Station will get completed yet this year. He mentioned that if Benson County was interested in becoming part of the Joint Board, there may be an option to get a station in Benson County.

BASIN BOARD REPORTS:

Ramsey County: Ash mentioned that the water board had their meeting on July 6th. He mentioned there were just updates given on some water complaints. He said there were various discussions, but no decisions were made.

Walsh County: Jallo mentioned they are looking at Joint Powers with Pembina County about a possible drain. He said they continue to work on FEMA stuff.

Eddy County: Tweed stated that their water board met yesterday. He said the engineering company (AE2S) they hired did their engineering on moving water across the canal on Hwy 281 from the north side to the south side. They had purchased a 30-inch culvert, and the downstream landowners said “no” to installing the culvert, so they had to stop.

Pierce County: Slaubaugh mentioned that their water board had their meeting on Monday. He said they discussed old business. He said they continue to watch the flows in Hurricane Lake.

Towner County: Benson was not in attendance.

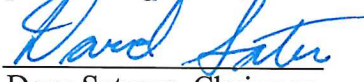
Nelson County: Sateren stated they hadn’t had a meeting & he had nothing new to report.

Cavalier County: Howatt reported that their water board is proceeding with a new drain project, Dresden #1. He mentioned that this project is out for bidding now. He did mention he was approached to apply for the position with the State Water Commission.

MANAGER’S REPORT: Frith reported that he would be attending the conference next week in Dickinson, and would be out of the office on Friday, July 28th, 2023.

The meeting adjourned at 10:34 AM.

Approved August 9th, 2023:


Dave Sateren, Chairman


Jeff W. Frith, Manager