

DEVILS LAKE BASIN JOINT WATER RESOURCE BOARD

Minutes of the regular monthly meeting held Wednesday, February 11th, 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 (online)
Walsh County	Albin Jallo

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

APPROVAL of MINUTES: The meeting minutes for the January 14th, 2026, were presented. **Ash made a motion to approve the January 14th, 2026 minutes, as presented, seconded by Slaubaugh, motion carried unanimously.**

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

MONTHLY BILLS FOR FEBRUARY 2026:

	February 2026 Bills	Amount	Ck #
Intuit QuickBooks Online Monthly		\$115.00	ACH
Old National Bank - New Deposit Stamp		\$61.90	ACH
Ramsey County Auditor - Wages & Withholding Taxes		\$6,361.49	5234
Ramsey County Auditor - Health Insurance		\$2,377.10	5235
Ramsey County Auditor: Rent		\$190.00	5236
Ramsey County Auditor: Telephone		\$55.49	5236
Leevers - January Meeting Expense		\$16.88	5237
USGS - Quarterly Stream Gages		\$5,087.50	5238
NDAWN - Annual Service Agreement		\$2,500.00	5239
Buchli, Britsch, & Svidal, PC - 1099 Preparation		\$80.00	5240
NDTC - Website Hosting		\$21.83	5241
Ramsey County Water Resource District (Office Assistant Services)		\$600.00	5242
Ramsey County Water Resource District (Copier Rent)		\$125.00	5242
Blue Water Consulting - January 2026 - Inv. 1109		\$1,162.70	5243
Jeff Frith - Cell Phone Expense		\$101.25	5244
Total Admin		\$10,105.94	
Total General Project		\$8,750.20	
Total		\$18,856.14	

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

OTHERS PRESENT:

Stacy Peters, Ramsey County WRD Office Manager, Bryan Sea, ND Game & Fish, Dave Azure, US Fish & Wildlife, Hunter Berg & David Remmen, NRCS, & Jim Olson, Blue Water Consulting. Online: Jim Kaiser, National Weather Service, Matthew Lindsay & Yaping Chi, Department of Water Resources, Dani Quissel, ND Water Association, and Levi Otis, Ellingson Companies.

AGENCY REPORTS:

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE: Jim Kaiser was in attendance online. He went over the monthly report. He reported the current lake level is 1448.85. He mentioned that the first Spring Outlook was released on January 22, 2026. He said the next one would be released tomorrow & would continue every 2 weeks until the spring flood.

ND GAME & FISH: Bryan Sea was in attendance. He mentioned they have been inspecting local lakes, monitoring oxygen levels for winter kill. He stated they were in the process of hiring seasonal help. There was a discussion about a meeting scheduled for Friday at the KC Hall by a group petitioning to place a measure on the next ballot to reduce the bag limit from 20 to 10 and the possession limit from 40 to 30. He said this request to reduce the perch limit isn't based on scientific data or biology.

NRCS: Hunter Berg, NRCS, was in attendance. He mentioned they had no Water-Bank funding. He mentioned there were two WRE funding for last year; however, one backed out. He said there are six more submitted for this year. David Remmen, Soil Conservation, was in attendance and mentioned they are currently preparing for grass seeding.

US FISH & WILDLIFE: Dave Azure was in attendance. He mentioned they received the orders to open up refuges for hunting, for certain game, in the state. He mentioned by doing so it allows for some species to be added, such as coyotes, skunks, & others. He mentioned for Lamb's Lake that their Water Division in Colorado is looking at the area capacity. He said they are planning to install a 36" culvert in the dam. He mentioned they applied for a maintenance federal internship & they received one of the positions here in Devils Lake.

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES: Yaping Chi was in attendance, online. She went over the Devils Lake Basin Balance Sheet & her presentation to the State Water Commission. Frith asked if the 2009 data could be added to the Devils Lake Basin Balance Sheet. She gave updates to the East & West Outlets.

