

MINUTES
April 21, 2005

The Board of Directors of the East Dakota Water Development District (EDWDD) held a regular meeting on April 21, 2005 at Lake Area Technical Institute, 1225 Arrow Avenue North, Watertown. Chairman Dempsey called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. The following persons attended:

Directors Present

Dave Bennett
Lois Brown
Bill Dempsey
Curt Eggers
Vincent Flemming
Royce Hueners
Kay Kassube
John Weidler

Directors Absent

Doug Feten

Staff Present

Jay Gilbertson

Others Present

Shirley Flemming, Florence
Chad Foust, Terry Redlin Freshwater Institute
Brad Johnson, SD Board of Water and Natural Resources
Ken Madison, SD Dept. Environmental & Natural Resources
Don Marquardt, SD Lakes & Streams Association
Jerry Myers, SD Lakes & Streams Association
Jennifer Nielsen, Watertown Public Opinion
Ron Smith, City of Flandreau
Chuck Tufty, Flandreau City Council
Karen Tufty, Flandreau City Park Board
Bud Webb, Lake Area Technical Institute
Russ Wilkins, Watertown
Gary Williams, Lake Area Technical Institute
Mike Williams, Upper Big Sioux River Watershed Project

Administrative Items

Approval of Agenda - **Motion** by Eggers, seconded by Kassube to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Minutes - The Board reviewed the Minutes of the March 17, 2005 meeting in Brookings. **Motion** by Bennett, seconded by Flemming to approve the Minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Financial Reports - The Board reviewed the March 2005 Financial Report (Attachment A). **Motion** by Hueners, seconded by Weidler to accept the March 2005 Financial Report. Motion carried unanimously. Chairman Dempsey then asked that the report be placed in the District files.

The Board then reviewed the First Quarter Financial Summary.

Report of Meetings and Conferences - Director Bennett reported on the Big Sioux Community Water System Annual Meeting on April 5 in Flandreau.

Director Flemming reported on the April 20 meeting of the Lake Pelican Water Project District in Watertown.

Director Weidler reported on the Kingbrook Rural Water System Annual Meeting on April 11 in Arlington.

The Manager briefly commented on the following meetings he attended:

1. March 22 - Worthington, MN. Heron Lake Watershed District TMDL Workshop.
2. March 22 - Astoria. Deuel County Lakes Project informational meeting.
3. March 23 - Watertown. Codington County soil survey presentation.
4. March 29 & 30 - Sioux Falls. Sioux Empire Water Festival.
5. March 30 & 31 - Pierre. SD Board of Water and Natural Resources
6. April 5 - Brookings. Brookings County Planning & Zoning.
7. April 7 - Brookings. South Dakota Engineering Society.
8. April 12 - Brookings. Presentation of Central Big Sioux River Assessment Project to SD Farm Bureau staff.
9. April 12 - Brookings. Planning meeting - SD Section of the American Institute of Professional Geologists summer field trip (Grant County area).
10. April 13 - Brookings. SD Lakes & Streams Association (SDLSA) Board meeting.
11. April 14 - Sioux Falls. Minnehaha County Groundwater Protection Group.

Upcoming Meetings -

1. **April 21 - 7:00 p.m.** - City Hall, Watertown. Upper Big Sioux River Watershed Advisory Board.
2. **April 28 - 8:00 p.m.** - Codington County Extension Complex, Watertown. Lake Pelican Water Project District Annual Meeting.
3. **May 10 - 9:00 a.m.** - Beadle County Extension Center, Huron. James River Water Festival.
4. **May 11 - 8:00 a.m.** - Wheat Commission Building, Pierre. State Conservation Commission.
5. **May 11 - 1:00 p.m.** - EDWDD Office, Brookings. South Dakota Lakes & Streams Association Board meeting.
6. **May 12 - 9:00 a.m.** - SDSU Campus, Brookings. Big Sioux Water Festival.
7. **May 15 - 29** - University Wisconsin (River Falls) Southeast Regional Geology Field Trip. Manager will be co-leading this trip through Alabama, Florida and Georgia.
8. **May 19 - 9:00 a.m.** - EDWDD Office, Brookings. May EDWDD Board of Directors meeting.
9. **May 22-25 - Pierre.** 9th Annual Missouri River Natural Resources Conference.

Payment Requests - The Manager has received payment requests from the South Dakota Association of Conservation Districts (SDACD) for the District's support of the 303(d) Technical Assistance Project. In June 2004, the District agreed to provide a total of \$62,500 toward this effort, to cover project costs between July 2004 and June 2005. The current payment request is for \$31,245, and is the first request from this grant. **Motion** by Eggers, seconded by Brown to authorize payment of \$31,245 to SDACD as requested. Motion carried unanimously.

