



East Dakota Water Development District
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MINUTES
April 17, 2014

The Board of Directors of the East Dakota Water Development District (EDWDD) held a regular meeting on April 17, 2014, at the Super Deluxe Inn & Suites, East Highway 14, DeSmet. Chairman Jarrett called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m. The following persons attended:

Directors Present

Lois Brown
Mary Ellen Connelly
Gary Duffy
Martin Jarrett
Kay Kassube
John Moes
Jerry Soholt

Directors Absent

Mark Anderson
Roger Scheibe

Others Present

Mark Anderson, United States Geological Survey
Dave Bartel, James River Water Development District
Darrell DeBoer, Brookings County Conservation District
Greg Delzer, United States Geological Survey
Dan Driscoll, United States Geological Survey
Bonnie Dyebedahl, South Dakota Farm Bureau
Jesse Johnson, SD Corn
John Maursetter, Lake County
Rick Smith, Lake Poinsett Watershed Project

Staff Present

Jay Gilbertson

Administrative Items

Approval of Agenda

Motion by Moes, seconded by Duffy to approve the agenda as amended. Motion carried unanimously.

Minutes - The Board reviewed the Minutes of the March 20, 2014, meeting.

Motion by Soholt, seconded by Kassube to approve the Minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Financial Reports - The Board reviewed the March 2014 Financial Report.

Motion by Duffy, seconded by Soholt to accept the March 2014 Financial Report. Motion carried unanimously. Chairman Jarrett then asked that the report be placed in the District files.

Report of Meetings and Conferences - Directors Brown and Connelly participated in a tour of agricultural facilities in Minnehaha County organized by the Midwest Dairy Institute on April 2.

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Director Connelly attended the April 15th meeting of the Friends of the Big Sioux in Sioux Falls.

Director Sohlt reported on the March 27 & 28 meeting of the South Dakota Board of Water and Natural Resources held in Pierre.

The Manager briefly commented on the following meetings he attended:

1. March 20 - Sioux Falls. City of Sioux Falls Public Works press conference on water issues.
2. March 25 - Sioux Falls. Ag United "Know Your Customers" tour.
3. March 27 & 28 - Pierre. South Dakota Board of Water and Natural Resources.
4. April 1 - White. Brookings-Deuel Rural Water System Annual Meeting.
5. April 2 - Webster. USDA Upper Minnesota River Initiative.
6. April 9 - Rapid City. Western South Dakota Hydrology Meeting.
7. April 10 - Hill City. Dakota Water Watch volunteer training.
8. April 11 - Spearfish. Dakota Water Watch volunteer training.
9. April 12 - Rapid City. Dakota Water Watch volunteer training.

Upcoming Meetings -

1. **April 22** - St. Paul, MN. Minnesota Ground Water Association Spring 2014 Conference.
2. **April 25** - NeSoDak Camp, Waubay. Second Annual SD Envirothon.
3. **April 29 & 30 - 1:00 p.m.** - Rapid City. SD Association of Rural Water Systems Managers Group.
4. **May 7 & 8** - Pierre. South Dakota Water Management Board.
5. **May 8** - Mitchell. James River Water Development District Board of Directors.
6. **May 13 - 9:30 a.m.** - South Dakota State University, Brookings. 22nd Annual Big Sioux Water Festival.
7. **May 15 - 9:00 a.m.** - EDWDD Office, Brookings. May EDWDD Board of Directors Meeting.

Payment Requests - South Dakota State University - The Manager presented the Board with a payment request from South Dakota State University. In October 2011, the District agreed to provide \$60,438 in cost-share assistance to South Dakota State University (SDSU) for a research project entitled, "Agricultural Subsurface Drainage Impacts on Hydrology in Eastern South Dakota." The request is for project expenses for March 2014, totaling \$1,158.70.

Motion by Brown, seconded by Duffy to authorize payment of \$1,158.70 for the "Agricultural Subsurface Drainage Impacts on Hydrology in Eastern South Dakota" project as requested. Motion carried unanimously.

2014 General Election - The Manager noted that the terms of office for those District directors from odd-numbered director areas (Moes - 1, Scheibe - 3, Anderson - 5, Sohlt - 7 & Brown -9) will expire at the end of calendar year 2014. Public notice of these pending vacancies was made in the relevant official District newspapers in March, in accordance with South Dakota Codified Law (SDCL) 46A-3B-4. Nominating petitions were due at the office of the South Dakota Secretary of State by Tuesday, March 25th, 2014.

