

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

Minutes of the regular monthly meeting held on Wednesday, January 14<sup>th</sup>, 2026, Historical Meeting Room, Ramsey County Courthouse, Devils Lake, ND, and Online via Teams.

Chairman Albin Jallo called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM. Roll call of the counties was taken, and all were present.

Cavalier County	Ordale Morstad
Eddy County	Mike Tweed
Nelson County	Dave Sateren
Pierce County	Floyd Slaubaugh
Ramsey County	Duaine Ash
Towner County	Randy Benson ( <b>online</b> )
Walsh County	Albin Jallo

Chairman Jallo presented Mike Tweed with a certificate of Appreciation for Outstanding Leadership as 2025 Chairman and thanked him commitment to the Joint Board during the past year.

**APPROVE AGENDA:** Jallo asked if anyone had any additional items for today’s agenda. Tweed asked to add pictures of the construction of the East Outlet. **Ash made a motion to approve the agenda with the additional items, seconded by Sateren, motion carried unanimously.**

**APPROVAL of MINUTES:** The December 11<sup>th</sup>, 2025, meeting minutes were presented. **Sateren made a motion to approve December 11<sup>th</sup>, 2025 minutes, as presented, seconded by Tweed, motion carried unanimously.**

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

**APPROVAL of MONTHLY BILLS FOR JANUARY 2026:**

January 2026 Bills	Amount	Ck #
Intuit QuickBooks Online Monthly	\$115.00	ACH
Ramsey County Water Resource District (Office Assistant Services)	\$600.00	5228
Ramsey County Water Resource District (Copier Rent)	\$125.00	5228
NDTC - Website Hosting	\$21.83	5229
Jeff Frith - Cell Phone Expense	\$101.25	5230
Jeff Frith - December '25 Travel (Conference W/ Hotel)	\$811.40	5230
Ramsey County Auditor: Rent	\$190.00	5231
Ramsey County Auditor: Telephone	\$55.49	5231
Ramsey County Auditor - Wages & Withholding Taxes	\$6,176.20	5232
Ramsey County Auditor - Health Insurance	\$2,377.10	5233
Total Admin	\$10,573.27	
Total General Project		

**Total** **\$10,573.27**

The January 2026 bills were presented. **Sateren made a motion to approve the January 2026 bills, as presented, seconded by Ash, motion carried unanimously.**

### **OTHERS PRESENT:**

Stacy Peters, Ramsey County WRD Office Manager, Bryan Sea, ND Game & Fish, Emily Fernan, US Fish & Wildlife & Jim Olson, Blue Water Consulting. Online: Carl Jones, National Weather Service, Matthew Lindsay, Department of Water Resources, Dani Quissell & Julie Ellingson, ND Water Association, & Patrick Samson, Ackerman Estvold Engineering.

### **AGENCY REPORTS:**

**NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE:** Carl Jones was in attendance online. He went over the monthly report, including short and long-range forecasts. He reported the current lake level is 1448.85. He mentioned that the first spring flood exceedance outlook would be released on Thursday, January 22, 2026.

**ND GAME & FISH:** Bryan Sea was in attendance. He mentioned they are currently working on report writing & data analysis. He said they do sub-sampling of the otoliths of the fish to get aging, growth rates & other information. He mentioned they are looking at different oxygen levels for winter kill.

**NRCS:** No one in attendance.

**US FISH & WILDLIFE:** Emily Fernan was in attendance. She mentioned that at White Horse, they had 4 calves this last year. She said White Horse transferred two yearlings & one bull Bison to the Spirit Lake Tribe. She said they are working on hunting & fishing for the various refugees across the state. She mentioned that with the hunting, they are looking to align with the state. Satern asked her if there was anything new on Lamb's Lake & she said just the information provided at the Nelson County Water Board's meeting about the culvert in the dam in the spring & clean-out of the spillway.

**DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES:** Matthew Lindsay was in attendance, online. He mentioned that he was the new manager of the Trans-Boundary & that Yaping is working with his area, as well as construction. It would be him or her who will be giving monthly updates. He mentioned that the lake level is a ½ foot lower than this time last year. He mentioned that there are active projects for both outlets. On the East End Outlet #1 pump screen removal. He mentioned they are working with Great Plains out of Mandan for the reconditioning of the pumps at both outlets. He mentioned that at Round Lake #4 there is an electrical issue, which they are looking for the repair to be done in February. He said a new issue is on the East End Outlet pump #3 with the motor control center. He mentioned they are looking to still have an annual meeting & would like feedback from the board on when it should happen. The board will get back to DWR in February.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

**REVIEW OF ND WATER CONFERENCE:** Julie Ellingson, ND Water Association, was online & shared that the videos from the conference were available online. She mentioned they did not receive many surveys back from the conference.

