

DEVILS LAKE BASIN JOINT WATER RESOURCE BOARD

Minutes of a special meeting held Monday, April 13th, 2026, Historical Meeting Room, Ramsey County Courthouse, Devils Lake, ND, and Online via Teams.

Chairman Albin Jallo called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM. Roll call of the counties was taken.


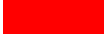
Cavalier County	Ordale Morstad & Bruce Roder
Eddy County	Mike Tweed
Nelson County	Dave Sateren (absent)
Pierce County	Floyd Slaubaugh
Ramsey County	Duaine Ash
Towner County	Randy Benson (online)
Walsh County	Albin Jallo

APPROVE AGENDA: Jallo stated that as this is considered a special meeting there will be no changes to the agenda, but it would still need to a motion to be accepted. **Morstad made a motion to approve the agenda, seconded by Ash, motion carried unanimously.**

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

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

APPROVAL of MONTHLY BILLS FOR APRIL 2026:

April 2026 Bills	Amount	Ck #
Intuit QuickBooks Online Monthly	\$115.00	ACH
Dave Sateren - Water Management Planning Committee	\$219.00	5254
Albin Jallo - Water Management Planning Committee	\$300.20	5255
Leevers - Meeting Expense	\$16.88	5256
Ramsey County Auditor - Wages & Withholding Taxes	\$6,361.49	5257
Ramsey County Auditor - Health Insurance	\$2,377.10	5258
Ramsey County Auditor: Rent	\$190.00	5259
Ramsey County Auditor: Telephone	\$55.49	5259
NDTC - Website Hosting	\$21.83	5260
Ramsey County Water Resource District (Office Assistant Services)	\$600.00	5261
Ramsey County Water Resource District (Copier Rent)	\$125.00	5261
Jeff Frith - Cell Phone Expense	\$101.25	5262
Jeff Frith - March 2026 Travel Expenses	\$564.89	5262
Blue Water Consulting - March 2026 - Inv. 1114	\$736.65	5263
Ackerman-Estvold Engineering - Water Management Plan - Invoice 00022123	\$2,337.50	5264
 Total Admin	\$11,048.13	
 Total General Project	\$3,074.15	

Total **\$14,122.28**

The April 2026 bills were reviewed. **Slaubaugh made a motion to approve the April 2026 bills, as presented, seconded by Tweed, and the motion was unanimously passed.**

OTHERS PRESENT:

Stacy Peters, Ramsey County WRD Office Manager, Jim Olson, Blue Water Consulting, & District 15 Representative Kathy Frelich, District 20 Representative Mike Beltz, Amanda Lee, National Weather Service, Yaping Chi, Department of Water Resources, Karen Hausmann, landowner, Joe Solseng, Northern Lakeview (Grand Forks), Joel Schroeder, Northern Lakeview (Lakota), John Halstenson, Northern Lakeview (Grand Forks), John Schlieman Northern Lakeview (Grand Forks), Darlene Quam, landowner, Randy Schemionek, Ramsey County Water Resource District, Heather MacDonald, & Corry Kenner. Online: Dani Quissell & Julie Ellingson, ND Water Association.

AGENCY REPORTS:

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE: Amanda Lee was in attendance. She went over her monthly report. She reported the current lake level is 1449.3. She mentioned that the next Exceedance Outlook would be coming out at the end of April. She mentioned that the Non-Exceedance (how low the lake could get) will start coming out in June. Amanda stated that she would have a more detailed report at the Devils Lake Outlets public informational meeting later that afternoon.

ND GAME & FISH: Frith stated that Bryan Sea emailed to say he would not be in attendance today and didn't have much to report.

NRCS: No one in attendance.

US FISH & WILDLIFE: Frith stated that he received an email from Dave Azure early this morning apologizing for the late notice that he would be unable to attend today's meeting.

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES: Yaping Chi was in attendance. She mentioned she didn't have much of an update. She reminded everyone that DWR would be holding a public information meeting today at 1:30 PM at the college regarding the department's plans for Outlet Operations for the 2026 operating season.

OLD BUSINESS:

JOINT SUMMER WATER MEETING: Dani Quissell mentioned that the Joint Summer Water Conference will be July 15th-16th, in Watford City, with the 15th being a full day of conference, workshops, and networking opportunities, and the 16th would be the tour. She mentioned getting your room as soon as possible because the block of rooms only goes to the middle of June.

