

DEVILS LAKE BASIN JOINT WATER RESOURCE BOARD

Minutes of the regular monthly meeting held Wednesday, November 13th, 2024, Historical Meeting Room, Ramsey County Courthouse, Devils Lake, ND, and Online via Teams.

Chairman Van Howatt called the meeting to order at 9:00 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 (Online)
Walsh County	Albin Jallo

APPROVE AGENDA: Howatt 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: Howatt asked if everyone had an opportunity to read the minutes from October 9th, 2024, and if there were any corrections or additions. **Ash made a motion to approve the October 9th, 2024 minutes, seconded by Tweed, motion carried unanimously.**

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

APPROVAL of MONTHLY BILLS:

November 2024 Bills	Amount	Ck #
Intuit QuickBooks Online Monthly	\$99.00	ACH
Ramsey County Water Resource District (Copier Rent)	\$125.00	5081
Ramsey County Water Resource District (Office Assistant Services)	\$300.00	5081
Ramsey County Water Resource District (Winter Conference)	\$310.00	5081
Cavalier County WRD - Winter Conference	\$310.00	5082
Walsh County Press - Annual Subscription	\$42.00	5083
Ramsey County Auditor: Rent	\$190.00	5087
Ramsey County Auditor: Telephone	\$55.49	5087
Ramsey County Auditor - Wages & Withholding Taxes	\$5,882.09	5088
Ramsey County Auditor - Health Insurance	\$2,062.94	5089
NDTC - Website Hosting	\$21.83	5086
Leevers - Meeting Expense	\$17.10	5084
Jeff Frith - Cell Phone Expense	\$101.25	5085
ND Water Users Association - Frith Conference Registration	VOID	5090
Total Admin	\$9,516.70	
Total General Project	\$0.00	
Total	\$9,516.70	

Jallo made a motion to pay the November 2024 bills listed, seconded by Tweed, motion carried unanimously.

OTHERS PRESENT:

Stacy Peters, Ramsey County WRD Office Manager, and Bryan Sea, ND Game & Fish. Online: Jim Kaiser, Meteorologist, National Weather Service, Yaping Chi, Alexis Faber, ND Department of Water Resources, Annika Plummer, ND Water Users Association.

AGENCY REPORTS:

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE: Jim Kaiser was in attendance online on behalf of Amanda Lee. He reviewed the weather report with the board members. He mentioned there are still areas in drought throughout ND. He said patterns were becoming more active starting into winter.

ND GAME & FISH: Bryan Sea was in attendance. He mentioned they wrapped up fieldwork last month. He said that yesterday, they had their Advisory Board meeting here in Devils Lake. One of the main concerns was non-resident waterfowlers. It was asked about CWD in deer in the area, and he mentioned in our area, there is no sign, but there is in the Grand Forks area. He mentioned to the non-resident waterfowlers that it is all legislative. He mentioned there are several snow geese in the area. He did mention they met with Dan Fischer, Engineer, on Rock Lake. He said initially, there were 3 sites on the 2011 report, but in the updated LIDAR information, there was another site found. He mentioned Fischer would be shooting some elevations and collecting some additional data. Once this is done, they hope to discuss determining the level of protection with landowners. Howatt mentioned they are having many issues with beavers up in Cavalier County. Frith did forward Dean Janzen's contact information for beaver issues. Sea did mention he did go to Battle Lake, and he said there are 4 signs posted. He mentioned they would be putting up an access sign to Battle Lake. Ash asked about the pond at Ruger Park, and Sea mentioned individuals have been catching walleye & perch. He said they are stocking with Northern pike this year.

NRCS: No one in attendance or update provided.

US FISH & WILDLIFE: Dave Azure is unable to attend. He did provide an update with Frith that they are currently busy working on non-compliant wetland easements. He mentioned there are 95 of these.

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES: Yaping Chi was in attendance online. She mentioned that the East End Outlet was shut off on October 18th, and the West End Outlet was shut off on October 22nd due to water quality. She mentioned that the highest output for 2024 for the East End Outlet was 275cfs & the West End Outlet was 250cfs. She reported that for 2024, the East End Outlet had discharged 44,700-acre feet & West End Outlet had discharged 68,300-acre feet, with a combined discharge of 113,000-acre feet. She mentioned that this was similar to 2018. Yaping stated they will continue repair & maintenance on the outlets. She mentioned the pumps had been tested, and she said the report came back that the pumps were good. She mentioned the backfill & electricity on the East End Outlet were started on October 28th and would be completed next week. She mentioned preventive maintenance on the switch gears would be done next week. She reported that dive teams scheduled to clean out the sediment on the East End intake had to be rescheduled due to poor weather conditions, and they are unsure if that will be completed this year.

OLD BUSINESS:

2025 WATER STEWARDSHIP AWARD: Frith mentioned he did not receive any nominations this year for the award.

ANNUAL WATER CONFERENCE: Annika Plummer was in attendance and reminded the board that the winter conference was December 10th-13th. She mentioned that the agenda and registration are available on their website. She also mentioned that the deadline for the proposed legislature to the Resolutions Committee was December 2nd.

