

DEVILS LAKE BASIN JOINT WATER RESOURCE BOARD

Minutes of the regular monthly meeting held Wednesday, September 10th, 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 (absent)
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. Frith asked for under new business to add a cost share for IWI. **Ash made a motion to approve the agenda with the additional item, seconded by Slaubaugh, motion carried unanimously.**

APPROVAL of MINUTES: The meeting minutes for the August 13th, 2025, were presented. **Jallo made a motion to approve the August 13th, 2025 minutes, as presented, seconded by Benson, motion carried unanimously.**

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

APPROVAL of MONTHLY BILLS FOR SEPTEMBER 2025:

September 2025 Bills		Amount	Ck #
	Intuit QuickBooks Online Monthly	\$115.00	ACH
	Ramsey County Auditor - Wages & Withholding Taxes	\$6,176.20	5177
	Ramsey County Auditor - Health Insurance	\$2,377.10	5178
	Ramsey County Auditor: Rent	\$190.00	5179
	Ramsey County Auditor: Telephone	\$55.49	5179
	Ramsey County Water Resource District (Copier Rent)	\$125.00	5180
	Ramsey County Water Resource District (Office Assistant Services)	\$600.00	5180
	NDTC - Website Hosting	\$21.83	5181
	Leevers Foods North - May Meeting Expenses	\$16.88	5182
	ND Water Users Association 2026 Annual Dues	\$325.00	5183
	ND Workforce Safety Insurance - Annual Premium	\$250.00	5185
	Jeff Frith - Cell Phone Expense	\$101.25	5187
	Blue Water Consulting	\$1,521.85	5186
	ND Water Resource District Association - 2026 Legislative Support	\$5,000.00	5184
	Total Admin	\$10,353.75	
	Total General Project	\$6,521.85	
	Total	\$16,875.60	

The September 2025 bills were presented. **Ash made a motion to approve the September 2025 bills, as presented, seconded by Jallo, motion carried unanimously.**

OTHERS PRESENT:

Stacy Peters, Ramsey County WRD Office Manager, and Dave Azure, US Fish & Wildlife. Online: Amanda Lee, National Weather Service; Alexis Faber, Department of Water Resources; Dani Quissell & Julie Ellingson, ND Water Association; and Jim Olson, Blue Water Consultant.

AGENCY REPORTS:

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE: Amanda Lee, Service Hydrologist/Meteorologist, was in attendance, online. She went over her monthly report. She reported the current lake level is 1448.5. She mentioned the next outlook would be coming out on September 25th.

ND GAME & FISH: Bryan Sea was not in attendance. He gave a report to Frith that they are working on fall reproduction sampling of young fish right now.

NRCS: No one in attendance.

US FISH & WILDLIFE: Dave Azure, District Refuge Manager, was in attendance. He mentioned there would be a survey done on Lamb's Lake in Nelson County. He mentioned the managers in Devils Lake have been doing roadside mowing. He said that out at White Horse Hill, cattle guards have been replaced & low spots on the entry road have been fixed. He mentioned that at White Hill, starting in October, they would be running animals to get blood samples for genetic testing.

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES: Alexis Faber was in attendance, online. She mentioned that both outlets were shut down due to water quality. She mentioned on Tuesday that they will have a meeting with DEQ about additional pumping through the fall. She mentioned in August the West End was pumping at 200cfs (2 days were shut off for weed removal & 3 days reduced to 125cfs due to screen clogging) & the East End was pumping at 150cfs through August 12th & then reduced to 75cfs. She mentioned divers would be taking care of sedimentation on September 22nd. Frith mentioned that he had received four calls from landowners wondering when the pumps would be turned back on, as their pastureland along the Sheyenne River had been impacted by this. She said she would have more information after Tuesday's meeting.

ND Water Resource District Association: Dani Quissell & Julie Ellingson were in attendance, online. Dani mentioned that water resource district comments were sent to DWR regarding permit deadlines. She mentioned tomorrow the Ag & Water Management Committee meets on inundated land & taxation & on wetland issues. She mentioned that next Thursday, the Water Topics Overview Committee meets on project updates & storm water eligibility issues. Julie mentioned that the awards information has been emailed out. She said they are continuing to work on the winter conference that will be in Bismarck, December 9th-11th. The deadline for the awards is October 17th. Dani mentioned that the Senate may change the rule for nominees in groups, instead of one nominee at a time.

OLD BUSINESS:

INTERIM LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEES: 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. He mentioned he was surprised there wasn't information on Devils Lake with the Ag & Water Management Committee regarding the inundated land. Frith stated that he planned on attending as both committees are dealing with topics that pertain directly to Devils Lake and Water Resource Districts, and it is good to stay informed and, more importantly, be seen.

BASIN WIDE MANAGEMENT PLAN UPDATE: Frith & Jim Olson discussed the survey they came up with. The survey is to help see what the Joint Board wants to accomplish with the Basin-Wide Management plan. Frith had asked if the rating could be changed to 1 being the least important/useful & 10 being the most important/useful. It was determined that the joint board members would complete the survey & give it to Frith at the end of the meeting, and that Frith would email out all the water district's office managers the draft survey, so it could be shared & completed by the water resource districts.

WATER STEWARDSHIP AWARD: Frith mentioned that all the information has gone out to all the newspapers & it is posted on the website. The deadline is November 3rd, 2025.

ANS WORKING GROUP: Frith said they have a meeting coming up in October to continue to try to get additional legislation on this.

OTHER OLD BUSINESS: No other old business.

NEW BUSINESS:

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

INTERNATIONAL WATER INSTITUTE: He mentioned that Chuck Fritz would be attending the next month's meeting to discuss a cost share for the upgrade that is needed. Frith showed the joint board that the IWI does the hydrology reports & has LIDAR.

OTHER NEW BUSINESS: No other new business.

BASIN BOARD REPORTS:

Ramsey County: Ash mentioned they met on the 2nd of September. He mentioned that a landowner was coming in about a culvert that needed to be lowered by the DOT.

Walsh County: Jallo mentioned their meeting is today. He said they are just working on different projects.

Eddy County: Tweed mentioned they met last week. They approved three drain tile applications, and he said they have three drainage complaints. He said the complaints they are having the landowners need to work it out.

Pierce County: Slaubaugh mentioned they had their meeting on Monday. They discussed spraying their waterways.

Towner County: Benson mentioned they did not have a meeting.

Nelson County: Sateren was not present; no update was given.

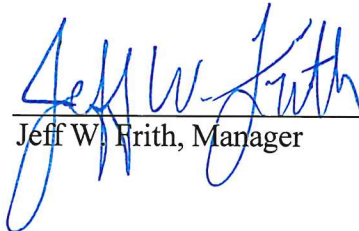
Cavalier County: Morstad was not present, and no update was given.

MANAGER'S REPORT: Frith mentioned he would be in Bismarck tomorrow for the Agriculture and Water Management Interim Legislative Committee, as well as next Thursday for the Water Topics Overview Committee.

Meeting adjourned at 9:48 AM.

Approved October 8th, 2025:


Mike Tweed, Chairman


Jeff W. Frith, Manager