

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

Minutes of regular monthly meeting held Wednesday, May 13th, 2026, Historical Meeting Room, Ramsey County Courthouse, Devils Lake, ND, and Online via Teams.

Chairman Albin Jallo called the meeting to order at 8:00 AM. Roll call of the counties was taken.

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

**APPROVE AGENDA:** Jallo asked if anyone had any questions about today’s agenda. **Benson made a motion to approve the agenda, seconded by Ash, motion carried unanimously.**

**APPROVAL of MINUTES:** The meeting minutes for the April 13th, 2026, were reviewed. **Ash made a motion to approve the April 13th, 2026, minutes, seconded by Tweed, motion carried unanimously.**

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

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

	Amount	Ck #
May 2026 Bills		
Intuit QuickBooks Online Monthly	\$115.00	ACH
Dave Sateren - Water Management Planning Committee	\$438.00	5265
Albin Jallo - Water Management Planning Committee	\$600.40	5266
Ramsey County Auditor - Wages & Withholding Taxes	\$6,361.49	5267
Ramsey County Auditor - Health Insurance	\$2,377.10	5268
Ramsey County Auditor: Rent	\$190.00	5269
Ramsey County Auditor: Telephone	\$55.49	5269
NDTC - Website Hosting	\$21.83	5270
Ramsey County Water Resource District (Office Assistant Services)	\$600.00	5271
Ramsey County Water Resource District (Copier Rent)	\$125.00	5271
Lake Region State - Outlets Public Information Meeting	\$40.40	5272
The Borderland Press - Annual Subscription	\$53.00	5273
USGS - Real-time Stream Gauges Quarterly	\$5,087.50	5274
Dave Sateren - Water Management Planning Committee - 4/1/26		
Mileage	\$63.80	5275
Jeff Frith - Cell Phone Expense	\$101.25	5276
Blue Water Consulting - April 2026 - Inv. 1118	\$1,522.45	5277
ND Water Education Foundation - 2026 Tour Sponsorship	\$3,000.00	5278
Total Admin	\$14,142.76	
Total General Project	\$6,609.95	
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$20,752.71</b>	

The May 2026 bills were reviewed. **Ash made a motion to approve the May 2026 bills, seconded by Tweed, motion carried unanimously.**

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Stacy Peters, Ramsey County WRD Office Manager, Bryan Sea, ND Game & Fish & Jim Olson, Blue Water Consultant. Online: Tommy Grafenauer, National Weather Service, Matthew Lindsay, Department of Water Resources, Dani Quissell & Julie Ellingson, ND Water Association, Jason Kraft, Ramsey County Highway Department, Patrick Samson, Ackerman-Estvold Engineering, & Michael (unknown last name).

**AGENCY REPORTS:**

**NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE:** Tommy Grafeneauer was in attendance, online. He went over the monthly report. He reported that the current lake level is at 1450.1. He mentioned there is not strong signals for June or July. He mentioned that the Non-Exceedance (how low the lake could get) will be issued at the end of June.

**ND GAME & FISH:** Bryan Sea was in attendance. He mentioned they have had a busy month. He mentioned they have Northern pike & walleye eggs in the hatchery now. He mentioned they have transferred fish to community ponds. He mentioned they tagged about 1600 fish of walleye & perch. He said they have Dan Fischer, Fischer Land Surveying & Engineering, doing a hydrology study at Rock Lake. He said they will be having meetings on this during the winter.

**NRCS:** No one in attendance.

**US FISH & WILDLIFE:** Dave Azure informed Frith that everyone was out in the field, so no one would be able to attend.

**DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES:** Matthew Lindsay was in attendance, online. He mentioned that the West End Outlet went operational on Monday at 100 cfs. He said there are some problems at the West End Outlet & that is why the operation was only at 100 cfs. He said the East End Outlet is planned to start operating on Thursday. He mentioned he was not sure of the cfs at this time. He mentioned that DEQ & DWR are looking to sign a contract to conduct quality checks at 10 sites, analyzing 6 parameters (including sulfate). He informed the board that the State Water Commission meets in Devils Lake on July 9<sup>th</sup> at 3 PM at Lake Region State College. He mentioned the next State Water Commission meeting is June 9<sup>th</sup>.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**WATER MANAGEMENT PLAN:** Jim Olson mentioned they had their last steering committee meeting on April 29<sup>th</sup>. He said they have compiled the information from the survey that was sent out & provided this to the board members. He mentioned the next steering committee meeting is May 27<sup>th</sup>. Patrick Samson, Ackerman Estvold Engineering, mentioned that the last month was Jim sending out the survey & compiling the information. He will now be working on a preliminary report.