Frith asked about the board getting new wardrobe attire for the winter conference. He showed the board members a long-sleeve option or a vest option on the Decorated Wearables website. **Ash made a motion for the board to purchase the black heather vests from Decorated Wearables, seconded by Tweed, motion carried unanimously.**

MANAGER REVIEW COMMITTEE: Frith mentioned that the committee has not met yet & they would need to know for the December meeting, as the January 2025 paycheck is produced in December. Frith exited the room & the board members discussed. **Tweed made a motion for a 5% pay increase for Frith beginning January 1, 2025, seconded by Slaubaugh, motion carried unanimously.**

MORRISON OUTLET-WEBSTER CHANNEL: Frith mentioned the Ramsey County Water Resource District agreed to pay \$10,000 towards sediment cleanout at Leet Road (59th St NE) ¼ mile north & ¼ mile south. **Satern made a motion to agree to pay \$10,000 towards the cleanout at Leet Road (59th St NE); seconded by Ash. Motion carried unanimously.**

COST SHARE REQUESTS: After discussion on the cost share for the Walleyes & Wheelchairs that was presented at last month's meeting by Suzie Kenner, DL Chamber, it was determined to table until next month's meeting.

Frith mentioned he received another cost share request from RCWRD for a Stream Crossing Standard in Bartlett Township & Peters recommended to table until she gets final bill for the cost of the Stream Crossing.

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS: After discussion on ANS, it was decided that Frith would put together a spreadsheet that indicates the options and the cost of his option for the board to review before making a decision.

ENGINEERING CONSULTANT SERVICES: After discussion, it was determined this would be tabled until next month, so more conversation can be held.

OTHER OLD BUSINESS: No other old business.

NEW BUSINESS:

2025 JOINT BOARD OFFICERS NOMINATION COMMITTEE: Frith mentioned this will need to be determined next month for 2025. Howatt, Tweed & Sateren will meet at the water conference to determine who will become the new Vice Chairman, as Tweed will become the new Chairman. Frith will forward a list of previous Chairman information, so they have to review when they meet.

CORRESPONDENCE & MISCELLANEOUS: Frith mentioned they had received some thank you letters for sponsorship & silent auction items for the winter water conference.

Frith did inform the board members that the Ramsey County Water Resource District and the County Commissioners are communicating on a draft Resolution for a Comprehensive Water Plan for inundated land in Ramsey County.

OTHER NEW BUSINESS: No other new business.

BASIN BOARD REPORTS:

Ramsey County: Ash mentioned they had their meeting last week. He said they discussed the draft RC Comprehensive Water Plan, a possible Lawton Coulee Snag & Clear, and agreed to some sediment cleanout on the Leet Road that is part of the Morrison Lake Outlet Channel.

Walsh County: Jallo mentioned they had their meeting yesterday, and their contractor is finishing up with FEMA work. He mentioned the 60/40 payment for county roads on their assessed drains. He noted the engineering is so expensive for this.

Eddy County: Tweed reported they had their meeting last week. He said a landowner indicated that a drain up from his land is causing flooding on about 40 acres of his land. He mentioned that their board is recommending that he dike his field. He said that Eddy and Wells County are working on sizing culverts. He did mention that their water board does not pay for culverts on ROW.

Pierce County: Slaubaugh reported they have been installing some culverts and did one clean-out this fall. He mentioned that at Hurricane Lake, they are having problems with cattails. Slaubaugh mentioned that their county pays for culverts, and the water board pays for ½ of the installations.

Towner County: Benson reported they were concerned because an individual had promised to come up and spray cattails but never showed up. He said they continue to have beaver issues.

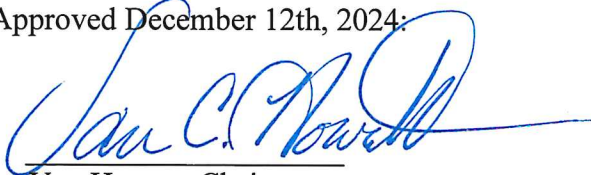
Nelson County: Sateren mentioned they are working with Dennis Hildebrand on spoil piles.

Cavalier County: Howatt mentioned they met a week and a half ago. He said they have a new secretary, Paula. He said they worked on some culvert approvals. He said the Game & Fish finished the landing at Mt Carmel Dam and looks nice. He reported they have had a few water complaints. He said they have another legal drain that is being held up.

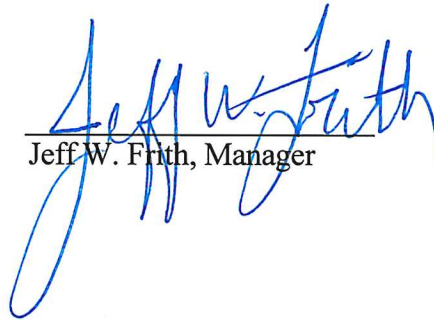
MANAGER'S REPORT: Frith stated that he received notification from Daryl Ritchison, NDAWN Director, that he had an extra all-season gauge they recently installed on the Webster NDAWN Station at no additional cost. Frith stated that they also added a camera to that location, and everything associated with that station will be available later this week on the <https://ndawn.info> website.

The meeting adjourned at 11:30 AM.

Approved December 12th, 2024:



Van Howatt, Chairman



Jeff W. Frith, Manager