INTERIM LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEES: Dani Quissell gave an update on the Water Topics meeting. She mentioned that the Cost Share policies were presented by Deloitte, a consultant to DWR, which proposed a 50% cost share for high-priority projects, 45% for medium-priority projects, and 40% for low-priority projects. She mentioned they are looking to adopt a new Cost Share policy in December. She mentioned there is still work on the Watershed Management study. She mentioned that presentations were done by the Nebraska and Minnesota models of Watershed Management.

INTERIM LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEES CONTINUED:

She informed the board of the Ag & Water Management Committee. Discussions at this meeting were on the Irrigation Study, the Economic Analysis Study, and the Wetlands and Inundated Lands. Representatives Frelich and Beltz added information about this meeting.

Dani also informed the board of 2 upcoming training courses, with one next week, on what is required on auditing for Water Resource Districts and DWR on the new permit policy.

WATER MANAGEMENT PLAN: Jim Olson mentioned they had their last steering committee meeting on April 1st. He mentioned that they have identified the stakeholders and have an engagement letter to send to them. He would like to send out these engagement letters to the stakeholders. **Tweed made a motion to have Jim send out the engagement survey letters to the stakeholders, seconded by Ash, motion carried unanimously.**

OTHER OLD BUSINESS: No other old business.

NEW BUSINESS:

2027 BUDGET FIRST READING: Frith mentioned the 2027 Budget needs to be finalized by July 1, 2026, to provide to the county Auditors. He mentioned that he and Peters would work on changing the budget layout to better align with the expenses.

DEVILS LAKE MODEL DEVELOPMENT FOR FUTURE LAKE HYDROLOGY PREDICTION: Frith mentioned that Dr. Mahmood from UND was asking the board to agree to the study and apply for cost share with the state. After discussion, **Slaubaugh motioned to deny the study and to not proceed with the cost share to the state, seconded by Tweed, the motion carried unanimously.**

NORTH DAKOTA WATER EDUCATION FOUNDATION WATER TOURS: Frith stated that an invoice came into the office late last week for a sponsorship for the ND Water Education Foundation summer tours. Frith mentioned that this is something the Joint Board has done in previous years and is included in this year's budget. **Duaine Ash motioned to sponsor \$3,000 for the water tours through the NDWEF; seconded by Tweed. Motion carried unanimously.**

CORRESPONDENCE & MISCELLANEOUS: Frith mentioned the 2nd edition of the Mesonet Minute, the monthly news from NDAWN is available for review. He said other correspondence is the Basin Flows information and Policy updates provided by Dani.

OTHER NEW BUSINESS: No other new business.

BASIN BOARD REPORTS:

Ramsey County: Ash mentioned they had their meeting on April 7th. He mentioned there was a discussion on cattail spraying. He mentioned that the board conducted its first review of the 2027 budget and adopted a Resolution on Drain Tile Permitting Applications.

Walsh County: Jallo mentioned they are meeting tomorrow. He said they continue to work on assessments and where water is going, and to get the landowners in the right assessment area. He mentioned at their meeting last week that they talked about the new tile permit process.

Eddy County: Tweed mentioned at their last meeting that they discussed the Columbia Coulee cleanout and are waiting on signatures. He mentioned that for the Rocky Run, they will operate the gates as last year and that a couple of culverts need replacing. He mentioned they approved a drain tile permit.

Pierce County: Slaubaugh mentioned their meeting was held on April 6th. He said they approved a tile permit.

Towner County: Benson mentioned at their meeting that they discussed cattail spraying.

Nelson County: Sateren was absent, and no update was provided.

Cavalier County: Morstad mentioned they had their meeting last week. He said they are waiting on signatures for a possible legal drain. Roder mentioned they are still working with Canada on 2 legal drains that go up into Canada.

MANAGER’S REPORT: Frith mentioned he had a busy March, attending several meetings, as mentioned in early agenda items, as well as a Public Hearing at the Garrison Conservancy District offices in Carrington. Frith stated that the meeting in Carrington was regarding Burleigh County's petition to withdraw from the Conservation District.

Chairman Jallo thanked everyone for attending today’s meeting and reminded everyone that the next Joint Board meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 13th, at 8 a.m.

Meeting adjourned at 11:49 AM.

Approved May 13th, 2026:

Albin Jallo, Chairman

Jeff W. Frith, Manager