

DEVILS LAKE BASIN JOINT WATER RESOURCE BOARD

Minutes of the regular monthly meeting held Wednesday, June 11, 2025, Historical Meeting Room, Ramsey County Courthouse, Devils Lake, ND, and Online via Teams.

Chairman Mike Tweed called the meeting to order at 8:01 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
Walsh County	Albin Jallo

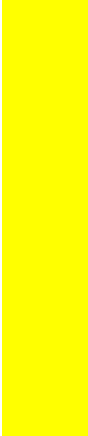
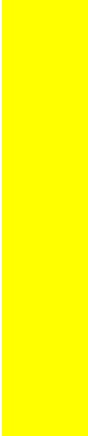
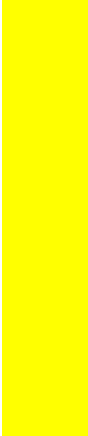
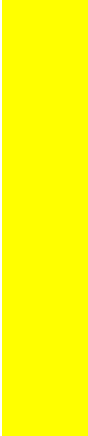
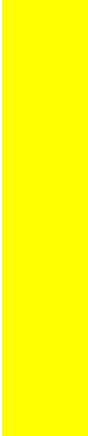
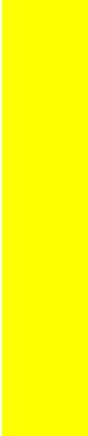
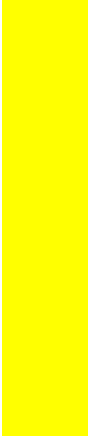
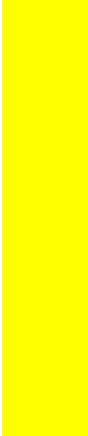
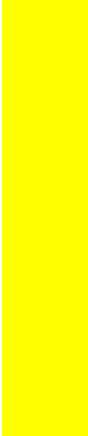
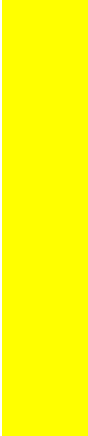
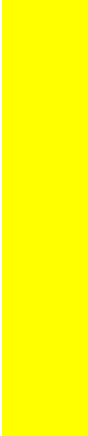
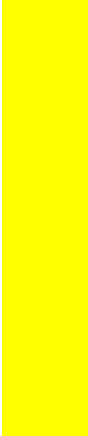
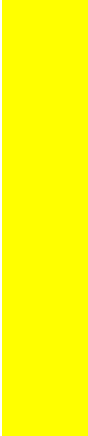


APPROVE AGENDA: Tweed asked if anyone had any additional items for today's agenda. **Jallo made a motion to approve the agenda, seconded by Sateren, motion carried unanimously.**

APPROVAL of MINUTES: The meeting minutes for the April 9th, 2025, were presented. **Jallo made a motion to approve the April 9th, 2025 minutes, seconded by Sateren, motion carried unanimously.**

The meeting minutes for the May 14th, 2025, were presented. **Jallo made a motion to approve the May 14th, 2025, minutes, seconded by Ash, motion carried unanimously.**

APPROVAL of FINANCIALS: The financial reports were presented for April 2025 and May 2025. **Ash made a motion to approve the April 2025 and May 2025 financials, seconded by Slaubaugh, motion carried unanimously.**

APPROVAL of MONTHLY BILLS FOR MAY & JUNE 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
 Total Admin		\$12,336.59	
 Total General Project		\$0.00	

Total

\$12,336.59

The May 2025 bills were presented. **Jallo made a motion to approve the May 2025 bills, seconded by Sateren, motion carried unanimously.**

