DEVILS LAKE BASIN JOINT WATER RESOURCE BOARD

Minutes of regular monthly meeting held Wednesday, October 14, 2026, Historical Meeting Room, Ramsey County Courthouse, Devils Lake, ND, and Online via Teams.

Chairman Albin Jallo called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM. 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 about or anything to add for today's agenda. **Tweed made a motion to approve the agenda, as presented, seconded by Sateren, motion carried unanimously.**

APPROVAL of MINUTES: The meeting minutes for September 14th, 2026, were reviewed. **Ash made a motion to approve September 14th, 2026 minutes, as presented, seconded by Slaubaugh. motion carried unanimously.**

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

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APPROVAL of MONTHLY BILLS FOR OCTOBER 2026:

October 2026 Bills	Amount	Ck #
Intuit QuickBooks Online Monthly	$140.00	ACH
Albin Jallo - Steering Committee Meeting & Mileage	$304.12	5322
David Sateren - Steering Committee Meeting & Mileage	$285.88	5323
Towner County Record Herald - Annual Subscription	$43.00	5324
Ramsey County Water Resource District (Office Assistant Services)	$600.00	5325
Ramsey County Water Resource District (Copier Rent)	$125.00	5325
Ramsey County Auditor - Wages & Withholding Taxes	$6,361.49	5326
Ramsey County Auditor - Health Insurance	$2,377.10	5327
Ramsey County Auditor: Rent	$190.00	5328
Ramsey County Auditor: Telephone	$55.49	5328
NDTC - Website Hosting	$21.83	5329
Devils Lake Journal - Annual Subscription	$116.00	5330
Jeff Frith - Cell Phone Expense	$101.25	5331
Jeff Frith - Panda Dome Anti-Virus Computer Subscription	$99.74	5331
Jeff Frith - Adobe Software Subscription	$257.87	5331
Blue Water Consulting - September 2026 - Inv. 1129	$855.56	5332
USGS - Quarterly Real-Time Stream Gages	$5,240.00	ACH
Pierce County Tribune - Annual Subscription	$80.00	5333

Total Admin	$11,158.77
Total General Project	$6,095.56
Total	**$17,254.33**

October 2026 bills were reviewed. **Ash moved to approve the October 2026 bills as presented, Slaubaugh seconded, motion carried unanimously.**

OTHERS PRESENT:

Stacy Peters, Ramsey County WRD Office Manager & Jim Olson, Blue Water Consultant. Online: Carl Jones, National Weather Service, Matthew Lindsay & Yaping Chi, ND Department of Water Resources, Dani Quissell & Julie Ellingson, ND Water Association, Patrick Samson, Ackerman-Estvold, Karen Hausmann, and Michael Miller.

AGENCY REPORTS:

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE: Carl Jones was able to attend online. He reviewed the monthly report from the National Weather Service, including short-term and long-term forecasts. He mentioned the current lake level is 1450.00. He mentioned the next Outlook would be the initial spring exceedance, or flood outlook, on Thursday, January 28th, 2027.

ND GAME & FISH: Bryan Sea was not in attendance. He updated Jeff that they are finishing up fieldwork. He mentioned they met with Dan Fischer at Rock Lake & will discuss it with the board at next month's meeting.

NRCS: No one in attendance.

US FISH & WILDLIFE: No one in attendance.

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES: Matthew Lindsay was able to attend online. He mentioned that the east end outlet got winterized a couple of weeks ago & the west end outlet is getting winterized this week. He said they continue working on several items. Yaping Chi was able to attend online. She went over the presentation she provided to the State Water Commission.

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ND WATER ASSOCIATION: Dani Quissell was in attendance online. She discussed the upcoming water conference in December. She reviewed the agenda and noted that the Water Managers Seminar on Wednesday, December 9th, 8-11 AM would count as water board members' required hours. She mentioned that everyone would want to review the Goals and Resolutions. During conference discussion, **Tweed made a motion that the Joint Board would reimburse all water boards the registration fee of $310 for the winter water conference, seconded by Ash, motion carried unanimously.**

OLD BUSINESS:

INTERIM LEGISLATURE COMMITTEES: The Water Topics Committee met for the final time this year; however, since they are a standing committee, they are able to meet at any time prior to or during session.

