



East Dakota Water Development District
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MINUTES
April 16, 2009

The Board of Directors of the East Dakota Water Development District (EDWDD) held a regular meeting on April 16, 2009 at the City Hall, Madison. Chairman Eggers called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. The following persons attended:

Directors Present

Lois Brown
Curt Eggers
Vincent Flemming
Martin Jarrett
John Johnson
Kay Kassube
John Weidler

Others Present

Verne Endahl, Minnehaha County Farm Bureau
Chris McConnville, Minnehaha County Farm Bureau
Larry Olsen, USDA Farm Services Agency
Duanne Rogness, Minnehaha County Farm Bureau
Elisa Sand, Madison Daily Leader

Directors Absent

Doug Feten
Robert Todd

Staff Present

Jay Gilbertson

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Administrative Items

Approval of Agenda - The Manager asked to have one item added to the agenda, a project assistance request to establish an in-house drain tile water quality study. **Motion** by Weidler, seconded by Brown to approve the agenda as amended. Motion carried unanimously.

Minutes - The Board reviewed the Minutes of the March 19, 2009, meeting. **Motion** by Johnson, seconded by Brown to approve the Minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Financial Reports - The Board reviewed the March 2009 Financial Report. **Motion** by Flemming, seconded by Weidler to accept the March 2009 Financial Report. Motion carried unanimously. Chairman Eggers then asked that the report be placed in the District files.

Report of Meetings and Conferences - Director Jarrett attended the Interlakes Water Quality Committee meeting in Madison on April 9.

Director Johnson attended the Upper Big Sioux River Watershed Advisory Board meeting in Watertown on March 19.

Director Weidler attended the Big Sioux Community Water System Annual Meeting in Chester on April 7.

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The Manager briefly commented on the following meetings he attended:

1. March 19 - Hankinson, ND. Red River Basin Commission - South Valley Group.
2. March 20 - Sioux Falls (Dakota Digital Network site). SD Board of Water & Natural Resources.
3. March 24 - Redfield. Spink County Planning and Zoning Committee
4. March 27 - Pierre. SD Board of Water & Natural Resources.
5. April 1 - Sioux Falls/Renner. Central Big River Watershed Project public meetings.
6. April 3, 6 & 13 - Lake Poinsett. Water level and discharge measurements, and staff gage installation.
7. April 7 - Sioux Falls. Presentation by HDR Engineering on watershed information project.
8. April 8 - Lake Poinsett. Areal tour of Lake Poinsett area with SD Board of Water & Natural Resources Chairman.
9. April 9 - Redfield. James River County Commissioners Group.
10. April 10 - Brookings. South Dakota Lakes and Streams Association.

Upcoming Meetings -

1. **April 18 - 2:00 p.m.** - Veterans of Foreign Wars Building, Ortonville, MN. Wine, Women and Water Event.
2. **April 29 & 30 - 1:00 p.m.** - Thunderstik Lodge, Chamberlain. South Dakota Association of Rural Water Systems Managers Group meeting.
3. **May 5 - 9:30 a.m.** - State Fair Grounds, Huron. James River Water Festival.
4. **May 6 & 7** - Matthews Training Center, Pierre. South Dakota Water Management Board.
5. **May 7 & 8** - Rochester, MN. Minnesota Waters 2009 Lakes & Rivers Conference.
6. **May 7 - 7:00 p.m.** - Public Library, Madison. Interlakes Water Quality Committee.
7. **May 12 - 9:45 a.m.** - South Dakota State University Campus, Brookings. Big Sioux Water Festival.
8. **May 14 - 1:00 p.m.** - EDWDD Office, Brookings. South Dakota Lakes & Streams Association.
9. **May 21 - 9:00 a.m.** - EDWDD Office, Brookings. May EDWDD Board of Directors Meeting.

Travel Authorization - The Manager requested Board approval to attend, along with Jeremy Hinke, the Minnesota Waters 2009 Lakes and Rivers Conference in Rochester, Minnesota, on May 7th and 8th. **Motion** by Kassube, seconded by Flemming to authorize staff attendance at the meeting as requested. Motion carried unanimously.

