

DEVILS LAKE BASIN JOINT WATER RESOURCE BOARD

Minutes of the regular monthly meeting held Wednesday, March 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.

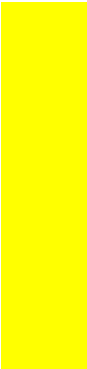













Cavalier County	Ordale Morstad (absent)
Eddy County	Mike Tweed
Nelson County	Dave Sateren
Pierce County	Floyd Slaubaugh
Ramsey County	Duaine Ash
Towner County	Randy Benson (online)
Walsh County	Albin Jallo

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

APPROVAL of MINUTES: The meeting minutes for the February 11th, 2026, were reviewed. **Ash made a motion to approve the February 11th, 2026, minutes, as presented, seconded by Sateren, motion carried unanimously.**

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

APPROVAL of MONTHLY BILLS FOR FEBRUARY 2026:

March 2026 Bills		Amount	Ck #
 Intuit QuickBooks Online Monthly		\$115.00	ACH
 Ramsey County Auditor - Wages & Withholding Taxes		\$6,361.49	5245
 Ramsey County Auditor - Health Insurance		\$2,377.10	5246
 Ramsey County Auditor: Rent		\$190.00	5247
 Ramsey County Auditor: Telephone		\$55.49	5247
 LeEVERS - January Meeting Expense		\$36.87	5248
 Ramsey County Water Resource District (Office Assistant Services)		\$600.00	5249
 Ramsey County Water Resource District (Copier Rent)		\$125.00	5249
 NDTC - Website Hosting		\$21.83	5250
 Jeff Frith - Cell Phone Expense		\$101.25	5251
 Walsh County Water Resource District - Winter Conference		\$310.00	5252
 Blue Water Consulting - January 2026 - Inv. 1112		\$1,358.90	5253
 Total Admin		\$10,395.28	
 Total General Project		\$1,358.90	
Total		\$11,754.18	

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

OTHERS PRESENT:

Stacy Peters, Ramsey County WRD Office Manager, Dave Azure, US Fish & Wildlife, Jim Olson, Blue Water Consulting, and Representative Kathy Frelich. Online: Amanda Lee, National Weather Service, Matthew Lindsay, Department of Water Resources, Dani Quissell, and Julie Ellingson, ND Water Users Association, Patrick Samson, Ackerman-Estvold Engineering & Michael (last name unknown).

AGENCY REPORTS:

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE: Amanda Lee was in attendance, online. She went over her monthly report. She reported the current lake level is 1449. She mentioned the next Outlook would be coming out tomorrow & then on March 26th.

ND GAME & FISH: No one in attendance.

NRCS: No one in attendance.

US FISH & WILDLIFE: Dave Azure was in attendance. He mentioned that they are very short-staffed, not only in the Devils Lake area but across the state. He said they are currently down to two managers. He mentioned that their wildlife fire services have been unified under the Department of Interior. He stated that the US Fish & Wildlife still controls where & when fires occur on their lands. Frith asked about setback distance for drain tile. Dave stated that the determination is based on several factors, including soil type and watershed area. He mentioned they still have not received a candidate for the Internship in Maintenance.

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES: Matthew Lindsay attended the meeting online and mentioned that there will be a meeting on April 1st with the DEQ to discuss water quality related to the operations of the Outlets. He noted that they are looking to reduce the number of sampling sites from 20 to 10 and the parameters tested from 29 to 6.

Lindsay informed Frith that Reice Hasse would contact him directly regarding the spring Outlet Operation meeting. He discussed the process of Water Development Plans for cost-sharing with the State Water Commission and reviewed the Operations and Maintenance of the Outlets.

He mentioned a short-term issue with the Round Lake Pump Station at the West Outlet, specifically concerning the #4 switchgear. There was a repair, and they are contracting with L&S to conduct tests on the repair. In the long term, they have contracted with Great Plains for motor maintenance.

Additionally, Bartlett & West are working on solutions for removing sediment buildup at the East End Outlet screen. Lindsay noted that they would present at the Agriculture and Water Management Committee meeting on March 31st regarding the history of flooding, outlet operations, constraints, the Tolna Coulee structure, and sovereign lands. He also mentioned that Amy Winkelman, Sovereign Land Manager from DWR, could provide a presentation to the Joint Board on sovereign lands.

OLD BUSINESS:

WATER MANAGEMENT PLAN: Jim Olson mentioned they had their first Steering Committee meeting on February 25th. They discussed asking USGS, County Commissioners, Suzie Kenner (Chamber of Commerce), Sandy Shively (North Central Planning) & Mike Grafsgaard (City of Devils Lake Engineer) to be part of these meetings. Jim Olson went over the Memorandum provided to the board members with a timeline, stakeholders' discussion & goals. The next Steering Committee meeting is scheduled for April 1st at 1:30 PM. Frith mentioned he will have a budget prepared for this project because the Joint Board had only budgeted \$40,000 for Basin Projects.

INTERIM LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEES: Representative Kathy Frelich discussed the upcoming meeting for the Agriculture & Water Management Committee. She mentioned her goal was to get definitions that make sense for Devils Lake. The meeting for the Agriculture & Water Management is scheduled for Tuesday, March 31st, which can be attended in person or online. The Water Topics Overview Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 26th.

Dani Quissell, ND Water Association, said they are monitoring the cost-share policy with the State Water Commission, which will be discussed at the Water Topics Overview Committee meeting on the 26th. She mentioned that Sean Fredricks will conduct training on Monday, March 23rd, at 10 AM for water board employees on the drain tile permit process. She mentioned that the summer conference is scheduled in Watford City, July 15th-16th.

Frith mentioned that the ANS meeting is scheduled for March 25th in Bismarck to discuss prevention throughout the state.

OTHER OLD BUSINESS: No other old business.

NEW BUSINESS:

APRIL MEETING: Frith mentioned that there was a conflict for the Joint Board's April meeting. After discussion, the April meeting will be held on Monday, April 13th at 8 AM.

CORRESPONDENCE & MISCELLANEOUS: Frith shared a report that is provided by NDAWN called the Mesonet Minute, which provides information over the last year on various items.

OTHER NEW BUSINESS: No other new business.

BASIN BOARD REPORTS:

Ramsey County: Ash mentioned they had their meeting on March 3rd. He mentioned they had a contractor come in & provide the water board with services his contractor business offers. He mentioned that the cattail spraying discussion had started.

Walsh County: Jallo mentioned their meeting was yesterday. He mentioned they discussed assessment areas.

Eddy County: Tweed mentioned they met last week. He mentioned they have their yearly joint meeting with Wells & Foster counties for the Rocky Run on the 17th. He said this meeting will discuss the operation of the gates for the year. He mentioned they have a new board member, Brady Richter.

Pierce County: Slaubaugh mentioned at their meeting that they discussed spraying some waterways.

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

Nelson County: Sateren mentioned they meet tomorrow. He said they are working on the Clara Bartlett Snag & Clear with Ramsey County. He said they are working with the Fish & Wildlife on a snag & clear by Lakota.

Cavalier County: Morstad not present, so no report given.

MANAGER'S REPORT: Frith mentioned he has a State Water Commission meeting on the 19th. He will be attending the ANS meeting on the 25th. He said he has a busy rest of the month.

Meeting adjourned at 11:20 AM.

Approved April 13th, 2026:

Albin Jallo, Chairman

Jeff W. Frith, Manager

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