

DEVILS LAKE BASIN JOINT WATER RESOURCE BOARD

Minutes of the regular monthly meeting held Wednesday, May 17th, 2023, Big Meeting Room, Ramsey County Courthouse, Devils Lake, ND, and Online via GoToMeeting.

Board member Duaine Ash called the meeting to order at 9:02 AM. Roll call of the counties was taken.

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

APPROVE AGENDA:

Ash asked if anyone had any additional items for today's agenda. **Benson made a motion to approve the agenda as presented, seconded by Jallo, 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 April 12th, 2023, meeting, seconded by Benson, motion passed unanimously.**

The financial report for the month was presented:

30-Apr-23

ASSETS

Checking/Savings

Administration	-\$1,628.27
Projects	\$17,043.20
Bremer-Checking Account - Other	-\$633.45
Total Bremer-Checking Account	\$14,781.48

Bremer Investment Account

Administration	\$77,075.16
Pilot Project Fund	\$8,279.58
Projects	\$135,897.57
Bremer Investment Account - Other	-\$8,875.23

Total Bremer Investment Account	\$212,377.08
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Total Checking/Savings	\$227,158.56
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Total Current Assets	\$227,158.56
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TOTAL ASSETS	\$227,158.56
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LIABILITIES & EQUITY

Opening Bal Equity	\$40,201.71
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Retained Earnings	\$150,989.84
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Net Income	\$35,965.19
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Total Equity	\$227,156.74
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TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	\$227,158.56
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Benson made a motion to approve the financial report, seconded by Jallo. The motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL of MONTHLY BILLS:

May 2023 Bills		Amount	Ck #
NDTC - Website Hosting & Email Maintenance		\$21.83	4907
Leever's North - April Meeting		\$16.88	4908
Jeff Frith - Cell Phone Expense		\$101.25	4909
Ramsey County Auditor: Rent		\$190.00	4910
Ramsey County Auditor - Postage		\$21.80	4910
Ramsey County Auditor: Telephone		\$55.49	4910
Ramsey County Water Resource District (Copier Rent)		\$125.00	4911
Ramsey County Water Resource District (Office Assistant Services)		\$300.00	4911
Ramsey County Auditor - Wages & Withholding Taxes		\$5,301.61	4912
Ramsey County Auditor - Health Insurance		\$1,794.14	4913
ND Water Education Foundation - Summer Water Tour Sponsorship		\$3,000.00	4914
U.S. Geological Survey - Quarterly Stream Gauge Cost Share		\$4,810.00	4915
Total Admin		\$10,928.00	
Total General Project		\$4,810.00	

Total **\$15,738.00**

Jallo made a motion to pay the May 2023 bills as listed, seconded by Benson, motion carried unanimously.

OTHERS PRESENT:

Stacy Peters-Ramsey County WRD Office Manager, Chris Korkowski, Sindhuja Pillai-Grinolds & Yaping Chi (Engineer)-Department of Water Resources, and Amanda Lee-National Weather Service. Online: Dani Quissell and Julie Ellingson, ND Water Users Association, Sarah Johnston, Walsh County Water Board, and Randy Richards, Senator Cramer's Office. Visitors: Bill Wood, East Bay Resort Owner.

AGENCY REPORTS:

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE: Frith reviewed the report he had received from Amanda Lee, and she went through it when she arrived. Amanda stated that she will share this information at the Devils Lake Outlets Advisory Committee meeting later. The next lake outlook is scheduled to come out is May 25th, 2023.

ND GAME & FISH: Randy Hiltner was unable to attend the meeting and is planning to retire in 3 months. It was stated in an email received by Frith that if the lake level did go down to 1446', some boat landings would need to be expanded. It was also mentioned that there will be a healthy fishery at a level of 1446'.

NRCS: No one in attendance or updates provided.

US FISH & WILDLIFE: Dave Azure was unable to attend. He provided some updates; Prescribed fire season is in full swing, and they have successfully burned some acres. Grazing permits have been issued, and several Waterfowl Production Areas and National Wildlife Refuges have had cows turned in. They were also dealing with high water in some areas, especially on Arrowwood Refuge north of Jamestown.

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES: Chris Korkowski and Sindhuja Pillai Grinolds were in attendance. Chris informed the board that the west end outlet was started at 50cfs on Monday. He said the CPI engineer was out to inspect the west-end outlet, and they stated it was looking pretty good. He said they will monitor conditions and move as much water as possible. Chris mentioned that 7.4 feet have been taken off the lake so far with the operations of the outlets. They are waiting for a switch gear for one of the pumps on the west end, which they hope to have in early/mid-July. Chris did show how the west end outlet operates, starting from Round Lake to the Sheyenne River.