Update of District Bylaws and Policy Manual

At their February meeting, the Board began an effort to review and update the District's Bylaws. Revisions, additions and deletions were considered at that time, and again at the March meeting. The Board reviewed final revisions prepared by the Manager as a result of these earlier discussions. **Motion** by Kassube, seconded by Weidler to approve the amendments as presented to the District Bylaws. Motion carried unanimously. The Chairman directed that a copy of the revised Bylaws be distributed with the Minutes of the Board meeting.

The Manager then requested a minor modification of the District Policy and Procedures Manual. He asked to have a portion of the section entitled "Authority to Employ and Supervise Personnel" be amended as follows (additional language is underlined):

The Board has the authority to hire and dismiss the District manager. The Board shall supervise and provide direction and guidance to the manager as needed. The manager, or the Board in the manager's permanent or extended absence, has the authority to hire and dismiss all other District employees. The

manager will provide written notification to the Board, within five (5) days of employment, of new permanent or temporary personnel. The manager shall supervise, assign duties and provide overall direction and guidance for all other District employees.

The Manager stated that he believes the changes are necessary to clarify the intent of the policy. **Motion** by Flemming, seconded by Brown to amend the District Policy and Procedures Manual as requested. Motion carried unanimously.

Project Assistance Requests

Minnehaha County Farm Bureau - Duane Rogness, President of the Minnehaha County Farm Bureau (MCFB), presented the Board with a request for cost-share assistance. MCFB has proposed to implement a United State Department of Agriculture (USDA) Conservation Reserve Enhancement program (CREP) project in parts of Minnehaha County. Specifically, their CREP proposal would be directed toward riparian areas along the Big Sioux River and well head protection areas around public water supply wells. The program would provide payments to landowners to implement low-impact land-use practices for a period of up to 15 years. CREP is similar in overall practice to the USDA Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), but includes substantial local financial support. As a consequence, the program can be directed toward issues of particular local interest and concern, often offering landowners additional compensation in high-priority areas.

Larry Olsen, USDA, described the planned actions to be undertaken in the MCFB CREP proposal. He noted that with CREP, sponsors can propose alterations to the existing specifications and payments (rental rates) for existing CRP practices. The higher rental rates in particular are expected to increase the level of landowner participation. For the riparian buffer areas, CRP can currently be applied to only the first 120 feet from the rivers edge. The CREP proposal calls for a minimum buffer of 300 feet, and could be expanded to up to 1,000 feet from waters edge. Proposed buffers around public water supply wells would be a radius of up to 3,000, while CRP currently stops at 2,000 feet. Rental rates would remain the same, but participants would receive annual incentive payments equal to up to 100% of the annual rental payment amount, doubling the compensation they can receive to adopt more water-friendly practices.

Mr. Rogness explained that the next step in the application process was to conduct an environmental assessment of the proposed actions. MCFB has retained the services of Leggette, Brashears and Graham, Inc., to conduct the assessment, at a total cost of \$18,500. MCFB has contributed \$3,000, and the South Dakota Farm Bureau has pledged \$3,000, leaving \$12,500 to complete the funding package. MCFB requested cost-share assistance from the EDWDD Board in whatever amount would be possible.

The Board discussed the projects potential impact on both the river and shallow aquifers. By targeting riparian corridors and wellhead protection areas, the CREP project would be addressing extremely high-value targets for resource protection and preservation. Involvement of the MCFB would likely provide a strong and successful connection to landowners and agricultural operators in the project areas. Riparian area protection and/or restoration has been a primary goal of the District's Central Big Sioux Watershed Project, and this effort would be an excellent complimentary action. Greater protection of well head protection areas would provide added security to the wells of the City of Sioux Falls and the Minnehaha Community Water Corporation, the primary public water suppliers in the area.

Motion by Brown, seconded by Jarrett to provide District cost-share assistance of sixty-eight percent (68%) of the costs of the study, up to a maximum amount of \$12,500. Motion carried unanimously, with Chairman

Eggers abstaining. The Board requested that Mr. Rogness keep them informed as to the progress of this important effort. The Manager noted that he would make certain that this topic was on the Board's agenda when they meet in Sioux Falls in November.

