

**DEVILS LAKE BASIN
JOINT WATER RESOURCE BOARD**

SERVING

CAVALIER, EDDY, NELSON, PIERCE, RAMSEY, TOWNER & WALSH COUNTIES

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NEWS RELEASE

DATE: Thursday, August 14th, 2025

FOR IMMEDIATE USE

CONTACT PERSON: Jeff Frith, Manager (see above)

‘JOINT BOARD SEEKING NOMINATIONS’

Nominations for the 2025 ‘Devils Lake Basin Water Stewardship Award’ are being accepted by the Devils Lake Basin Joint Water Resource Board until Monday, November 3rd, 2025.

The award was established in December 2002 to honor individuals, groups, organizations, and projects that have demonstrated a commitment to enhancing the quality of life in the Devils Lake Basin community. This recognition is specifically for those who have made efforts to improve land and water stewardship.

Previous award recipients include:

- Dry Lake-Grand Harbor Watershed Management project (’04)**
- Ernie Hagen and the Minnewaukan School ‘OWLS’ project (’05)**
- Nikolaisen WPA project (’06)**
- Greater Ramsey Water District (’07)**
- Russell L. Dushinske (’08)**
- Co-winners Mike Connor and Curt Hofstad (’09)**
- New City – Zion Township Creek Restoration Project (’10)**
- Lynn Schlueter of the ND Game & Fish Department for the Loma Carp Barrier Project (’11)**
- Joe Belford for his many years of distinguished service fighting the Devils Lake flooding as a Ramsey County Commissioner (’12)**
- Huck Krueger for his contribution to the education of the Devils Lake flooding situation through his aerial photographs (’14)**
- Paul Becker for his 20+ years as a Ramsey County Water Resource Board Member and Kevin Bonham, a retired journalist with Forum Communications who covered the Devils Lake Basin for over 20 years (2016)**
- Arne Berg for his contributions to the residents of the Devils Lake Basin as a Ramsey County Commissioner and later as a State Water Commissioner (2017)**
- Nelson County Water Resource Board for their efforts on the Michigan Spillway/Flood Reduction Project (2018)**
- Devils Lake Access Committee for their ongoing commitment to providing recreational opportunities for all to enjoy the natural bounties that Devils Lake has to offer, regardless of water levels or people’s physical abilities (2019)**
- Larry Gellner, long-time Cavalier County Water Resource District Member and Representative on the Devils Lake Basin Joint Water Resource Board (2021)**
- Dick Johnson, who served the City of Devils Lake for 32 years, 20 years as a City Commissioner and 12 years as mayor, as well as representing the Devils Lake Basin as a Commissioner on the North Dakota State Water Commission. During his time in office, Dick was instrumental in navigating the City of Devils Lake through unique water challenges and worked tirelessly to help develop the best flood control measures possible, given the complex issues surrounding Devils Lake (2023).**

Board Chairman Mike Tweed announced, “Nominations will be accepted from any individual, organization, or governmental body within the Devils Lake Basin, which includes Cavalier, Eddy, Nelson, Pierce, Ramsey, Towner, and Walsh Counties.”

Tweed explained that nomination information will be provided to County Commissions, Extension Agents, Soil Conservation Districts, and Water Boards in the seven counties. Additionally, nomination details can be obtained from any Joint Board member by contacting the Joint Board office located in the Ramsey County Courthouse in Devils Lake or by visiting www.dlbasin.com.

“All nominations will be evaluated by an independent panel of Basin residents who are knowledgeable about the four areas of the Devils Lake Basin Water Management Plan: Agriculture, Recreation, Wildlife & Fisheries, and Economic Development. These areas are crucial to the future of the Basin community,” said Tweed.

The 2025 award will be presented at the Annual Joint Water Convention Awards Banquet on Thursday, December 11th, at the Bismarck Hotel (formerly the Ramkota) in Bismarck, ND.