The Manager has received the DRAFT version of the District's 2004 fiscal audit from Paul East, CPA. Copies were distributed to Board members. The District has also received a request for the balance of the audit fee, \$925. **Motion** by Weidler, seconded by Bennett to authorize payment of \$925 to East, Vander Woude and Company, P. C., for the costs associated with the 2004 District fiscal audit. Motion carried unanimously. The Manager said that he would ask Mr. East to attend the May Board meeting to go over the audit results.

Travel Authorization - The Manager requested Board authorization for Deb Springman and Becky Banks to attend a watershed assessment training class in July. During the week of July 18-22, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources - Ecological Services Program will be offering a class in Fluvial Geomorphology and Stream Classification in Redwood Falls, MN. The information obtained by their attendance would support many of the District's watershed projects. The registration cost is \$500 per person, plus food and lodging. **Motion** by Eggers, seconded by Kassube to authorize staff attendance at the training class as requested. Motion carried unanimously.

District Travel Allowance & Reimbursement Rates - The Board reviewed the District's current travel allowance schedule, and compared District rates to those of the state and federal governments, along with several rural water systems. The last major revision of the District travel allowance schedule was completed in December 1997. The Manager noted that the District's travel allowances have historically followed the State for meal costs, used federal rates for mileage, and established it's own lodging rates. **Motion** by Brown, seconded by Bennett to make the following changes in the District's travel allowance schedule, to become effective on July 1, 2005:

<u>Meals</u>	In-State		Out-of-State	
Breakfast	\$5.00		\$7.00	\$8.00
Lunch	\$7.00	\$9.00	\$10.00	\$11.00
Dinner	\$11.00	\$12.00	\$16.00	\$17.00
Total per day	\$23.00	\$26.00	\$33.00	\$36.00

<u>Lodging</u>	
In-State	\$50.00 + tax \$60.00 + tax
Out-of-State	\$175.00 + tax.

Mileage	\$0.31/mile \$0.41/mile
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Motion carried unanimously.

Project Assistance Request from the City of Flandreau

Representatives for the City of Flandreau and South Dakota Lakes and Streams Association (SDLSA) presented a request to the Board for project assistance funds to support the development of a wetlands education area. The site is located in a city park along the Big Sioux River on the east side of town. The City Park Board has developed a plan to develop an educational site in and around an old meander bend (now a wetland) of the river. The project would involve brush and tree removal in and around the old meander bend, excavation of selected areas within the wetland, stabilization of portions of the bank, culverts, access sidewalks, signs and educational materials. The total project is projected to cost \$50,140. They have identified around \$15,283 in in-kind contributions, and need just under \$35,000 in cash support. They are seeking \$5,000 from East Dakota. The balance is being sought from the Whitecaps Foundation, the Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribe, community development funds and an U. S. Environmental Protection Agency/State of South Dakota Environmental Information and Education Program grant. City and SDLSA staff answered Board questions about the project.

Motion by Hueners, seconded by Bennett to provide District cost-share assistance to the City of Flandreau for the wetlands education area project in the amount of ten percent (10%) of project costs, not to exceed a total of \$5,000. Motion carried unanimously.

Lake Area Technical Institute Bio/Environmental Technology Program

Representatives of the Lake Area Technical Institute (LATI) presented information to the Board on their new (starting in the Fall of 2005) Bio/Environmental Technology Program. Gary Williams, LATI, and Bud Webb, LATI, reviewed the history of the program. Chad Foust, LATI and Terry Redlin Freshwater Institute, explained the required course work and likely applications of the program. To fulfill program requirements, participants may take a variety of science and technology courses, along with supporting mathematics and communication classes. A range of new environmental classes are being developed for the program, including Water Quality, Soil Science, Environmental Sampling and Monitoring, and Environmental Law and Enforcement. Graduates of the program will be prepared to serve in a variety of industries and government agencies where laboratory and/or field work is needed to address water, soil and air quality. To date, 14 people have signed on for the new program, and 8 students have been admitted to the program.

Program/Project Updates

SD Board of Water and Natural Resources - Brad Johnson gave an overview of the priorities and interests of the South Dakota Board of Water and Natural Resources (BWNR), of which he is the Chairman. At a retreat last fall, the BWNR members identified water quality impairments to the waters of the State as a major priority. They are concerned that there is insufficient money to address the current problems, and that there is inadequate enforcement of the water pollution laws. The latter is largely a function of limited staff and resources, but remains a concern. They are particularly concerned about the impact of large-scale animal feeding operations on water quality. Currently, a little over half of the 300+ known concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFOs) with over 1,000 animal units are permitted, with the balance to be covered by permits, or in the process, by October 1 of this year. DENR staff are hard pressed to provide the necessary coverage with limited staff.

