

DEVILS LAKE BASIN JOINT WATER RESOURCE BOARD

Minutes of the regular monthly meeting held on Wednesday, August 13th, 2025, Historical Meeting Room, Ramsey County Courthouse, Devils Lake, ND, and Online via Teams.

Chairman Mike Tweed called the meeting to order at 8:00 AM. Roll call of the counties was taken.





Cavalier County	Ordale Morstad (absent)
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. **Ash made a motion to approve the agenda, seconded by Slaubaugh, motion carried unanimously.**

APPROVAL of MINUTES: The meeting minutes for the July 16th, 2025, were presented. **Sateren made a motion to approve the July 16th, 2025 minutes, seconded by Benson. Motion carried unanimously.**

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

APPROVAL of MONTHLY BILLS FOR AUGUST 2025:

August 2025 Bills		Amount	Ck #
	Intuit QuickBooks Online Monthly	\$115.00	ACH
	NDTC - Website Hosting	\$21.83	5169
	Leevers Foods North - May Meeting Expenses	\$16.88	5170
	Ramsey County Water Resource District (Copier Rent)	\$125.00	5171
	Ramsey County Water Resource District (Office Assistant Services)	\$600.00	5171
	Ramsey County Auditor - Wages & Withholding Taxes	\$6,176.20	5172
	Ramsey County Auditor - Health Insurance	\$2,377.10	5173
	Ramsey County Auditor: Rent	\$190.00	5174
	Ramsey County Auditor: Telephone	\$55.49	5174
	Jeff Frith - Cell Phone Expense	\$101.25	5175
	Jeff Frith - July Travel	\$76.30	5175
	Blue Water Consulting	\$1,362.16	5176
	Total Admin	\$9,855.05	
	Total General Project	\$1,362.16	

Total	\$11,217.21
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August 2025 bills were presented. **Sateren made a motion to approve the August 2025 bills, seconded by Benson, motion carried unanimously.**

OTHERS PRESENT:

Stacy Peters, Ramsey County WRD Office Manager, and Jim Olson, Blue Water Consultant. Online: Amanda Lee, National Weather Service, Yaping Chi & Alexis Faber, Department of Water Resources, Dani Quissell, ND Water Association, & Bryan Sea, ND Game & Fish.

AGENCY REPORTS:

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE: Amanda Lee, Service Hydrologist/Meteorologist, was in attendance, online. She went over the monthly report. She mentioned that when she did her report, the lake level was 1448.8. She mentioned that the lake is one foot lower than it was last year. She mentioned that the next Non-Exceedance Outlook will be released on August 28, 2025.

ND GAME & FISH: Bryan Sea, Fisheries Supervisor, was in attendance, online. He mentioned they finished their standard fish surveys at the end of July. A discussion was held regarding the five boats, infested with zebra mussels, that were discovered at various boat ramps in Devils Lake before launching. One extreme case was from a watercraft from Indiana. He mentioned their summer inspectors would be heading back to school, but they have one fall inspector.

NRCS: No one in attendance.

US FISH & WILDLIFE: Dave Azure was unable to attend.

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES: Yaping Chi was in attendance, online. She mentioned that the West End outlet discharge had been 200 cfs since May 9th, and the East End outlet discharge had been 150 cfs for the last 30 days, totaling 350 cfs. She mentioned that they continue to experience problems with pump #1 at the East Devils Lake Outlet due to sedimentation. A finalized contract is being completed, which will require the signatures of both parties. She mentioned they continue to still have a maintenance schedule for the motors and pumps. Yaping did mention she would be taking a new position, but she will continue to be the engineer for the technical parts of the outlets. When she is not available for attendance at meetings, Alexis Faber will give updates.