**2027 BUDGET FIRST READING:** Frith mentioned the 2027 Budget needs to be finalized by July 1, 2026, to provide to the county Auditors. Frith went over some of the changes that were made to the budget to match expenses.

**JOINT SUMMER WATER MEETING:** Dani Quissell reminded everyone to get their rooms as soon as possible because the block of rooms ends on June 12<sup>th</sup>. She mentioned meetings coming up in June are the Water Topics Committee & Ag & Water.

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

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR 2026 OUTLET OPERATION:** Ash motioned to send a letter to the Governor and DWR in support of the 2026 Outlet Operation, seconded by Benson, motion carried unanimously.

**RAMSEY COUNTY SPRING FLOODING:** Frith shared video & photos of the flooding in Ramsey County. He mentioned that Ramsey County had declared a flood emergency on April 27<sup>th</sup> due to ongoing overland flooding. He said that Representative Frelich had hand-delivered an emergency drain permit application for the Fenster Slough area in eastern Ramsey County to the Governor & DWR.

**CORRESPONDENCE & MISCELLANEOUS:** Frith mentioned that various thank-you letters were received in support of our annual memberships with ND Irrigation, ND Water Users, and Water Coalition organizations. He said last week was ANS Awareness Week. He said even though the Joint Board missed the deadline to submit a letter of support, he promoted the event via emails and social media posts.

**OTHER NEW BUSINESS:** With the State Water Commission meeting being held on June 9<sup>th</sup> and the Water Topics Overview Legislative committee meeting on the 10<sup>th</sup>, there was discussion of needing to change the June 10<sup>th</sup> meeting. After discussion, it was determined that June's meeting will be held on Thursday, June 11<sup>th</sup>, at 8 AM.

**BASIN BOARD REPORTS:**

**Ramsey County:** Ash mentioned they had their meeting last week. He mentioned that at their meeting, they discussed the flooding in Ramsey County. He said the board accepted two Snag & Clear projects & went over the 2027 Budget.

**Walsh County:** Jallo mentioned at their meeting that they are currently working on Drain 25, which is operational but in need of repairs. This drain is located west of Park River. He stated that they are collaborating with the city of Park River to determine the repair costs. They are scheduled to meet with Park River on June 2nd and are hopeful for a resolution.

**Eddy County:** Tweed mentioned at their last meeting that they approved 1 drain tile permit. He mentioned he thought they had a new water board member, but they realized they had to go through their County Commissioners to have one appointed after advertising for the vacancy.

**Pierce County:** Slaubaugh mentioned their meeting was held a week ago and he had no updates to give.

**BASIN BOARD REPORTS CONTINUED:**

**Towner County:** Benson mentioned at their meeting that they discussed the culvert at the railroad south of Meza. He mentioned in Atkins Townships that they have roads that were underwater or soft. He had asked the board members about anyone using drone spraying & the cost. He said they had someone come in & it was \$500/hour plus the board had to pay for the chemical.

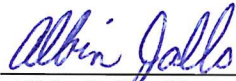
**Nelson County:** Sateren was absent, and no update was provided.

**Cavalier County:** Morstad was absent, and no update was provided.

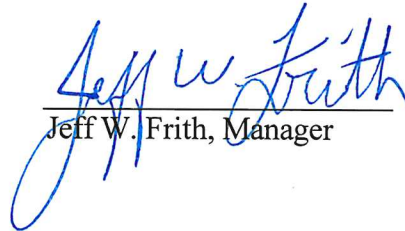
**MANAGER'S REPORT:** Frith mentioned he would be on vacation next month. He stated that he is looking at the priorities in his world & would be making some changes.

Meeting adjourned at 10:04 AM.

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



Albin Jalko, Chairman



Jeff W. Frith, Manager