

DEVILS LAKE BASIN JOINT WATER RESOURCE BOARD

Minutes of regular monthly meeting held Wednesday, July 8, 2026, Historical Meeting Room, Ramsey County Courthouse, Devils Lake, ND, and Online via Teams.

Chairman Albin Jallo called the meeting to order at 8:17 AM(technical difficulties). 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
Walsh County	Albin Jallo

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

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

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

APPROVAL of MONTHLY BILLS FOR JULY 2026:

July 2026 Bills	Amount	Ck #
Intuit QuickBooks Online Monthly	\$115.00	ACH
Ramsey County Auditor - Wages & Withholding Taxes	\$6,361.49	5290
Ramsey County Auditor - Health Insurance	\$2,377.10	5291
Ramsey County Auditor: Rent	\$190.00	5292
Ramsey County Auditor: Telephone	\$55.49	5292
Ramsey County Water Resource District (Office Assistant Services)	\$600.00	5293
Ramsey County Water Resource District (Copier Rent)	\$125.00	5293
NDTC - Website Hosting	\$21.83	5294
USGS - Stream Gage Quarterly Cost Share - Bill #90186117	\$5,087.50	5295
Blue Water Consulting - June 2026 - Inv. 1124	\$349.15	5296
Ackerman-Estvold - Plan Engineer - Inv. #00022562	\$5,362.50	5297
ND Water Resource District Association - Summer Conference	\$150.00	5298
Jeff Frith - Cell Phone Expense	\$101.25	5299
Total Admin	\$10,097.16	
Total General Project	\$10,799.15	

Total

\$20,896.31

The July 2026 bills were reviewed. **Benson moved to approve the July 2026 bills as presented, seconded by Sateren; the motion carried unanimously.**

OTHERS PRESENT:

Stacy Peters, Ramsey County WRD Office Manager, Dave Azure, US Fish & Wildlife, Ally Hanson, NRCS, Representative Kathy Frelich, District 15 & Karen Hausmann, landowner. Online: Matthew Lindsay & Alexis Faber, Department of Water Resources, Dani Quissel & Julie Ellingson, ND Water Association, Jim Olson-Blue Water Consultant, Kyle Blanchfield, Ramsey County Garrison Conservancy District Representative, & Michael Miller.

AGENCY REPORTS:

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE: Amanda Lee was unable to attend. She had mentioned to Frith that updated hydrology reports with new lake levels would be available in the next few days.

ND GAME & FISH: Bryan Sea was unable to attend.

NRCS: Ally Hanson, NRCS District Conservationist, was in attendance. She went over the 30-year easement program, during which they received 8 applications. She mentioned they received 45 applications in Ramsey for the Water Bank program. She said to make sure to contact their office about draining WRE (Wetland Reserve Easement) land.

US FISH & WILDLIFE: Dave Azure, Devils Lake Wetland Management District, was in attendance. He shared that his office has been working with permits after the recent flooding in the area. He mentioned they are still working on Lambs Lake concerns. He said they were looking at opening up more refuge land for grazing.

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES: Matthew Lindsay was in attendance, online. He mentioned the current lake level was 1450.36. He said the West End Outlet is currently operating at 100cfs, and the East End Outlet at 75cfs. He said there were restraints due to the water quality, and the West End Outlet #3 & #4 pumps at Round Lake had problems. After Matthew's update, Karen Hausman, the landowner, asked questions to DWR. She asked about running the outlets at full capacity even with all the rain we have received. Matthew stated they can't because of the 750ppm sulfate restriction. Frith mentioned he had a request to DEQ, DWR & the Governor for an Emergency Exceedance on the East End with the water quality. Matthew mentioned they are still in the process with the Fenster Slough ER Drain Application & he mentioned that the Basin Commissioner Hosted Meeting would be taking place in Devils Lake on Thursday, July 9th.

OLD BUSINESS:

WATER MANAGEMENT PLAN: Jim Olson was in attendance, online. He mentioned that the Steering Committee would meet next on July 22nd at 1 PM. He said they will be getting a draft report from Ackerman Estvoldt.

JOINT SUMMER WATER MEETING: Julie Ellingson reminded everyone of the conference next week, with the conference being on the 15th and the tour on the 16th. Dani Quissel stated that the ND Water Users Association & the ND Water Resource District will be having meetings during the conference.

RAMSEY COUNTY EMERGENCY DRAINING APPLICATION UPDATE: Frith mentioned that Ramsey County had not received a response from the DWR following the public meeting about the emergency drain application held on June 11th.

SPRING FLOODING: Frith mentioned that due to excessive rain in southern Cavalier County and northern Ramsey County at the end of June, anywhere between 4 and 10+ inches, there has been significant flooding along the coulees and roadways. He mentioned that since July 3rd, he has participated in daily emergency briefings with multiple local and state agencies providing updates on the ongoing damages. He stated that, currently, in Ramsey County alone, there were 33 roads closed, totaling about 47 miles.

DWR-BASIN COMMISSION HOSTED MEETING: Frith went over the agenda for the meeting. He mentioned it is scheduled for 3 PM on July 9th, at the LRSC Chautauqua Gallery.

OTHER OLD BUSINESS: No other old business.

NEW BUSINESS:

USGS STREAM GAUGES FY26-27 COST SHARE: Ash motioned to enter into the contract with USGS for cost share of the stream gauges; seconded by Benson. Motion carried unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE & MISCELLANEOUS: Frith stated that the Regional ND Water Users Association meeting would be held at the Ramsey County Courthouse on August 18th from 1-3 PM. Frith went over the lake levels & precipitation report he sent out.

OTHER NEW BUSINESS: No other new business.

BASIN BOARD REPORTS:

Ramsey County: Ash mentioned they had their meeting on Tuesday. Ash mentioned that the water board has been working on snag-and-clear projects.

Walsh County: Jallo mentioned they met yesterday. He mentioned they are having a hard time finding a drone to spray for them.

Eddy County: Tweed mentioned they met yesterday. He mentioned that they are working on a 6-mile cattail-control project.

Pierce County: Slaubaugh mentioned their meeting was held on Monday. He mentioned they are working on some beaver problems. He mentioned they continue to discuss Hurricane Lake, which involves 3 counties.

Towner County: Benson mentioned they had their meeting yesterday. He said they have several water issues with roads that can't be driven on. He said that south of Cando is the worst.

Nelson County: Sateren mentioned they had their meeting at the end of June. He mentioned they are cleaning some ditches. He said they have an upcoming meeting with Walsh County about the Michigan pump schedule.

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

MANAGER'S REPORT: Frith mentioned he will be attending the Summer Water Conference in Watford City, so he'll be out of the office Tuesday – Friday next week. He also mentioned that he was contacted by a local landowner to report a beaver issue in a coulee, so he contacted the USDA wildlife eliminator, Gavin Corso, to take care of the pest. Gavin stopped in Frith's office to have him sign an agreement for USDA to work in all basin counties. Frith stated he would share Gavin Corso's information with the board members.

Meeting adjourned at 10:17 AM.

Approved August 12th, 2026:

Albin Jallo, Chairman

Jeff W. Frith, Manager