

DEVILS LAKE BASIN JOINT WATER RESOURCE BOARD

Minutes of the regular monthly meeting held Wednesday, August 14th, 2024, Historical Meeting Room, Ramsey County Courthouse, Devils Lake, ND, and Online via Teams.

Vice-Chairman Mike Tweed called the meeting to order at 8:00 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: Tweed asked if anyone had any additional items for today’s agenda. **Jallo made a motion to approve the agenda, seconded by Ash, motion carried unanimously.**

APPROVAL of MINUTES: Tweed asked if everyone had an opportunity to read the minutes from July 18th, 2024, and if there were any corrections or additions. **Jallo made a motion to approve the June 12th, 2024 minutes, seconded by Sateren, motion carried unanimously.**

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

APPROVAL of MONTHLY BILLS:

August 2024 Bills	Amount	Ck #
Intuit QuickBooks Online Monthly	\$45.00	ACH
Reslock Printing - 2024 DL Facts Brochure	\$93.75	5052
Ramsey County Water Resource District (Copier Rent)	\$125.00	5053
Ramsey County Water Resource District (Office Assistant Services)	\$300.00	5053
Ramsey County Auditor: Rent	\$190.00	5056
Ramsey County Auditor: Telephone	\$55.49	5056
Ramsey County Auditor - Wages & Withholding Taxes	\$5,882.09	5058
Ramsey County Auditor - Health Insurance	\$2,062.94	5059
NDTC - Website Hosting	\$21.83	5057
Leevers - July Meeting Expense	\$11.25	5055
Jeff Frith - July 2024 Travel	\$478.63	5054
Jeff Frith - Cell Phone Expense	\$101.25	5054
USGS - Quarterly Stream Gage Cost Share	\$4,837.50	5051
Total Admin	\$9,367.23	
Total General Project	\$4,837.50	
Total	\$14,204.73	

Frith reported the bill to Reslock Printing was for the Devils Lake Fact Sheet & the USGS is for the quarterly cost share for the 13 gauges. **Ash made a motion to pay the August 2024 bills listed, seconded by Sateren, motion carried unanimously.**

OTHERS PRESENT:

Stacy Peters, Ramsey County WRD Office Manager; Bryan Sea, ND Game & Fish; and Dave Azure, US Fish & Wildlife. Online: Amanda Lee, National Weather Service; Yaping Chi & Alexis Faber, Department of Water Resources, and Dani Quissell & Julie Ellingson, ND Water Association.

AGENCY REPORTS:

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE: Amanda Lee was in attendance online. She reviewed her report with the board members. She pointed out that the Drought Monitor had expanded more east than last month. She reported that the Non-Exceedance Outlook from 7/25/2024 estimated lake level 1448.8. She mentioned the next Non-Exceedance Outlook report comes out on Thursday, August 22nd.

ND GAME & FISH: Bryan Sea was in attendance. He reported to the board that they had a Lure for Life camp for kids at the Lakewood Bible Camp. He mentioned they have been doing quality checks and that there have been 4 summer kills in the state this year. He did mention that Dan Fischer is working on the Rock Lake area.

NRCS: No one in attendance.

US FISH & WILDLIFE: Dave Azure was in attendance. He discussed drainage on road of right away and who has jurisdiction, and how easement restrictions take place. He said if there is ever a question about this, the best thing to do is contact US Fish & Wildlife. He mentioned Johnson Lake in Nelson County and noted that the lake could be drained since there is no water control structure here. Sateren mentioned that the Nelson County Water Board had stopped the draining.

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES: Yaping Chi was in attendance online. She reported that the combined pumping for the East and West End Outlets was 400cfs. She said the West End Outlet had to be turned off for a few days in July because of weed maintenance. Frith showed a drone video of an area in northwestern Ramsey County that highlights a township road that leads to a cemetery; however, the road is underwater, making access to the cemetery impossible. Frith stated that the inaccessible cemetery emphasizes the importance of operating the outlets, which is the only realistic way of allowing family members to be able to pay their respect to their loved ones.

ND WATER ASSOCIATION: Dani Quissell and Julie Ellingson attended online. Dani reported that the December convention information will go out soon, so check your mailbox and email. She mentioned starting to work on the resolution process and policy positions. She noted that the current resolutions are on their website.

OLD BUSINESS:

2025 WATER STEWARDSHIP AWARD: Frith suggested starting to think about nominations for the Water Stewardship Award. He stated that the forms are available online.

BASIN WIDE WATER MANAGEMENT PLAN: Frith asked the board if they had a chance to review the Water Management Plan. He mentioned that the last one was from 2006, and the board should consider investing some time and money to update it. After discussion, it was agreed that this would be tabled until October or November.

OTHER OLD BUSINESS: No other old business.

NEW BUSINESS:

UPCOMING MEETINGS: Frith informed the board that the Upper Sheyenne would meet on August 21 at 9 AM in Carrington, ND. The Aquatic Invasive Species Committee, an organization that he belongs to, meets at Lake Ashtabula Fisheries on September 10th. Our next meeting is September 11th, and the Water Topics Overview Interim Committee will meet on September 12th. Frith stated that he plans to attend the Water Topics as there are many issues facing Water Resource Districts in the upcoming legislative session.

COST SHARE REQUEST: Frith mentioned that Suzie Kenner, DL Chamber, approached him with a cost share for the Wheelchairs & Walleyes project. ND Company provides wheelchair accessibility at various water sites. Frith stated that they are looking to do this at Lakewood Landing. Frith mentioned that the board budgeted \$40,000 for projects and still has a remaining balance of \$34,000, and he let the public know that the applications are available on the Joint Board's website.

CORRESPONDENCE & MISCELLANEOUS: Frith provided the monthly precipitation report and read the "thank you" from Dani and Julie on the Water Education Summer Tour.

OTHER NEW BUSINESS:

BASIN BOARD REPORTS:

Ramsey County: Ash mentioned that their meeting was on August 6th. He reported a discussion on Channel A, a possible Snag & Clear project in the Lawton Coulee. He noted that the water board is looking to change its cattail spraying policy. He said they denied some water complaints.

Walsh County: Jallo mentioned they met yesterday. He said they worked on a couple of permits. He said their County Superintendent has been working with them on cleanout from one culvert to another. He mentioned that they are doing a Rehabilitation study on 3 dams in their area.

Eddy County: Tweed mentioned that their water board was expressing concerns about the Johnson Lake cleanout.

Pierce County: Slaubaugh mentioned at their meeting they approved a tile permit. He said they are doing clean up around an area lake.

Towner County: Benson was not in attendance, and no updates were provided.

Nelson County: Sateren mentioned they met last Thursday. He said they are working on a drain permit N of Michigan. He said at Johnson Lake, they decided as a board to stop the draining.

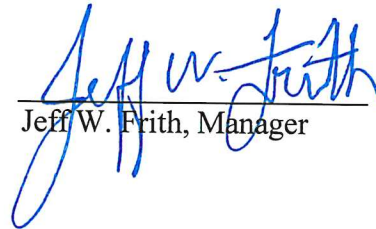
Cavalier County: Howatt mentioned their water board had to respond to an investigation from the Attorney General on them possibly breaking Open Meeting Laws. He thanked ND Game & Fish for the dock they installed at Mt Carmel Dam

MANAGER'S REPORT: Frith showed the board the drone video on Morrison Channel pointing out that the water isn't moving very fast and is flooding adjacent farmlands. He stated that he plans on going back out there to see if he can find any obstructions.

The meeting adjourned at 10:47 AM.

Approved September 11th, 2024:


Mike Tweed, Vice-Chairman


Jeff W. Frith, Manager