**WATER MANAGEMENT PLAN-TASK ORDER REVIEW:** Jim Olson, Blue Water Consulting, & Patrick Samson, Ackerman Estvold Engineering, discussed the Memorandum & the Task Order form to continue forward with the Water Management Plan. Both mentioned that once the plan is determined & projects are in motion, they will look into obtaining cost-sharing with the State Water Commission & other organizations. After discussion, **Tweed motioned to sign the agreement between the Devils Lake Basin Joint Water Resource Board & Ackerman Estvold Engineering, seconded by Slaubaugh, motion carried unanimously.**

**MANAGER REVIEW & 2026 SALARY DISCUSSION:** Slaubaugh motioned for a 3% pay increase for Frith for 2026, seconded by Morstad, motion carried unanimously

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

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**RAMSEY COUNTY OFFICE AGREEMENT:** Frith presented the board with the office agreement between Ramsey County and the Joint Board, stating that nothing has changed from the previous year. **Sateren made a motion to approve the Ramsey County Office Agreement as is for 2026, seconded by Ash, motion carried unanimously.**

**2025 YEAR-END BUDGET AMENDMENTS:** Frith stated that the Joint Board finished 2025 under budget, and no action was needed.

**DESIGNATE DEPOSITORIES:** Frith stated that this must be done annually to designate where funds received are deposited. Old National Bank, formerly Bremer, is where the Joint Board currently has all accounts. **Tweed made a motion to keep Old National Bank as the designated depository for all Joint Board funds, seconded by Morstad, motion carried unanimously.**

**DWR-2027 WATER DEVELOPMENT PLAN:** Frith mentioned that he wanted to bring to everyone's attention that the ND Department of Water Resources will be soliciting potential project cost-sharing requests from Water Resource Districts, Rural and municipal water utilities, and communities will be notified about the timeline for upcoming projects for the 2027-2029 biennium. Tweed mentioned that the Garrison Diversion has a cost share for new rural water hookups.

**2026 WATER TOUR:** Frith mentioned that the Devils Lake area tour usually is scheduled for the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of June. He mentioned he has been discussing with Julie Ellingson & Dani Quissell, ND Water Association, regarding the Devils Lake tour, the low attendance in past years, and possibly skipping a year. Frith mentioned this will be discussed at the Water Education Foundation's meeting on January 28<sup>th</sup>, 2026, as they are the sponsors of the Summer Water Education Tours throughout the state.

**LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR NDAWN TO SBARE (STATE OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH & EDUCATION):** Frith mentioned that the NDAWN (North Dakota Agriculture Weather Network) is seeking to apply for a grant to continue operations. Frith listed the benefits he, the Joint Board, and all area producers received from the NDAWN sites within the basin. Frith stated that he would like the board to submit a letter of support. **Sateren made a motion to submit the Letter of Support on behalf of NDAWN to SABARE, seconded by Slaubaugh, motion carried unanimously.**

**CORRESPONDENCE & MISCELLANEOUS:** Frith shared the monthly Lake Elevations & Coulee Flows he monitors.

**OTHER NEW BUSINESS:**

**CONSTRUCTION OF THE EAST OUTLET:** Tweed shared photos with the board from the 2011-2012 construction of the East Devils Lake Outlet.

**BASIN BOARD REPORTS:**

**Ramsey County:** Ash mentioned they had their meeting on January 6<sup>th</sup>. They are considering a meeting with the Nelson County Water Board regarding Lawton Coulee. He mentioned they discussed a water complaint & the fishing pier area on Channel A.

**Walsh County:** Jallo mentioned their meeting was yesterday. They are working on getting landowners in the correct drain.

**Eddy County:** Tweed mentioned they met last week. He said they had a board member with over 20 years retire, so they are looking for a new board member. He mentioned they are working with Interstate Engineering on costs for a 6-mile drain cleanout that was presented by some landowners.

**Pierce County:** Slaubaugh mentioned they had their meeting on January 5<sup>th</sup>. He mentioned they discussed summer projects with cleanouts & cattail spraying their water ways.

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

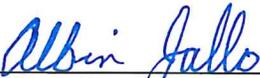
**Nelson County:** Sateren mentioned at their meeting that they are working on a permit with the State for rerouting a water area by Mapes. He said they are working on a Snag & Clear project that joins up with the Clara Bartlett.

**Cavalier County:** Morstad mentioned they had their meeting on January 8<sup>th</sup>. He mentioned they discussed the Channel A project with Ramsey County & other projects that did not get completed by freeze up.

**MANAGER'S REPORT:** Frith mentioned he went to Bismarck State College at the end of the conference in December. He mentioned that a panel of Senators, Cramer, and Hoeven, were there to get public comment on the new WOTUS (Waters of the United States) changes. He also shared a picture from Morrison on November 30th, 2025, showing the water running, yet due to the increased rainfall this last fall.

Meeting adjourned at 11:13 AM.

Approved February 11<sup>th</sup>, 2026:

  
Albin Jallo, Chairman

  
Jeff W. Frith, Manager