ND WATER ASSOCIATION: Dani Quissell was in attendance, online. She informed the board that the legislative session wrapped up on April 30th, 2023. She said it was a really good session, and they used 75/80 days. She went through the Legislative Report as follows:

SB2020 DWR/SWC Funding: Not a lot of change from last month's meeting.

SB2017 Game & Fish: She mentioned that with the additional funding for ANS, there will be a lab and storage facility in Jamestown.

HB1391 Assessment Authorities: This did pass. It will require WRD to put their draft minutes on their website or in local paper within 10 days of conducting their meeting.

SB2372 Watershed Districts: This will require all WRD to participate in a joint board. Dani and Jack had a discussion on how this bill will cause some confusion. They are working to get some resources available for WRD to understand this bill. She did mention that the budget bill for the OMB did get the wording changed to discretionary from mandatory for mill payment to the joint board.

OLD BUSINESS:

2023 WATER TOUR DISCUSSION: Frith reviewed the water tour route with the water board, scheduled for Thursday, June 22nd, 2023. He did mention at Camp Grafton that Ben Holden will be there to give a presentation on aquatic invasive species.

2023 SUMMER WATER CONFERENCE: Frith mentioned that the registration form is out. The conference is scheduled in Dickinson on July 19th – 20th, 2023. Frith asked Julie if, during the summer conference if any of the sessions counted for the 3 hours of educational obligations for water board members. She did mention the 3 hours in the morning of the 20th does count as the educational obligations of water board members. She did state that she can be contacted for those who have done the educational obligation outlined for water board members.

AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES AWARENESS WEEK: Frith did send off the Resolution of Support on behalf of the joint water board.

DEVILS LAKE OUTLETS ADVISORY MEETING: Frith did present the Resolution of Support regarding the operation of the east and west end outlets. **Benson motioned to submit the signed Resolution of Support; seconded by Jallo. Motion passed unanimously.**

2024 BUDGET 2ND READING: Frith outlined some of the changes for 2024 budget changes. He mentioned an increase in insurance January 1. The office supplies did increase for new software or other office supplies that may be needed. He did mention that the 2024 budget is about \$9,000 more than 2023. Frith is figuring a 7% increase in assessments on counties, since there has not been one for about 5 years. He did say there is one more meeting in which the 2024 budget will need to be finalized to provide to County Auditor offices.

OTHER OLD BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

CORRESPONDENCE & MISCELLANEOUS: Frith showed the board a newsletter he receives regarding NWRA (National Water Resource Association), which provides water information on a national level. He did mention he received information from the Missouri River Basin (Ken Royce) about possibly presenting information about the Missouri River Basin to the joint board.

OTHER NEW BUSINESS:

Bill Wood, East Bay Campground owner, did address the board about them signing the Resolution of Support about operating outlets to get the lake level to 1446'. He did mention that this would affect the recreational owners like himself, and others around him. He said he would like to see the lake level at 1448'.

BASIN BOARD REPORTS:

Ramsey County: Ash mentioned at the water board meeting last week they discussed pricing on various contractors in the area and determining the cattail spraying for the summer. He said for Ramsey County Drain #10, there were no new updates. He said the Grand Harbor Operating Committee met and requested an increase in the Grand Harbor-Dry Lake assessment area.

Cavalier County: Howatt was absent. Nothing to report.

Walsh County: Jallo mentioned they had a meeting yesterday. He said they discussed the flooding in the eastern part of their county. He said their water board is not going to support cleaning out the drains too early because it is causing the water to come much faster. He said they want the drains to open up naturally. He said that in June, they will be putting out bids for Snag & Clear for the Park River area.

Eddy County: Tweed was absent. Nothing to report.

Pierce County: Slaubaugh was absent. Nothing to report.

Towner County: Benson said he was surprised by the runoff. He said a few issues with water over the roads because the culverts were full of snow. He said there are so many new ditches in their county.

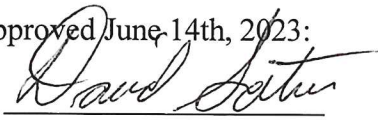
Nelson County: Sateren was absent. Nothing to report.

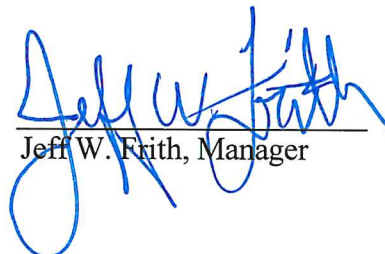
MANAGER'S REPORT:

Frith mentioned that he participated in the spring ANS Committee meeting. He said there are several ways they test for aquatic invasive species. He mentioned that last week Dick Johnson provided his resignation to the State Water Commission. He mentioned that he attended a landowner meeting in Churchs Ferry last week. He said at the County Commission meeting last night, they passed a similar resolution to support running the outlets.

The meeting adjourned at 10:41 AM.

Approved June 14th, 2023:


Dave Sateren, Chairman


Jeff W. Frith, Manager