WATER STEWARDSHIP AWARD: Frith mentioned he has not received any comments or applications back yet. He reminded everyone that the deadline is November 9th. Julie Ellingson mentioned that about 10 awards were given at the Awards Banquet at the water conference.

ANS WORKING GROUP: Dani Quissell discussed the ANS industrial fees. She mentioned they are looking for strong legislative resources to require a fee for watercraft used for industrial purposes.

WATER MANAGEMENT PLAN: Jim Olson was in attendance & Patrick Samson was able to attend online. Patrick reviewed the draft he provided to Frith. Frith had some changes he would like to make to the draft. Patrick mentioned that the plan is set up to be updated in even years. He mentioned they changed to using short-term goals & long-term goals. Frith will do his updates so the draft Water Management Plan can be distributed to local water boards and counties. They want to finalize in December.

OTHER OLD BUSINESS: No other old business.

NEW BUSINESS:

ANNUAL CONFERENCE AND SPONSORSHIP: After discussion, **Ash motioned to sponsor $1500 (Water Supporter), the Chairman would receive the free registration from this level of sponsorship & the ad would be similar to last year, seconded by Roder, motion carried unanimously.** Frith mentioned that he has spoken to Woodland Resort, and management has agreed that they would donate a two-day ice fishing trip for 2 to support the Water Education Foundation's Scholarship silent auction.

MANAGER ANNUAL REVIEW COMMITTEE: Frith mentioned that it was time for his annual review. The review committee is usually the current and past chairman, and the vice-chairman. Jallo, Ash, and Tweed will make up the committee for the manager's annual review.

CORRESPONDENCE & MISCELLANEOUS: Frith mentioned the information he provided regarding the NRCS, precipitation report, & basin flows.

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OTHER NEW BUSINESS: No other new business.

BASIN BOARD REPORTS:

Ramsey County: Ash mentioned they met on October 6th. They discussed some stream crossings. They discussed the hearing coming up in Bismarck in November. He mentioned discussing financing for snag & clear projects they have done this year. Ash also mentioned they have two culverts left to fix, and they discovered the banding was not properly installed, which may have caused the problems.
Walsh County: Jallo mentioned they met yesterday. He said their board was disappointed by some complaints that came before the board, but none held up. They are working on assessing drains and moving some landowners from one assessment to another, as the new assessment is better suited for them. It becomes a very long process.
Eddy County: Tweed said they met last week. He mentioned they approved a drain permit. He mentioned the Columbia Township Coulee cleanout & they are doing a cost share with landowners.
Pierce County: Slaubaugh said they met last Monday. He said they must replace some big culverts & some local township culverts.
Towner County: Benson mentioned they did not have a meeting. He mentioned that Jesse Mitchell would know exactly where the carp are in the Rock Lake area.
Nelson County: Sateren said he has no update because they did not have a meeting.
Cavalier County: Roder mentioned they have been working on water issues with Canada. He said they are working with Pembina County regarding a dam. He mentioned they are annexing a lateral drain to one of their drains. He said they reviewed some drain tile permits. He said it was brought back to their board to determine whether an area is a "watercourse" or a "waterway."

MANAGER'S REPORT: Frith asked each board member when their boards meet. Cavalier meets on the 1st & 3rd Thursday of each month, Eddy on the 2nd Tuesday of each month, Nelson on the 2nd & 4th Thursday of each month, Pierce on the 1st Monday of the month, Ramsey on the 1st Tuesday of the month, Towner on the 1st Tuesday of the month, & Walsh every Tuesday.

Frith reminded everyone that with Veterans Day falling on the 2nd Wednesday, the next Joint Board meeting will be on November 18th.

Meeting adjourned at 11:16 AM.

Approved November 18th, 2026:

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Albin Jallo, Chairman Jeff W. Frith, Manager

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