

DEVILS LAKE BASIN JOINT WATER RESOURCE BOARD

Minutes of the regular monthly meeting held Wednesday, May 8th, 2024, Historical Meeting Room, Ramsey County Courthouse, Devils Lake, ND, and Online via Teams.

Vice-Chairman Mike Tweed called the meeting to order at 8:01 AM. A roll call of the counties was taken, and all members 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

APPROVE AGENDA: Tweed asked if anyone had any additional items for today’s agenda. **Benson made a motion to approve the agenda, seconded by Sateren, motion carried unanimously.**

APPROVAL of MINUTES: Tweed asked if everyone had an opportunity to read the minutes from April 10th, 2024, and if there were any corrections or additions. **Ash made a motion to approve the April 10th, 2024 minutes, seconded by Jallo, motion carried unanimously.**

APPROVAL of FINANCIALS: The financial reports were presented. **Ash made a motion to approve the financial reports, seconded by Benson, motion carried unanimously.**

APPROVAL of MONTHLY BILLS:

	May 2024 Bills	Amount	Ck #
Intuit QuickBooks Online Monthly		\$45.00	ACH
Ramsey County Water Resource District (Copier Rent)		\$125.00	5022
Ramsey County Water Resource District (Office Assistant Services)		\$300.00	5022
Ramsey County Auditor: Rent		\$190.00	5025
Ramsey County Auditor: Telephone		\$55.49	5025
Ramsey County Auditor - Wages & Withholding Taxes		\$5,882.09	5024
Ramsey County Auditor - Health Insurance		\$2,062.94	5023
NDTC - Website Hosting		\$21.83	5026
Leevers - February Meeting Expense		\$16.88	5027
Jeff Frith - April 2024 Travel		\$460.89	5028
Jeff Frith - Cell Phone Expense		\$101.25	5028
Boarderland Publishing Cavalier County Newspaper		\$53.00	5030
ND Water Education Foundation - 2024 Water Tour Sponsorships		\$3,000.00	5029
Creel Bay Digital - Website Support			5031

	Total Admin	\$12,314.37
	Total General Project	\$0.00

Total **\$12,314.37**

Sateren made a motion to pay the May 2024 bills listed, seconded by Slaubaugh, motion carried unanimously.

OTHERS PRESENT:

Stacy Peters, Ramsey County WRD Office Manager, Brian Sea, ND Game & Fish, David Remmen, NRCS, Online: Yaping Chi, Sindhuja S.Pillai-Grinolds & Jeff Trana, Department of Water Resources, and Julie Ellingson, ND Water Users Association.

AGENCY REPORTS:

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE: Amanda Lee was unable to attend. She provided Frith a report which he presented. A new Drought Monitor report scheduled to come out tomorrow and will reflect the rains received. The next Exceedance Lake Level report to come out around the 23rd of the month, and the Non-Exceedance Lake Level report to come out June 27th.

ND GAME & FISH: Brian Sea was in attendance. He mentioned they did pike spawning in Devils Lake. He said they were able to do about 1300-1400 pike in area community ponds. He said they will be starting up lake surveys. He was asked about license sales in the state and he mentioned he has not heard this year's report on them yet.

NRCS: David Remmen was in attendance, along with their intern, Mya. He mentioned the Water Bank signups end on May 31st for Benson, Nelson & Ramsey Counties. He said that grass seeding has started with CRP. He said starting May 20th they will have a new DSC, Allie Hanson. He mentioned that Mya would be working on WRE Easements this summer, which there are about 100 she'll be doing. He mentioned they are working with FSA for People's Garden, which will be working with schools to grow produce.

US FISH & WILDLIFE: No one in attendance.

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES: Yaping Chi was in attendance, online. She mentioned that the West End Outlet was in operation as of May 6, 2024, at 7:30 AM and is at 200 cfs. She mentioned that the East End Outlet is scheduled to be operating on May 13th at 50-100 cfs. She mentioned that at Cooperstown it is at 600 cfs and they cannot exceed 800 cfs, so that is why the East End Outlet would be operating at the 50-100 cfs.

ND WATER ASSOCIATION: Julie Ellingson was in attendance, online.

OLD BUSINESS:

WATER TOUR FOR 2024: Frith and Julie Ellingson went over the tour on June 20th, which will be starting in Rugby. Frith mentioned there are 15 rooms available at the Cobblestone in Rugby at the state rate. Julie mentioned that the deadline for the block of rooms is May 19th. She mentioned she got Triangle Coach out of Grand Forks for the bus. She mentioned the Cobblestone's number is (701) 881-3000.

2025 BUDGET 2ND READING: Frith mentioned he kept most of the figures the same for 2025. He said the 2025 Budget will need to be finalized at the June's meeting.

ANS WEEK: Frith mentioned this week is ANS Week. He went over the presentation he had received while he attended an online meeting.

OTHER OLD BUSINESS: No other old business.

NEW BUSINESS:

UPCOMING MEETINGS: Frith mentioned the ND Water Users Association Strategic Planning Committee would be meeting in Bismarck May 22nd & 23rd. He mentioned the Pre-State Water Commission meeting is May 16th. Frith also mentioned he wanted to put on the board's radar the Water Topics Interim Legislative Committee Meeting on June 5th & 6th in Minot. He informed the board that the State Water Commission would be hosting a Devils Lake Basin meeting on June 28th, 2024 at Lake Region State College at 3 PM.

CORRESPONDENCE & MISCELLANEOUS: Frith mentioned the correspondence is the drought map, stream flows & lake levels that he emails out.

OTHER NEW BUSINESS: No other new business.

BASIN BOARD REPORTS:

Ramsey County: Ash mentioned that the water board had their meeting on Tuesday. He said they discussed the damaged culvert at Channel A. He mentioned they discussed other maintenance on their assessed drains. Ash mentioned the water board discussed cattail spraying for 2024 and a drain complaint.

Walsh County: Jallo mentioned they met yesterday. He said they had lawyers online because townships were coming in due to blocked culverts. He said a lot projects going on. They are working on FEMA projects.

Eddy County: Tweed mentioned the Red Bridge Crossing is still tabled. He said the Bureau still looking to give the New Rockford Canal over to the Garrison Board. He said there was supposed to be a meeting tomorrow on this but it was rescheduled for July.

Pierce County: Slaubaugh mentioned they met on Monday. He said they did not have much to discuss. He said they will monitor where they did cleanout by using a drone or by driving the locations.

Towner County: Benson mentioned they had their meeting yesterday. He said they are working on a Snag & Clear project but 2 farmers cannot agree. He said they have a \$100 bounty on beavers they have been having problems with. They said they had worked with F&W on this.

Nelson County: Sateren mentioned their last meeting was at the courthouse regarding a legal drain. He said they are waiting on the vote.

Cavalier County: Howatt mentioned their meeting is tomorrow. He said they are coming up with policy on tile next to a legal drain, because they ended up cutting into the first line of drain tile. He said they are looking to regulate where and how to put in drain tile next to a legal drain.

MANAGER'S REPORT: Frith mentioned that the State Water Commission approved \$107 million in cost-sharing for water projects and that he attended several meetings in April.

The meeting adjourned at 10:09 AM.

Approved June 12th, 2024:

Van Howatt, Chairman

Jeff W. Frith, Manager

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