DEVILS LAKE BASIN WATER STEWARDSHIP AWARD

AN ANNUAL AWARD PRESENTED BY THE
DEVILS LAKE BASIN JOINT WATER RESOURCE BOARD

CRITERIA:

- PRESENTED TO AN INDIVIDUAL, A GROUP, OR AN ORGANIZATION
- WHO HAS CONTRIBUTED TO ASSISTING WITH THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE BOARD'S MISSION STATEMENT:
"DEVELOPMENT OF A COMPREHENSIVE, COORDINATED WATER MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR THE DEVILS LAKE BASIN THAT WILL PROTECT THE ECONOMIC AND BIOLOGICAL VALUES OF THE DEVILS LAKE BASIN WHILE PROVIDING OPTIMUM BENEFITS FOR AGRICULTURE, WILDLIFE & FISHERIES, RECREATION AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FOR ITS CITIZENS."
- MAY BE NOMINATED BY ANY INDIVIDUAL, ORGANIZATION, OR GOVERNMENTAL BODY FROM ANY OF THE SEVEN COUNTIES THAT COMPRISE THE DEVILS LAKE BASIN.
- NOMINEES MUST HAVE DEMONSTRATED A COMMITMENT TO IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF LIFE FOR THE DEVILS LAKE BASIN COMMUNITY THROUGH THEIR EFFORTS TO IMPROVE LAND AND WATER STEWARDSHIP IN THE BASIN.
- APPLICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED FROM ANY JOINT BOARD MEMBER OR THE JOINT BASIN OFFICE AND **MUST** BE RECEIVED IN THE JOINT BASIN OFFICE BY 5 PM MONDAY, NOVEMBER 3rd, 2025.
- RECIPIENT(S) OF THE ANNUAL WATER STEWARDSHIP AWARD WILL BE PRESENTED AT THE ANNUAL JOINT WATER CONFERENCE AWARDS EVENT IN DECEMBER OF EACH YEAR.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT THE JOINT BASIN OFFICE AT
701-662-7076

DEVILS LAKE BASIN WATER STEWARDSHIP AWARD NOMINATION

**AN ANNUAL AWARD PRESENTED BY THE
DEVILS LAKE BASIN JOINT WATER RESOURCE BOARD**

(Nomination deadline: Monday, NOVEMBER 3rd, 2025)

NOMINEE: _____
(individual, group or organization)

ADDRESS: _____ CITY: _____ ZIP: _____

Nominated BY: _____
(individual, group, governmental body)

Contact Person: _____ Telephone: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____

How has the nominee demonstrated a commitment to improving the quality of life for the Devils Lake Basin Community through their efforts to improve land and water stewardship in the DL Basin? _____

Which area of the Devils Lake Basin Water Management Plan has most benefited from the work done by the nominee?

Agriculture: _____ Wildlife & Fisheries: _____

Recreation: _____ Economic Development: _____

(check all that may apply)

Please give a brief description of where and how the nominee has accomplished this in the DL Basin. _____

If the nominee is a group or organization, how many people were involved in the effort or project? _____ For how long? _____

What assistance, if any, did the nominee receive? (Financial, gov't, etc.) _____

How did this effort or project benefit the residents of the Devils Lake Basin? _____

Why do you believe the nominee is deserving of the Devils Lake Basin Water Stewardship Award? _____

Nominator's Signature

Date: _____

Nomination must be submitted on this form. Nomination form may be accompanied by up to three 8 ½ x11 pages of supporting documents or photos.

Nominations must be received in the Devils Lake Basin Joint Water Resource office by **Monday, November 3rd, 2025, at 5:00 p.m.**

The winner(s) will be announced at the Annual Joint Water Conference Awards Banquet on Thursday, December 11th, 2025 at the Bismarck Hotel & Conference Center (formerly the Ramkota Hotel) in Bismarck..

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Devils Lake Basin Joint Water Resource Board Office
Ramsey County Courthouse
524 4th Avenue NE, #27
Devils Lake, ND 58301

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