DEVILS LAKE BASIN JOINT WATER RESOURCE BOARD

Minutes of the regular monthly meeting held Monday, September 14, 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 2:00 PM. Roll call of the counties was taken.

Cavalier County	Bruce Roder
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 questions 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 August 12th, 2026, were reviewed. Frith mentioned that the only amendment was the correction of the August 2026 bills that are listed in the minutes. **Slaubaugh made a motion to approve the August 12, 2026, minutes, with the amendment to the August 2026 bills in the minutes & the correction to the August 2026 bills, 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 Ash, motion carried unanimously.**

APPROVAL of MONTHLY BILLS FOR SEPTEMBER 2026:

September 2026 Bills	Amount	Ck #
Intuit QuickBooks Online Monthly	$140.00	ACH
Deluxe Business Systems (Check Blanks)	$556.89	ACH
Lakota American - Annual Subscription	$30.00	5311
Ackerman Estvold - Plan Engineer - Inv.	$9,965.00	5312
Ramsey County Water Resource District (Office Assistant Services)	$600.00	5313
Ramsey County Water Resource District (Copier Rent)	$125.00	5313
Ramsey County Auditor - Wages & Withholding Taxes	$6,361.49	5314
Ramsey County Auditor - Health Insurance	$2,377.10	5315
Ramsey County Auditor: Rent	$190.00	5316
Ramsey County Auditor: Telephone	$55.49	5316
Leevers - Meeting Expenses	$16.88	5317
NDTC - Website Hosting	$21.83	5318
Jeff Frith - Cell Phone Expense	$101.25	5319
Blue Water Consulting - August 2026 - Inv. 1127	$505.60	5320
New Rockford Transcript - Annual Subscription	$54.00	5321
Total Admin	$10,629.93	
Total General Project	$10,470.60	
Total	**$21,100.53**	

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

OTHERS PRESENT:

Stacy Peters, Ramsey County WRD Office Manager, Matt VanThuyne, US Fish & Wildlife, Bryan Sea, ND Game & Fish, Jim Olson, Blue Water Consultant, & Representative Kathy Frelich. Online: Amanda Lee, National Weather Service, Jeff Trana, Department of Water Resources, Dani Quissell & Julie Ellingson, ND Water Association, Patrick Samson, Ackerman Estvold, Karen Hausman, and Michael Miller.

AGENCY REPORTS:

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE: Amanda Lee was able to attend online. She went over her monthly report. She mentioned the current lake level is 1450.00. She mentioned the next Non-Exceedance Outlook will be released September 24th.

ND GAME & FISH: Bryan Sea attended and reported on ND Game & Fish activities within the basin. He mentioned they are meeting with Dan Fischer early next month about Rock Lake and the Carp barrier in that area. He said they have been completing fall reproduction surveys.

NRCS: No one in attendance.

US FISH & WILDLIFE: Matt VanThuyne attended. He stated they continue to work 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 mentioned they continue to work on drainage & culvert replacement requests. He discussed that the Hunt & Fish Rule package will give acres to refugees for hunting. He said there were 8 new refugees this last year. He mentioned they continue to work on Lamb's Lake in Nelson County.

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES: Jeff Trana, Devils Lake Outlets Maintenance Supervisor, was able to attend online. He indicated that both outlets are currently off as of August 31st, and he wasn't sure if they will be able to operate the remainder of the season due to water quality constraints.

ND WATER USERS ASSOCIATION: Dani Quissell was in attendance online. She went over the State Water Commission cost share policy. She said they sent out an email on Friday and they are looking for feedback on this. She discussed the Ag & Water Management meeting that was held last week. She mentioned Julie Ellingson sent out email with those that were part of the Legislative Committees. She discussed the draft legislature on ANS industrial inspection fees.

OLD BUSINESS:

INTERIM LEGISLATURE COMMITTEES: Representative Kathy Frelich discussed some items that were discussed at the Ag & Water Management Committee meeting. Frelich mentioned the draft legislation that will be submitted to Legislative Management for review, and they will decide whether to introduce the bills. Frith mentioned that the Water Topics Overview Committee meets this week, and he plans on listening in.

WATER MANAGEMENT PLAN: Jim Olson was in attendance. It was discussed that everyone read through the draft report & to get comments back to Frith, so they could be discussed at the next Steering Committee meeting, which is being held on September 23rd, 2026, at 2 PM.

WATER STEWARDSHIP AWARD: Frith mentioned he has not received any comments or applications back yet. He stated that he has seen the news release in the Lakota American and the Devils Lake Journal newspapers. It has also been sent to County Auditors, Extension Offices, and NRCS offices. He reminded everyone that the deadline is November 9th.

OTHER OLD BUSINESS: No other old business.

NEW BUSINESS:

ANS WORKING GROUP: Dani Quissell discussed the ANS industrial fees.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE & WATER AWARD NOMINATIONS: Frith mentioned that the winter conference is December 8th-10th in Bismarck. He said the hotel information is online at ndwater.org. Julie Ellingson discussed that the award nominations for the Hall of Fame, Commodore, Water Wheel & Irrigation Excellence were online, and the deadline was October 15th.

CORRESPONDENCE & MISCELLANEOUS: None

OTHER NEW BUSINESS: No other new business.

BASIN BOARD REPORTS:

Ramsey County: Ash mentioned they met on the first. He said they discussed the Snag & Clear projects they have done this year. He said they reviewed their 2023 Audit report.
Walsh County: Jallo mentioned they are meeting tomorrow. He mentioned that at their last meeting, they discussed complaints about small dikes that are going up.
Eddy County: Tweed said they met on the 1st. He said they have a new board member, Brady Richter. He said they discussed cattails. He mentioned the Columbia Township coulee cleanout & they are doing a cost share with landowners. He said they approved 2 drain permits.
Pierce County: Slaubaugh said they met this morning. He said the city of Rugby was in and wants a study done, especially after the rainfall they have had. He said Hurricane Lake is at its highest level ever. He said they plan to have a drone spray the coulee this year.
Towner County: Benson mentioned their meeting was short. He said they discussed coulees and backed-up waterways.
Nelson County: Sateren mentioned at their last meeting they discussed the cattail spraying that was done & they plan to do more. He discussed washouts they have had. He said they discussed the letter they received from Walsh County.
Cavalier County: Roder mentioned they have been working on water issues with Canada. He mentioned they hired a new attorney and are very confident in assisting with a vote on a drain assessment that had previously failed.

MANAGER'S REPORT: Frith reminded the board members to provide any comments to him by September 23rd on the Water Management Plan. He mentioned that the State Water Commission is holding a pre-commission meeting on Wednesday. He informed the board he'll be out of the office on October 8th & 9th.

Meeting adjourned at 4:12 PM.

Approved October 14th, 2026:

_____ _____

Albin Jallo, Chairman Jeff W. Frith, Manager