

## ***DEVILS LAKE BASIN JOINT WATER RESOURCE BOARD***

Minutes of the regular monthly meeting held Thursday, July 18th, 2024, in the Historical Meeting Room, Ramsey County Courthouse, Devils Lake, ND, and Online via Teams.

Board member Duaine Ash called the meeting to order at 8:15 AM. Roll call of the counties was taken.

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

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

**APPROVAL of MINUTES:** Ash asked if everyone had an opportunity to read the minutes from June 12th, 2024, and if there were any corrections or additions. **Sateren made a motion to approve the June 12th, 2024, minutes, seconded by Slaubaugh, motion carried unanimously.**

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

**APPROVAL of MONTHLY BILLS:**

	July 2024 Bills	Amount	Ck #
Intuit QuickBooks Online Monthly		\$45.00	ACH
ND Workforce Safety & Insurance		\$250.00	5042
Ramsey County Water Resource District (Copier Rent)		\$125.00	5043
Ramsey County Water Resource District (Office Assistant Services)		\$300.00	5043
Ramsey County Auditor: Rent		\$190.00	5044
Ramsey County Auditor: Telephone		\$55.49	5044
Ramsey County Auditor - Wages & Withholding Taxes		\$5,882.09	5045
Ramsey County Auditor - Health Insurance		\$2,062.94	5050
NDTC - Website Hosting		\$21.83	5046
Leevers - May Meeting Expense		\$11.40	5047
Jeff Frith - June 2024 Travel		\$261.38	5048
Jeff Frith - Cell Phone Expense		\$101.25	5048
Insure Forward		\$743.00	5049
Total Admin		\$10,049.38	
Total General Project		\$0.00	

**Total** **\$10,049.38**

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

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Stacy Peters, Ramsey County WRD Office Manager, Tom Grafenauer, National Weather Service, and Emily Fernan, US Fish & Wildlife. Online: Yaping Chi, Sindhuja Pillai-Grinolds & Alexis Faber-Department of Water Resources, & Dani Quissell-ND Water Association.

**AGENCY REPORTS:**

**NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE:** Tom Grafenauer was in attendance online. He went over the monthly report. The lake level currently is 1450.1. The 2024 Non-Exceedance Lake Level is reporting by freeze up the lake level to be 1448.4-1448.9. The next Non-Exceedance Lake Level report is set for Thursday, July 25<sup>th</sup>.

**ND GAME & FISH:** No one in attendance.

**NRCS:** No one in attendance.

**US FISH & WILDLIFE:** Emily Fernan was in attendance. She mentioned that there are now 5 calves out at White Horse. She mentioned they finished the fence out at White Horse. She reported that they released 45,000 beetles around Pleasant Lake for spurge weeds.

**DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES:** Yaping Chi was in attendance online. She mentioned that both West & East End Outlets were operating at 200 cfs with a total of 400 cfs. She mentioned that the East End Outlet was down for a couple of weeks, and during that time, the West End Outlet operated at 250 cfs. She said the screens at the intake at each pump have been getting cleaned as they get plugged with weeds and debris. She mentioned a proposal for preventive maintenance on the switch gears on both outlets.

**ND WATER ASSOCIATION:** Dani Quissell was in attendance online.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**WATER TOUR FOR 2024:** Frith mentioned he received positive feedback regarding the water tour. He reported about 42 people for lunch at the Hawk Museum and about 35 individuals on the bus.

**2024 JOINT SUMMER MEETING:** Dani Quissell stated it was the first in-person meeting for the Water Coalition. She mentioned that Jack Dwyer gave a Legislative Update. In his presentation, it addressed SB2372, which mandates water resource districts to be part of a Basin Joint Board. Frith mentioned that next year's summer conference would be held in Devils Lake. Dani mentioned that they are working on the winter conference and the theme is "Water Matters".

**WATER DAY AT STATE FAIR:** Frith mentioned that July 25<sup>th</sup>, 2024, would be the water day at the ND State Fair. The booth is set up from 11 AM-4 PM.

**OTHER OLD BUSINESS:** No other old business.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**USGS FY24-25 COST SHARE CONTRACT:** Frith mentioned he signed the Cost Share Contract with USGS, as the contract was due by July 1, 2024, and the contract came after June's meeting. Frith reported that the joint board's share is \$19,850 annually, paid quarterly. **Jallo made a motion to approve the contract for the cost share with USGS for stream gauges in Devils Lake Basin, seconded by Slaubaugh, motion carried unanimously.**

**2025 WATER STEWARDSHIP AWARD:** Frith mentioned to start thinking of nominations for the Water Stewardship Award.

**BASIN WIDE WATER MANAGEMENT PLAN:** Frith asked the board members how they felt about doing an RFP (request for proposal) to hire a firm to assist in developing an updated Basin Wide Water Management Plan. He mentioned that the Water User's Association used a firm that cost them about \$10,000. He said if a firm was hired to assist the Joint Board could request a cost share from the Department of Water Resources. He said that the Joint Board could determine the scope of the work they would want done by the firm. Sateren requested that Frith provide the board members with a copy of the existing plan to review and discuss at next month's meeting. Frith will email out the existing plan.

**CORRESPONDENCE & MISCELLANEOUS:** Frith mentioned the correspondence is the stream flows & lake levels that he sends out. He showed some pictures and videos he had taken with his drone. He mentioned the board received a "thank you" from Julie and Dani for the water tour and sponsorship.

Yaping mentioned that there are two NDAWN sites for data information. She showed the board members where this information was for rainfall and other monthly statistics. Yaping stated that the information was located on the NDAWN.info web page under the "Climate" tab; you have various options from there.

**OTHER NEW BUSINESS:**

None

**BASIN BOARD REPORTS:**

**Ramsey County:** Ash mentioned that their meeting was on July 2<sup>nd</sup>. He said they reviewed some water complaints. He mentioned that the culvert was in for repairs at Channel A.

**Walsh County:** Jallo mentioned they met on Tuesday. He said they are discussing waterway designations with a farmer and township. He said the dam they had unplugged by a company out of Minnesota that beaver seems to be back.

**Eddy County:** Tweed was absent, and no updates were provided.

**Pierce County:** Slaubaugh mentioned they met, and they had no issues to discuss. He said they have had some beaver dams cleaned out.

**Towner County:** Benson mentioned that their secretary, Ruth, retired. She had been with the Water Board for 32 years. He really enjoyed the water tour and said the number of coulees has dropped in their area.

**Nelson County:** Sateren mentioned that their roads are underwater. He said they issued an emergency permit for dangerous roads in the north of Michigan and are looking to clean out the Michigan Spillway.

**Cavalier County:** Howatt is absent, and no updates were provided.

**MANAGER'S REPORT:** Frith mentioned he received the State Water Commission pre-meeting packet. He said the county has been busy with budgets.

The meeting adjourned at 10:14 AM.

Approved August 14th, 2024:

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Van Howatt, Chairman

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Jeff W. Frith, Manager