June 2025 Bills		Amount	Ck #
	Intuit QuickBooks Online Monthly	\$99.00	ACH
	Leever's Foods North - May Meeting Expenses	\$17.10	5151
	Ramsey County Water Resource District (Copier Rent)	\$125.00	5152
	Ramsey County Water Resource District (Office Assistant Services)	\$600.00	5152
	Ramsey County Auditor: Rent	\$190.00	5153
	Ramsey County Auditor: Telephone	\$55.49	5153
	Ramsey County Auditor - Health Insurance	\$2,377.10	5158
	Ramsey County Auditor - Wages & Withholding Taxes	\$6,176.20	5155
	NDTC - Website Hosting	\$21.83	5156
	Jeff Frith - Cell Phone Expense	\$101.25	5157
	Jeff Frith - May Travel (Tour route)	\$91.70	5157
	Total Admin	\$9,854.67	
	Total General Project	\$0.00	
Total		\$9,854.67	

The June 2025 bills were presented. **Benson made a motion to approve the June 2025 bills, seconded by Ash, motion carried unanimously.**

OTHERS PRESENT:

Stacy Peters, Ramsey County WRD Office Manager, Bryan Sea, ND Game & Fish, Dave Azure, U.S. Fish & Wildlife. Online: Amanda Lee, National Weather Service, Alexis Faber & Sindhuja Pillai-Grinolds, Department of Water Resources, Jack Dwyer & Julie Ellingson, ND Water Association, & Jason Kraft, Ramsey County Highway Department.

AGENCY REPORTS:

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE: Amanda Lee, Service Hydrologist/Meteorologist, was in attendance, online. She went over her monthly report. She mentioned that the next Exceedance Level will be released on June 26th, and the Non-Exceedance will be released next week.

ND GAME & FISH: Bryan Sea, Fisheries Supervisor, was in attendance. He mentioned they finished up one of their busiest springs in recent history. He noted they moved 38,000 lbs. of adult fish to community ponds and area lakes. He mentioned there were two tag studies done in our district. He said there were 14,000 fish out of their nets that were tagged, spawned, and released.

NRCS: No one in attendance.

AGENCY REPORTS CONTINUED:

US FISH & WILDLIFE: Dave Azure, District Refuge Manager, was in attendance. He mentioned they wrapped up their spring work. He mentioned they were still sitting on about 60-70 easement compliance cases in the Devils Lake district. He mentioned they have cattle out on the WPA's grazing. He mentioned they have only three Wetland Managers located at the Devils Lake office. He said they no longer have a maintenance staff, so they were going to outsource contracting services, such as weed complaints and roadside mowing. Frith had mentioned that the Leafy Spurge weed is out. Dave mentioned they typically use beetles to control this.

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES: Alexis Faber was in attendance, online. She mentioned the current lake level at North Creel was 1449.4. She mentioned that the combined discharge for both outlets was 350 cfs, with 200 cfs from the west end outlet and 150 cfs from the east end outlet. She mentioned there are 3 projects that DWR were working on. The first was to replace the defective west end air release valve this fall. They are hoping this will resolve the Josephine Standpipe overflow issue. Second, the sedimentation issue at pump one at the east end. She mentioned the attempt to lift the screen during the week of May 26th was unsuccessful. She mentioned they are working with their consulting engineer, the screen manufacturer and the dive team. Lastly, DWR has started hydraulic modeling for around the lake.

OLD BUSINESS:

2025 SUMMER JOINT WATER CONFERENCE AND WATER TOUR: Julie Ellingson mentioned that as of now, they have 26 people signed up for the tour. The Summer Joint Water Conference is scheduled for July 9th and 10th at the Spirit Lake Casino Resort. Frith went over the water tour route, which is on July 10th.

2026 BUDGET FINAL READING: Frith provided the proposed 2026 Budget for its final reading. **Slaubaugh made a motion to leave the current revenue amounts unchanged from 2025, with any shortfall to be withdrawn from the money market account, and all other line items as they are in the 2026 Budget, seconded by Benson, motion carried unanimously.**

UPCOMING MEETINGS: Frith mentioned he will be in Bismarck tomorrow, June 12th, for the State Water Commission meeting. He mentioned the Upper Sheyenne Joint Board meeting is June 18th. He mentioned the Chairman of the Upper Sheyenne Joint Board is wondering about attending each other's meetings.