OLD BUSINESS:

WATER MANAGEMENT PLAN: Jim Olson mentioned that, after discussion with Frith, they are looking to get two board members to be part of the Steering Committee. It would include himself, Frith & the two board members. This committee would be able to make decisions on the Water Management Plan on behalf of the board. Sateren & Jallo will be the two board members on the Steering Committee. **Duaine Ash motioned to compensate those board members \$219 per meeting, plus mileage, paid by the joint water board; seconded by Slaubaugh. Motion carried.** The meeting will be held in the last week of this month. Olson mentioned that the Technical Advisory Team comprises Ackerman and their Wetland Land team. Olson went over the timeline for developing the plan. Frith noted that agencies that attend their monthly Joint Board meeting should be included on the Technical Advisory Team.

INTERIM LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEES: Frith mentioned that the Water Topics Committee would be meeting on Thursday, March 26th, & the Agriculture & Water Management would be meeting on Tuesday, March 31st. Dani Quissell, ND Water Association, was in attendance & gave some updates regarding both committees. Matthew Lindsay, Department of Water Resources, attended online & mentioned that they were asked to present on Devils Lake to clarify the Tolna Coulee structure for the Agriculture & Water Management Committee.

2026 WATER TOUR: After some discussion, **Duaine Ash moved not to conduct a water tour through the Water Education Foundation for 2026; seconded by Slaubaugh. The motion carried.** There was a discussion of offering a separate tour for Congressional Representatives or others who would be interested. Dani Quissell noted that the ND Water Educational Foundation tours in the Carrington and Turtle Mountain areas may be of interest to the board.

OTHER OLD BUSINESS: No other old business.

NEW BUSINESS:

OUTLETS OPERATION MEETING: Matthew Lindsay announced that they still plan to hold an Outlet Operation meeting in Devils Lake. He mentioned that DWR will take the lead in organizing the meeting and determining the location. The board suggested scheduling the meeting for April.

CORRESPONDENCE & MISCELLANEOUS: No correspondence or miscellaneous information.

OTHER NEW BUSINESS: No other new business.

BASIN BOARD REPORTS:

Ramsey County: Ash mentioned they had their meeting on February 3rd. He mentioned that the Ramsey County Water Resource District will meet tomorrow with the Nelson County Water Resource District to discuss the Lawton Coulee. He mentioned a question about the Channel A property posted by the WRD, which includes a public fishing pier. He said that the water board received a Snag & Clear petition.

Walsh County: Jallo mentioned their meeting was yesterday. He said a couple of guys were in regarding a beaver dam. He said they are working on a Snag & Clear project to clear out the river.

Eddy County: Tweed mentioned they met last week. He said they got a new board member from New Rockford. He said they are doing a cost-share for a 6-mile drain. He mentioned that the Garrison Pipeline completed 13 miles this year, and plans for another 16 miles next year. He said the pipeline is about 126 miles and they are about halfway done.

Pierce County: Slaubaugh mentioned they had their meeting last week. He said they are working on lining up to spray the drains they have cleaned out. He said there are some more blueline drains that need cleaning.

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

Nelson County: Sateren mentioned they are meeting tomorrow. He said they are working on a Snag & Clear project NW of Lakota, but are encountering issues with Fish & Wildlife easements.

Cavalier County: Morstad mentioned they had their meeting. He said they are working to secure landowners' signatures on easements to allow a legal drainage route.

MANAGER'S REPORT: Frith mentioned if any of the Water Districts have new board members or office staff to let him and Julie Ellingson know. He also mentioned he attended an online USGS Seminar. He mentioned one of the things they'll be doing over the basin is installing cameras to monitor the stream gauge at the Edmore South gauge by Webster & Creel Bay in Devils Lake. He will be attending the State Water Commission meeting tomorrow.

Meeting adjourned at 11:16 AM.

Approved March 11th, 2026:

Albin Jallo, Chairman

Jeff W. Frith, Manager

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