

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

Minutes of the regular monthly meeting held Wednesday, April 9, 2025, in the Historical Meeting Room, Ramsey County Courthouse, Devils Lake, ND, and Online via Teams.

Before the meeting, Chairman Mike Tweed passed the gavel to Vice-Chairman Albi Jallo, who called the meeting to order at 9:01 AM. A 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 (via online)
Walsh County	Albin Jallo



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

**APPROVAL of MINUTES:** Jallo asked if everyone had an opportunity to read the minutes from February 12th, 2025, and if there were any corrections or additions. **Ash made a motion to approve the February 12th, 2025 minutes, seconded by Tweed, motion carried unanimously.**

**APPROVAL of FINANCIALS:** The financial reports were presented for February 2025 and March 2025. **Ash made a motion to approve the financial reports for February 2025; seconded by Slaubaugh. Motion carried unanimously. Howatt made a motion to approve the financial reports for March 2025; seconded by Sateren. Motion carried unanimously.**

**APPROVAL of MONTHLY BILLS FOR MARCH 2025 & APRIL 2025:**

	March 2025 Bills	Amount	Ck #
Intuit QuickBooks Online Monthly		\$99.00	ACH
Ramsey County Water Resource District (Copier Rent)		\$125.00	5126
Ramsey County Water Resource District (Office Assistant Services)		\$300.00	5126
Leevers Foods North - February Meeting Expense		\$16.88	5127
Ramsey County Auditor - Wages & Withholding Taxes		\$6,176.20	5128
Ramsey County Auditor: Rent		\$190.00	5129
Ramsey County Auditor: Telephone		\$55.49	5129
Ramsey County Auditor - Health Insurance		\$2,062.94	5130
Jeff Frith - Cell Phone Expense		\$101.25	5131
NDTC - Website Hosting		\$21.83	5132
Wheelchairs & Walleyes - Project Cost Share		\$10,000.00	5033
Total Admin		\$9,148.59	
Total General Project		\$10,000.00	
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$19,148.59</b>	

April 2025 Bills	Amount	Ck #
Intuit QuickBooks Online Monthly	\$99.00	ACH
Ramsey County Water Resource District (Copier Rent)	\$125.00	5134
Ramsey County Water Resource District (Office Assistant Services)	\$300.00	5134
Ramsey County Auditor - Wages & Withholding Taxes	\$6,176.20	5135
Ramsey County Auditor: Rent	\$190.00	5136
Ramsey County Auditor: Telephone	\$55.49	5136
Ramsey County Auditor - Health Insurance	\$2,062.94	5137
Jeff Frith - Cell Phone Expense	\$101.25	5138
Jeff Frith - March Travel Expense - Bismarck Water Legislative Meetings	\$544.82	5138
NDTC - Website Hosting	\$21.83	5139
USGS - Quarterly Stream Gauges	\$4,962.50	5140
 Total Admin	\$9,676.53	
 Total General Project	\$4,962.50	
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$14,639.03</b>	

**Satern made a motion to pay March 2025 bills as presented, seconded by Howatt, motion carried unanimously. Satern made a motion to pay the April 2025 bills listed, seconded by Tweed, motion carried unanimously.**

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Stacy Peters, Ramsey County WRD Office Manager, Brian Sea, ND Game & Fish, Dave Azure, Wetland Manager, US Fish & Wildlife. Claire Leiseth, Ally Hanson & Brittany Ostwald, NRCS, Karen Haussman, & Brad Sletten, landowners. Online: Amanda Lee, National Weather Service, Yaping Chi & Sindhuja Pillai-Grinolds, ND Department of Water Resources, Dani Quissell & Julie Ellingson, ND Water Association, Jim Olson, Blue Water Consultant, & Brenyn Hardy, Cavalier County District Soil Conservationist.

**AGENCY REPORTS:**

**NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE:** Amanda Lee was in attendance online. She reviewed her monthly report, mentioning that the current lake level is 1449.6. She reported that the next Outlook would be on April 24<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

**ND GAME & FISH:** Brian Sea was in attendance. He mentioned they are finishing up reporting. He reported that next week is their Advisory Board meetings. He mentioned they are gearing up for their spring workloads with Northern pike & walleye spawning.

**NRCS:** Ally Hanson was in attendance. She went over information on the various easement programs that NRCS has to offer. She reported WRE (Wetland Reserve Easement) 30-year, EWP 99-year easement (Natural Disaster Declaration), Water-bank 10-year, Wetland Mitigation & Wetland Water bank Mitigation 99 year. She mentioned she could check with her Compliance Mitigation Specialist to see if they would come in and talk about mitigation easements.

**US FISH & WILDLIFE:** Dave Azure was in attendance. He said they are in field season. He discussed the transfer of 680 acres back to the reservation from White Horse Hill (south unit). These acres were to be used for supplemental hay & pasture.

**DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES:** Yaping Chi was in attendance, online. She reported that the motor, which was a high priority, was reconditioned and installed. She mentioned they are working on establishing a maintenance schedule when the outlets are shut down in the fall. She provided slides of the Water Balance for 2024. She reported precipitation for 2010-2024 was 20.88 inches & 2024 was 31.29 inches & the inflow 2010-2024 was 244,000 acres & 163,300 estimated acres. The question is why less inflow with higher precipitation? Yaping showed a graph and indicated it is determined by soil condition, especially with being in a drought. She mentioned that the Devils Lake Outlets Advisory meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2025, at 1 PM at Lake Region State College in the Chautauqua Gallery.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

**2025 SUMMER JOINT WATER CONFERENCE:** Julie Ellingson was in attendance online. She mentioned that the conference will be July 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> at the Spirit Lake Casino. She stated that the agenda and registration will be available soon. She mentioned that the Water Tour would take place on July 10<sup>th</sup>. She mentioned there were four other tours scheduled for the summer. Julie reported that last year, the joint board sponsored \$ 3,000 for the water tours.

She said a letter with the sponsorship information will be going out soon. She also asked if the joint board would like to have a booth at the ND State Fair in Minot for water day. She said it would be on July 24<sup>th</sup>. She mentioned the price for a booth is \$130. She will email information on this to Frith. **Howatt made a motion to sponsor \$3,000 for the water tours, seconded by Sateren, motion carried unanimously.**

**LEGISLATIVE UPDATE:** Dani was in attendance online and went through some of the highlights of the Legislative Updates that were provided in each board member's packets. She mentioned they began watching SB 2180, with public boards and the public's comments. She mentioned this will be on the next Legislative Update. Karen Hausmann had asked on HCR 3018 and if anything Aaron had testified on was added to the final version.

**OPERATION OF STATE-RUN DEVILS LAKE OUTLETS:** Ash made a motion for the Joint Board to submit a Resolution of Support for Continued Operation of the State-Run Devils Lake Outlets (West and East) for the 2025 operating season, seconded by Howatt, motion carried unanimously.

**OTHER OLD BUSINESS:** Frith mentioned that the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the Wheelchair and Walleyes accessible fishing facility that the Joint Board contributed to will be held on June 8<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 AM.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

**OFFICE COST SHARE WITH RCWRD:** Frith mentioned he would like to add additional hours for the Joint Board for Stacy's assistance. **Howatt made a motion to add 10 additional hours to the current 10 hours for assistance from the RCWRD Office Staff, seconded by Ash, motion carried unanimously.**

**ANS AWARENESS WEEK:** Frith mentioned that the state ANS Awareness Week is scheduled for May 4<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup>. **Ash made a motion to submit a Resolution of Support for the State ANS Awareness Week, seconded by Slaubaugh, motion carried unanimously.**

**2026 BUDGET 1<sup>ST</sup> READING:** Frith mentioned that it was that time of year to start the 2026 Budget. He reported that the 2026 Budget had to be submitted to the County Auditors by July 1, 2025. He mentioned that he had proposed a 3% increase in salary. He noted that on July 1, insurance rates would change. He stated that the 2026 Budget would be reviewed at the May meeting and would need to be finalized at the June meeting.

**CORRESPONDENCE & MISCELLANEOUS:** Frith mentioned the Upper Sheyenne would be meeting in Carrington on April 16<sup>th</sup>. He mentioned the ANS Committee meets by Teams next Tuesday at 1 PM.

**OTHER NEW BUSINESS:** Slaubaugh asked how to get a USGS gauge on Hurricane Lake and the cost, as Benson County wants to do this. Frith mentioned it is expensive. Amanda Lee stated they got some recent costs, and it was about \$10,000-\$40,000, and then there are maintenance costs.

DRAFT

**BASIN BOARD REPORTS:**

**Ramsey County:** Ash mentioned they met on April 1<sup>st</sup>. He said they discussed the Lawton Coulee Snag & Clear project and cattail spraying.

**Walsh County:** Jallo mentioned they met yesterday. He stated they are working on changing assessments in drains and getting some parcels out of a drain where they aren't being benefited. He mentioned a snag & clear on the north branch of Pembina County.

**Eddy County:** Tweed was not present at the time of the update.

**Pierce County:** Slaubaugh mentioned they had their meeting on Monday. He said it was just financials that were handled.

**Towner County:** Benson mentioned at their meeting that they paid bills. He also mentioned the issue at the Canadian border with a section line, which sounds like it is resolved.

**Nelson County:** Sateren mentioned they meet tomorrow. He mentioned they are working on 2 snag & clear projects and a drain complaint.

**Cavalier County:** Howatt mentioned they meet tomorrow. He said he checked out the north end of the Starkweather Coulee project, and it looked good. He noted they just have some problems with the Mt. Carmel Dam.

**MANAGER'S REPORT:** Frith mentioned he has been spending time on Legislative water items and will be in Bismarck tomorrow for the the State Water Commission meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 11:43 AM.

Approved May 14th, 2025:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mike Tweed, Chairman

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jeff W. Frith, Manager