

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

Minutes of the regular monthly meeting held Wednesday, August 12, 2026, in the Historical Meeting Room, Ramsey County Courthouse, Devils Lake, ND, and Online via Teams.

Chairman Albin Jallo called the meeting to order at 8:02 AM. Roll call of the counties was taken.

|                 |                                   |
|-----------------|-----------------------------------|
| Cavalier County | Bruce Roder                       |
| Eddy County     | Mike Tweed                        |
| Nelson County   | Dave Sateren ( <b>absent</b> )    |
| Pierce County   | Floyd Slaubaugh ( <b>absent</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. Frith added the Request for Information to the US Fish & Wildlife concerning Drain Tile setbacks. **Benson made a motion to approve the agenda as amended, seconded by Tweed, motion carried unanimously.**

**APPROVAL of MINUTES:** The meeting minutes for the July 8th, 2026, were reviewed. **Ash made a motion to approve July 8th, 2026, minutes, as presented, seconded by Benson, motion carried unanimously.**

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

### **APPROVAL of MONTHLY BILLS FOR AUGUST 2026:**

| August 2026 Bills                                                         |  | Amount             | Ck # |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|--------------------|------|
| Intuit QuickBooks Online Monthly                                          |  | \$115.00           | ACH  |
| ND Workforce Safety & Insurance - Annual Premium                          |  | \$250.00           | 5300 |
| David Sateren - Steering Committee Meeting                                |  | \$282.80           | 5301 |
| Albin Jallo - Steering Committee Meeting                                  |  | \$300.20           | 5302 |
| Jeff Frith - Cell Phone Expense                                           |  | \$101.25           | 5303 |
| Jeff Frith - July 2026 Travel (Summer Conference - Mileage, Hotel, Meals) |  | \$734.22           | 5303 |
| Leevers - Meeting Expenses                                                |  | \$16.88            | 5304 |
| NDTC - Website Hosting                                                    |  | \$21.83            | 5305 |
| Ramsey County Water Resource District (Office Assistant Services)         |  | \$600.00           | 5306 |
| Ramsey County Water Resource District (Copier Rent)                       |  | \$125.00           | 5306 |
| Ramsey County Auditor - Wages & Withholding Taxes                         |  | \$6,361.49         | 5307 |
| Ramsey County Auditor - Health Insurance                                  |  | \$2,377.10         | 5308 |
| Ramsey County Auditor: Rent                                               |  | \$190.00           | 5309 |
| Ramsey County Auditor: Telephone                                          |  | \$55.49            | 5309 |
| Blue Water Consulting - July 2026 - Inv. 1125                             |  | \$505.50           | 5310 |
| Ackerman Estvold - Plan Engineer - Inv.                                   |  |                    |      |
| Total Admin                                                               |  | \$12,036.76        |      |
| Total General Project                                                     |  | \$505.50           |      |
| <b>Total</b>                                                              |  | <b>\$12,542.26</b> |      |

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

### **OTHERS PRESENT:**

Stacy Peters, Ramsey County WRD Office Manager, Dave Azure, US Fish & Wildlife, Bryan Sea, ND Game & Fish, Jim Olson-Blue Water Consultant. Online: Amanda Lee, National Weather Service, Yaping Chi, Department of Water Resources, Dani Quissell, ND Water Association, Patrick Samson, Ackerman-Estvold Engineering, & Kyle Blanchfield, Garrison Conservancy District.

### **AGENCY REPORTS:**

**NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE:** Amanda Lee was able to attend online. She went over her monthly report. She reported that June had high precipitation, while July did not. She mentioned the current lake level was 1450.1, and this time last year it was 1448.9. She mentioned it looks like a warmer & drier winter. She said the next Lake exceedance outlook comes out August 27<sup>th</sup>.

**ND GAME & FISH:** Bryan Sea was in attendance. He mentioned that walleyes, perch, and pike were down in numbers. He said they are wrapping up the Creel survey. He said they have been doing quality & ANS checks, and they have been going well. He said they continue to work with Dan Fischer, Engineer, local landowners, the Towner County Water Resource District, and Township concerning the Carp barrier. He said there has been some Carp movement, but they have not gotten into Devils Lake. He said they will continue to work on this.

**NRCS:** No one in attendance.

**US FISH & WILDLIFE:** Dave Azure was in attendance. He stated they are working on a pilot project on wetland easements with some landowners, with what should be put on the map & what should be taken off the map. He also mentioned that the agency received 219,000 comments on the drain tile setbacks.

**DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES:** Yaping Chi was in attendance online. She mentioned that the east end outlet was operating at 50 cfs due to water quality & the west end was operating at 175 cfs. She mentioned that if we did not receive some additional rain and fresh runoff, they may have to turn off the east end outlet. She also went over the Devils Lake Outlets' ongoing maintenance projects.

**ND WATER ASSOCIATION:** Dani Quissell was in attendance online. She reminded everyone about the upcoming regional meetings with the ND Water Users Association, with the Devils Lake meeting on Friday, July 21st, from 1-3 PM at the Ramsey County Courthouse.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

**WATER MANAGEMENT PLAN:** Jim Olson attended in person, and Patrick Samson joined online, to discuss the draft Comprehensive Water Management Plan. Patrick reviewed the work he and the Ackerman-Estvold team have completed to identify needs and priorities based on previous plans, board meetings, and survey results. Board members were asked to review the draft report and submit comments to Frith by September 23, 2026, when the Steering Committee is scheduled to meet.

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

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**WATER STEWARDSHIP AWARD NOMINATIONS:** Frith asked the board to review the news release, nomination form, and criteria for the Water Stewardship Award. He mentioned he would issue the press release on August 13, 2026, announcing nominations for the Water Stewardship Award. He mentioned that the nomination deadline is Monday, November 9th, 2026, and that the award will be presented at the Annual Water Conference in Bismarck on December 10<sup>th</sup>, 2026.

**UPCOMING MEETINGS OF IMPORTANCE:**

- **ND SWC – August 18<sup>th</sup> – Max ND:** Frith stated that recently this meeting location has been moved to Bismarck, and he is unsure if he'll attend in person or virtually.
- **ND Water Users Association Regional Meeting – Devils Lake – August 20<sup>th</sup> – 1 – 3 pm – Ramsey County Courthouse:** Dani Quissell, Executive Director of the ND Water Users Association, stated that regional meetings are scheduled across the state to provide updates to all those interested in the mission of the association, which is: “to be the statewide membership organization dedicated to protecting, developing, and managing North Dakota’s water resources. We envision achieving this by fostering engagement, collaboration, and education throughout the water community.” She stated that refreshments will be offered and that there will be an opportunity to gain more insight into water policies, review the Goals and Resolutions that will be updated at the December association meeting, and learn about potential legislation for the upcoming session.
- **Interim Legislative Ag & Water Management Committee - September 8<sup>th</sup> – Bismarck:** Frith stated that the date of this meeting has recently been changed because of the Special Legislative Session. This is the committee that has been studying Devils Lake-inundated farmland, among other topics of interest.
- **Interim Legislative Water Topics Overview Committee – September 17<sup>th</sup> – Bismarck:** Frith stated that this is a standing legislative committee and has multiple water and water resource district topics of interest on their agenda.

**CORRESPONDENCE & MISCELLANEOUS:** Frith shared the reports that he periodically sends out.

**OTHER NEW BUSINESS:** No other new business.

## **BASIN BOARD REPORTS:**

**Ramsey County:** Ash mentioned they had their meeting on August 4<sup>th</sup>. He said they have been working on Snag & Clear projects in Ramsey County.

**Walsh County:** Jallo mentioned they met yesterday. He mentioned they are working on complaints on dikes by the Forest River.

**Eddy County:** Tweed mentioned that it is dry in his area. He mentioned they are working on a 6-mile Snag & Clear project. He mentioned they have a drain tile permit application to review.

**Pierce County:** Slaubaugh was not in attendance.

**Towner County:** Benson mentioned they have several roads with water on them & they are trying to figure out relief. He also mentioned that hog barns on the Towner and Pierce County line, near Walford, were permitted by the state, and construction will begin soon.

**Nelson County:** Sateren was not in attendance.

**Cavalier County:** Roder mentioned they have their meeting tomorrow & one of the agenda items of discussion was if Cavalier County would pull out of the Joint Board. He said they have new board members, an attorney & secretary.

**MANAGER'S REPORT:** Frith mentioned that the summer conference in Watford City was good and very worthwhile attending. He also stated that the conference seminars are now available online. He mentioned that the Joint Board signed on to the comments on the US Fish & Wildlife Service's National Refuge System's Request for Information on Implementation of Drain Tile Setbacks. He stated that the information was shared with board members and was similar to the 2024 comments the board supported. He said the Joint Board's social media sites have had a 425% increase in recent months.

Meeting adjourned at 10:45 AM.

Approved September 9th, 2026:

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Albin Jallo, Chairman

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Jeff W. Frith, Manager