Funding for water resource protection and restoration efforts is also a concern. Working with DENR staff, the BWNR has made available portions of the State's Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) to communities to be applied to watershed protection efforts. He noted that through the City of Sioux Falls, the Board has recently provided over \$4,500,000 for work in the Big Sioux River basin. He also noted that the City of Watertown has implemented a \$1.00 per month surcharge on its water bills to address watershed issues. Comparable efforts across the State will be needed to meet water issues elsewhere. Finally, he mentioned legislative efforts in Minnesota to establish a water protection fee to be assessed on private, commercial and industrial wastewater bills.

District Watershed Assessment Projects - The Manager presented a summary of District watershed assessment activities prepared by staff. Work on the draft final report for the School/Bullhead Lakes project continues, with an emphasis on water quality and quantity issues. DENR has provided the District with a copy of the AnnAGNPS software, and work on the land-use modeling of the project area will commence within the next few months. The North-Central Big Sioux River/East Oakwood Lake draft final report is also underway. This project is also awaiting execution of the AnnAGNPS land-use model.

Staff continue to respond to U. S. Environmental Protection Agency comments on the Final Report and TMDLs for the Central Big Sioux River Watershed Assessment project. Meetings are being held with DENR and City of Sioux Falls staff to work out fecal coliform and sediment loadings from permitted facilities, which is the final impediment to completion.

Upper Big Sioux River Watershed Project - Mike Williams, Project Manager for the Upper Big Sioux River watershed project, gave a brief summary of his project. The project is entering its second decade, with the initial implementation activities beginning in 1994. The project has implemented over 700 separate best management practices (BMPs) in cooperation with 350+ landowners. Work continues in concert with a wide range of local, state and federal agencies and organizations. Of recent note has been interaction with the Terry Redlin Freshwater Institute and the Northern Prairies Land Trust, both of which have staff located in Watertown.

Central Big Sioux River Watershed Project - The Manager reported that on March 31, BWNR approved an award of \$825,000 to the District for support of the Central Big Sioux River Watershed Project, the first of multiple implementation projects arising from the ongoing assessment studies. The District's request was one of nine under consideration by BWNR, which awarded a total of over \$2,500,000 in EPA Section 319 nonpoint source grant funds. The District's initial request was for \$5,053,125, so the award will fund only a portion of the proposed work.

The Manager reviewed the \$5,925,017 budget for the revised project work plan. In addition to the \$825,000 in 319 grant funds, support is provided from a \$4,518,767 Clean Water State Revolving Fund loan to the City of Sioux Falls, \$190,625 in landowner contributions, and \$128,750 from conservation districts within the study area. The later will likely include assistance from the State Conservation Commission as well. District support for this portion of the project amounts to \$261,875.

Project activities supported include:

- a) engineering/design costs and construction of six animal waste management systems;
- b) support for restricting livestock access to water (fencing, pasture taps and wells);
- c) bank stabilization along Skunk Creek and the Big Sioux River;
- d) funds to purchase riparian area easements in both rural and municipal areas;
- e) CRP program incentives;
- f) information and education programs; and
- g) water quality sampling to monitor project impacts on the impaired water bodies.

It also contains support for project staff and logistical support.

The Manager noted that EPA had recently signed off on the revised work plan. A contract between the District and DENR for the grant will be developed in the near future.

Sioux Falls Regional Aquifer Assessment - The Manager reviewed a project that he has initiated to assess the aquifers in the greater Sioux Falls area (Minnehaha County and northern Lincoln County). The study is in response to the recent discussion about the water resource needs of the City of Sioux Falls and other members of the Lewis and Clark Rural Water System (LCRWS). Deputy Manager Pat Hammond is reviewing previous studies of the ground water resources, most of which were completed in an effort to determine if they could serve as a major supply for the City. For the most part, they have been found to be inadequate compared to LCRWS.

The new assessment is looking at many of the same units, but with the idea of using them as alternate supplies for the surrounding communities which do not have the high volume/capacity demand of Sioux Falls. An aquifer that may not meet the demands of the City of Sioux Falls might well function as a new source for a smaller community. This, in turn, might reduce the pressure/demands on LCRWS as its member communities and rural water systems expand.

The study will also consider the potential of the aquifers to serve as irrigation supplies for housing developments around the City. A significant percentage of water provided by the City, to current users as well as future developments, is used for lawn watering and other non-consumptive uses. If these needs can be met with local wells and distribution systems that deliver acceptable water, the result will be a reduction in the demand for treated (drinking-quality) water. This will in turn extend the "life" of current City water supplies.

Adjournment

There being no further District business, Chairman Dempsey declared the meeting adjourned at 12:15 p.m.

Doug Feten, Secretary