OTHER OLD BUSINESS: No other new business.

NEW BUSINESS:

ANS WORKING GROUP: Frith mentioned he would be attending the ANS Working Group meeting on June 12th. The ND Water Users Association established this working group. He said they are looking at possible legislation prepared for the next session or at ways to promote ANS.

2025-27 BIENNIUM DWR ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE COST SHARE: Frith noted that part of the application process is to list the application for DWR cost-share on the meeting agenda and include a signed letter of intent to apply, as well as draft or signed meeting minutes. Frith stated that the Joint Board has been receiving an administrative cost-share from the North Dakota State Water Commission and, most recently, the Department of Water Resources for several years. **Jallo made a motion for the Devils Lake Joint Basin Water Board to apply for an administrative cost-share of \$60,000 per biennium, or \$30,000 per year, from the North Dakota Department of Water Resources. Ash seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.**

LETTER OF CREDIT (PLEDGE OF ASSETS): Frith explained that this is similar to a Pledge of Assets, guaranteeing the Joint Board's funds greater than 250 thousand dollars deposited in the bank. **Jallo made a motion to approve the Letter of Credit from Old National Bank, seconded by Howatt, motion carried unanimously.**

CORRESPONDENCE & MISCELLANEOUS: No correspondence or miscellaneous information.

OTHER NEW BUSINESS: Frith mentioned that the Joint Board's meeting will be held on July 16th. He also noted there is a retirement party for Doug Darling, President of Lake Region State College, on June 25th at 5 PM at the LRSC Courtyard, and everyone is welcome to attend.

BASIN BOARD REPORTS:

Ramsey County: Ash mentioned they met last week. He said it was a short meeting. He mentioned some items discussed were cattail spraying and wanting to discuss the Lawton Coulee with Nelson County.

Walsh County: Jallo mentioned they did not meet yesterday. He mentioned they have a project across a drain for a box culvert.

Eddy County: Tweed mentioned they had a meeting last week. He said that the Corps of Engineers wants to relinquish control of the New Rockford Canal. He initially mentioned that they wanted to sell it for \$47 million, but they came back and said they would just give it. He noted that they looked at 49 miles of mitigated acres. He said it costs about \$250,000 a year to maintain the New Rockford Canal due to maintaining the roads and spraying.

Pierce County: Slaubaugh mentioned they had their meeting last Monday. He said no water issues. He mentioned they just went over their normal meeting agenda.

Towner County: Benson mentioned they had their meeting on Tuesday. He said they have an issue with a landowner up by the Canadian border. He mentioned KLJ had did a Stream Crossing for this area and they are recommending 2 36" culverts and currently there is only an 18" culvert. He said they are looking at the impact of the downstream landowners. He also mentioned he got a picture of a road going to Lake Irving with water on both sides.

Nelson County: Sateren mentioned they hadn't had a meeting in a while, but have one tomorrow. He said they are working on two Snag & Clear projects and some complaints.

Cavalier County: Howatt mentioned they have their meeting tomorrow. He mentioned they have a landowner who is requesting 2 60" culverts on a legal drain on a section line, but the township won't let him do it. He mentioned they are having some problems with getting easements for a legal drain.

MANAGER'S REPORT: Frith mentioned last month that he had a Pre-Commission meeting on the 22nd and had a Special Executive meeting on the 28th. He said he was able to take a couple of days off to enjoy the prize he won at the Red River Basin Convention. He mentioned he would be speaking about the Devils Lake Challenges at a NDSU Rural Leadership Conference being held at Camp Grafton on June 25th. He discussed that the Shore Events Center, located at Woodland, is almost complete. He said the Ramsey County Event Center, which the Joint Board donated to, would be hosting an open house and ribbon-cutting ceremony on June 26th, 27th, and 28th. He said he would send the invite to everyone.

Meeting adjourned at 9:56 AM.

Approved July 16th, 2025:

Mike Tweed, Chairman

Jeff W. Frith, Manager