ND Water Resource District Association: Dani Quissell was in attendance, online. She informed the board that the legislative interim activities will begin with the Ag & Water Management, which will meet on Thursday, September 11th, and the Water Overview Topics Overview Committee will meet on Thursday, September 18th; both meetings will be held in Bismarck. Both committees will be heavily involved with water issues and policy ahead of the 2027 session. One of the big items was the watershed areas and how they would work instead of having local water resource districts. She said she has met with Senator Weber on this and had a very productive discussion. She did mention that the yearly dues for the Joint Board did increase from \$3500 per year to \$5000 per year. She said this increase is driven especially by legislative purposes.

OLD BUSINESS:

INTERIM LEGISLATIVE STUDIES (HB 3018): Frith mentioned that the first meeting for the Ag & Water Management Committee will be September 11, 2025 and that the Water Overview Topics Committee will be September 18, 2025. Frith indicated that he is expecting to be asked to provide some type of background and presentation regarding Devils Lake and the issue of inundated lands.

BASIN WIDE MANAGEMENT PLAN UPDATE: Jim Olson informed the board that he has been in communication with Frith and Ackerman Engineering. The question is, does the Joint Board work with the current management plan they have, or do they scrap it and start over? He mentioned he would like the joint members to do a survey. He mentioned that on August 21st, 2025, at 10:00 AM, a meeting will be set up with Frith, himself & Ackerman Engineering. Frith will send out the contact information to everyone, so that if other members want to join. Some questions asked were: What has the Joint Board done? What does the board want to focus on? And what role & responsibilities do the Joint Board want?

OTHER OLD BUSINESS: No other new business.

NEW BUSINESS:

STEWARDSHIP AWARD: Frith mentioned that he has the information ready for the Stewardship Award. He stated that the deadline is Monday, November 3rd, 2025, with the reward to be presented on December 11th at the Awards Banquet during the Annual Joint Water Conference, held in Bismarck. He said he has prepared the news release that he will send to the basin media outlets and others.

UPCOMING MEETINGS: Frith mentioned that he has a State Water Commission meeting tomorrow and that the Upper Sheyenne meeting is scheduled for August 20th, 2025, at 10:30 a.m. in Carrington.

CORRESPONDENCE & MISCELLANEOUS: Frith just mentioned the correspondence & miscellaneous was the precipitation & lake levels he sends out.

OTHER NEW BUSINESS: No other new business.

BASIN BOARD REPORTS:

Ramsey County: Ash mentioned they met last week. They discussed upcoming cattail spraying and the Newbre Snag & Clear.

Walsh County: Jallo mentioned they met yesterday. He said they have been working on permits. He said they are working on getting people in assessments in the right drains.

Eddy County: Tweed mentioned they have been getting a lot of drain tile permits coming in. He said some landowners got together to do a 6-mile cleanout and cattail spraying of a drain.

Pierce County: Slaubaugh mentioned they had their meeting last week. He said they discussed some spraying and cleanout of some channels.

Towner County: Benson mentioned they met last week. He said they have some culverts up by the Canadian border where the culvert is fine by the bottom is rusted out. They are trying to figure what options they have to repair the rusted-out bottoms.

Nelson County: Sateren mentioned they meet tomorrow. He said they have 2 Public Hearings for Snag & Clears coming on August 19th. He said they are working on getting cattail spraying lined up.

Cavalier County: Morstad not present to give an update.

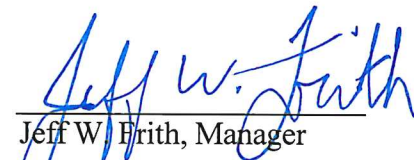
MANAGER'S REPORT: Frith mentioned he participated in the Water Festival at the North Dakota State Fair, which was in conjunction with the Pre-Commission meeting, in Minot. He said on Monday that he was able to attend the ribbon-cutting at Shores Grand Opening. He mentioned that the Governor was in attendance.

Jim Olson informed the board that flex funds are available from the ND DOT. The deadline for the application is September 19th. Frith provided the link to this information via email.

Meeting adjourned at 9:40 AM.

Approved September 10th, 2025:


Mike Tweed, Chairman


Jeff W. Frith, Manager