

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

Minutes of the regular monthly meeting held Wednesday, May 14, 2025, Historical Meeting Room, Ramsey County Courthouse, Devils Lake, ND, and Online via Teams.

Vice-Chairman Albi Jallo called the meeting to order at 8:00 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 ( <b>Absent</b> )
Pierce County	Floyd Slaubaugh ( <b>Absent</b> )
Ramsey County	Duaine Ash
Towner County	Randy Benson
Walsh County	Albin Jallo

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

**APPROVAL of MINUTES:** The minutes for April 9<sup>th</sup>, 2025, were presented. Due to no quorum, a motion could not be made to approve the April 9<sup>th</sup>, 2025 minutes. These minutes will need to be approved at next month's meeting.

**APPROVAL of FINANCIALS:** The financial reports were presented for April 2025. Due to no quorum, a motion could not be made to approve the April 2025 financial reports. These financial reports will need to be approved at next month's meeting.

### **APPROVAL of MONTHLY BILLS FOR MAY 2025:**

	May 2025 Bills	Amount	Ck #
	Intuit QuickBooks Online Monthly	\$99.00	ACH
	Leevers Foods North - April Meeting Expenses	\$16.88	5141
	Ramsey County Water Resource District (Copier Rent)	\$125.00	5142
	Ramsey County Water Resource District (Office Assistant Services)	\$300.00	5142
	Ramsey County Auditor: Rent	\$190.00	5143
	Ramsey County Auditor: Telephone	\$55.49	5143
	ND Water Education Foundation - Summer Water Tour Sponsorship	\$3,000.00	5144
	The Borderland Press - 2025 Annual Subscription	\$53.00	5145
	Ramsey County Auditor - Health Insurance	\$2,062.94	5146
	Ramsey County Auditor - Wages & Withholding Taxes	\$6,176.20	5147
	NDTC - Website Hosting	\$21.83	5148
	Jeff Frith - Cell Phone Expense	\$101.25	5149
	North Dakota Water Resource Districts Association	\$135.00	5150
	<b>Total Admin</b>	<b>\$12,336.59</b>	
	<b>Total General Project</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	

**Total**

**\$12,336.59**

The May 2025 bills were presented. Due to no quorum, a motion could not be made to approve the May 2025 bills. These bills will need to be approved at next month's meeting.

#### **OTHERS PRESENT:**

Stacy Peters, Ramsey County WRD Office Manager, Dave Azure, US Fish & Wildlife, and Karen Haussman, local landowner. Online: Amanda Lee, National Weather Service, Yaping Chi, Alexis Faber & Jeff Trana, Department of Water Resources, Dani Quissell & Julie Ellingson, ND Water Association, Ben Holen, ND Game & Fish ANS Coordinator.

#### **AGENCY REPORTS:**

**NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE:** Amanda Lee, Service Hydrologist/Meteorologist, was in attendance, online. She went over her monthly report, which mentioned that the current lake level is 1449.6. She also noted that the next Exceedance Level will be out on May 22nd, and the Non-Exceedance Level will be in June.

**ND GAME & FISH:** Ben Holen, State ANS Coordinator, was in attendance, online. He went over his presentation from the spring AISC meeting.

**NRCS:** No one was in attendance.

**US FISH & WILDLIFE:** Dave Azure, District Refuge Manager, was in attendance. He mentioned they got approval for aerial cattail spraying.

**DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES:** Yaping Chi, Basin Engineer, was in attendance, online. She went over her slide presentation from the Devils Lake Outlet Advisory Committee meeting. She mentioned this would be the last legislative-mandated meeting, but they plan to continue yearly meetings. She noted that the West End Outlet started operations on May 5<sup>th</sup> at 175cfs and increased to 200cfs on May 9<sup>th</sup>. She mentioned that the East End Outlet will start operation today at 150 cfs. Yaping did say she would be absent from next month's meeting, and Alexis will provide the update.

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

**2025 SUMMER JOINT WATER CONFERENCE:** Julie Ellingson was online. She mentioned that the conference will be July 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> at the Spirit Lake Casino. She mentioned that the registration forms have been mailed, and it is important to get reservations for rooms. There was discussion on what the possible route would be on July 10<sup>th</sup>. There will be continued discussion on this.

She asked if the Joint Board had considered having a booth at the State Fair, but it was determined that it would not work this year.

**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. Some of the highlight bills to look at for water management are SB1280, SB2276, SB2379, and HCR3018, which we will know more about at the end of the month. She did mention there is a webinar tomorrow to go over these updates. She did mention that Frith agreed to be Chairman of the Water Users-ANS Working Group.

**2026 BUDGET 2<sup>nd</sup> READING:** Frith provided the proposed 2026 Budget for its 2<sup>nd</sup> reading. He said he had a 3% increase in revenue from counties. He said next month, the Joint Board must approve the 2026 Budget to submit to County Auditors by July 1<sup>st</sup>.

**OFFICE COST SHARE WITH RCWRD:** Frith mentioned that the Ramsey County Water Resource Board agreed to the additional 10 hours a month and increased the contract amount to \$600.

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

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**UPCOMING MEETINGS:** Frith mentioned he has his State Pre-Commission meeting on May 22nd. He also noted that his term is up in June 2025, so he will need to see if the Governor reappoints him.

**CORRESPONDENCE & MISCELLANEOUS:** No correspondence or miscellaneous information.

**OTHER NEW BUSINESS:** No other new business.

**BASIN BOARD REPORTS:**

**Ramsey County:** Ash mentioned they met on May 6<sup>th</sup>. He said they worked through a water complaint. He noted they received a petition for a Snag & Clear project.

**Walsh County:** Jallo mentioned they met yesterday. He said the Water Commission made a ruling and it was not in favor of the water board. He said they are dealing with the Fordville Dam, which is in Grand Forks County, and some landowners want to irrigate out of it, and Grand Forks County doesn't want this to happen.

**Eddy County:** Tweed not present to provide an update.

**Pierce County:** Slaubaugh not present to provide an update.

**Towner County:** Benson mentioned they had a short meeting. He said they were up at the border with a culvert issue as a landowner wants a bigger culvert, and it will affect those landowners downstream.

**Nelson County:** Sateren not present to provide an update.

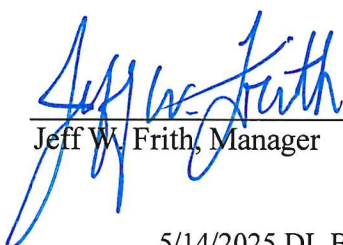
**Cavalier County:** Howatt not present to provide an update.

**MANAGER'S REPORT:** Frith mentioned that on Good Friday, a meeting was held about the easements in the Prairie Pot-Hole Regions. He discussed the PowerPoint slides from this meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 11:04 AM.

Approved June 11th, 2025:

  
Mike Tweed, Chairman

  
Jeff W. Frith, Manager