EDWDD Tile Drain Water Quality Study - The Manager briefed the Board on recent contacts he has had with staff of two area conservation districts (Hamlin and Moody Counties). Each involved questions and concerns about the quality of water emanating from agricultural tile drains being installed in their area. It was noted that the District has the capability to conduct nitrate analyses of the tile drain water, and the Manager was asked if the District would analyze any samples they collect. The purpose would be to examine the relative level of nitrates in these waters and assess the potential impacts on area water resources.

The Manager noted that in addition to nitrates, phosphorus is another common constituent that is monitored when evaluating the condition of surface waters and tile drainage. In general, phosphorus levels in tile drain waters are relatively lower compared with surface runoff, while nitrates tend to be higher. To assist these two conservation districts in their investigations, the Manager proposed that the District expand its internal water analysis capabilities to include total phosphorus, in addition to nitrates. He noted that the Districts existing analytical equipment (spectrophotometers) were capable of analyzing water samples for phosphorus, but that the District lacked the necessary materials to process the samples prior to testing.

The Manager proposed expending \$3,150 in District project assistance funds to support this effort, to be applied toward obtaining the necessary analytical equipment upgrades and chemical reagents to allow for the in-house examination for phosphorus. A portion of the funds would also be used to off set a portion of the costs for the conservation districts to collect and transport the water samples.

Motion by Jarrett, seconded by Johnson to provide District allocate \$3,150 in District cost-share assistance funds as requested, and to authorize expenditure of these funds as needed. Motion carried unanimously.

Interlakes Water Quality Committee

Director Jarrett briefed the Board on the activities of the Interlakes Water Quality Committee on their efforts to improve the quality of water in the combined watersheds of Lake Herman, Lake Madison, Brant Lake, Long Lake and Round Lake. They have contributed to a small dam project southwest of Lake Madison (Thomas Wolf) to reduce sediment loading to the water body. They are working with the Lake County Conservation District to identify other possible projects. The Committee has supported water quality monitoring efforts through the Dakota Water Watch Program, and through water quality sampling conducted by Dakota State University. They are supporting efforts to better understand the role of the substantial carp populations in the lakes, and how the numbers of these non-native species might be reduced. Finally, the Committee is working toward the establishment of a formal water project district around the area. Petitions have been filed with the South Dakota Board of Water and Natural Resources, and a hearing is expected in the coming months.

District Project Updates

Public Education/Dakota Water Watch - The Manager reviewed the activities of Deb Springman and Jeremy Hinke. The 2009 Big Sioux Water Festival will be held at the South Dakota State University campus on May 12th, with 1,015 fourth graders from 30 schools/54 classes attending. The second edition of the festival newsletter, The Fountain, was distributed late in March. The traveling trunks are out for the last time this year, and will be retrieved at the end of the month. There are 30 indoor presentations, plus 4 more outdoors,

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plus several large group activities. Directors Flemming and Todd have signed up to serve as guides for classes from their area. New data collection sheets and guidelines have been developed for the coming field season, and are being distributed with the monitoring supplies as they go out to the volunteers. The request for reimbursement for project activities in 2008 has been submitted to the Discovery Center. A fifth mini-lab (bacteria testing) operator has been trained and will be supporting efforts at Oakwood Lakes. Deb attended several meetings as part of the steering committee for the Sioux Falls area Big Sioux River TMDL study.

Central Big Sioux River Watershed Project - The Manager reviewed the activities of Roger Strom. Several riparian easement applications are under review in Hamlin, Brookings, Moody and Minnehaha Counties. 44 acres will be placed under an easement agreement on April 20th, with the signing to take place at the District office in Brookings. Two new riparian area management (RAM) agreements are under review in Moody County. Project support has been requested for work on an animal feeding operation in the Hidewood Creek watershed in Deuel County. Work is underway to apply a portion of the Project funds toward bank stabilization activities along the river between Baltic and Sioux Falls. The funds involved are part of a Clean Water State Revolving Fund (SRF) loan obtained earlier by the City of Sioux Falls to support watershed protection activities. A public meeting was held on April 1st in Renner, and interest in the program was strong.

Adjournment

There being no further District business, Chairman Eggers declared the meeting adjourned at 12:35 p.m.

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Doug Feten, Secretary

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