As of the filing deadline, nominating petitions were filed for four of the five positions. Directors Moes (director area 1), Anderson (5) and Brown (9) were the sole persons filing for their respective positions. Two persons filed for director area 3 - incumbent Director Scheibe and Janelle Weatherly of rural Moody County. Consequently, there will be an election in November to fill this seat. No nominating petitions were filed for director area 7, so the Board will need to appoint someone to serve in this position for 2015 and

2016 (as called for in SDCL 46A-3B-9). The Manager indicated that the appointment process would begin in November.

Project Assistance Requests

Big Sioux Community Water System - The Manager presented a request from Dave Bennett, Chief Water Plant Operator for the Big Sioux Community Water System (BSCWS), for project assistance from the 2010 Well Head Protection Area Protection Program (Program). BSCWS is requesting \$436.80 in Program assistance to be applied toward the cost of soil testing conducted to optimize nutrient applications to crop land within the well head protection area (WHPA) for their Egan well field. The Manager indicated he had examined the material provided by BSCWS, and that the request meets all Program requirements. He also noted that a public water supply may request up \$500 per calendar year for such efforts, and this request covers soil testing costs incurred by BSCWS for testing in calendar year 2013.

Motion by Brown, seconded by Duffy to provide \$436.80 in District cost-share assistance from the 2010 Well Head Protection Area Protection Program to cover soil testing costs as requested, and to authorize payment of same. Motion carried unanimously, with Director Jarrett abstaining.

Brookings County Conservation District - Darrell DeBoer, Chair of the Brookings County Conservation District (BCCD) Board of Supervisors, presented a request for \$5,000 in District cost-share assistance. BCCD is planning to replace the current grass drill which is used to plant native grasses by landowners within Brookings County. The drill is also used by residents/landowners of adjoining counties. The projected total cost of the drill is \$44,000. District funds would be used to cover a portion of the costs. Mr. DeBoer answered several questions about how the drill has been used in the past, and who would operate the drill.

Motion by Moes, seconded by Connelly to provide \$5,000 in District cost-share assistance to the Brookings County Conservation District as requested to support the purchase of a grass drill. Motion carried unanimously.

USGS South Dakota Water Science Center - Mark Anderson, Director of the United States Geological Survey South Dakota Water Science Center (USGS) presented the Board with a proposal to continue work assessing river/stream gage records in eastern South Dakota. In a prior effort, the USGS had completed a study, *Assessment of Climatic Effects on Streamflow Characteristics in Eastern South Dakota*, which examined the records of 10 river gaging stations with long-term records in the watersheds of the Minnesota, Big Sioux, Vermillion and James Rivers. The purpose of the study was to assess whether or not variability in flow/discharge over time could be wholly attributed to climate (precipitation) or if other factors, such as land-use changes, might have impacts. The total project cost was \$45,500, with the District providing \$25,000 and the USGS providing (\$20,500). Work on this effort was completed late in 2012, with Galen Hoogestraat, USGS, providing a summary at the December 2012 meeting.

The proposed effort, Assessment of Climatic Effects on Streamflow Characteristics in Eastern South Dakota - Phase 2 (Phase 2) would continue the work of the original investigation, expanding consideration of additional climatic/precipitation records to include antecedent (prior water years) and would develop a formal publication describing the results of both phases of the study. Mr. Anderson noted that, in general, much of the variation in flow over time could be attributed to precipitation, but comparing stream flow and precipitation from the same water year does not provide a satisfactory explanation in all cases. The proposed

Phase 2 study has been developed as a multi-year, multi-sponsor effort, at a total cost of \$60,000. The USGS will provide \$20,000 toward the effort.

The Manager noted that when developing original study, the 10 gaging stations selected for study were those that had the best long-term stream flow records in eastern South Dakota. As a result, one half of the sites are located outside of the boundaries of the District. He indicated that while the District opted to fully support the initial investigation, it would be appropriate to secure project co-sponsors from the Vermillion River and James River watersheds. A preliminary version was shown to the James River WDD Board in September 2013, and the Manager will work with the James River and Vermillion Basin WDDs to see if funds could be pooled to cover costs of Phase 2.

Motion by Connelly, seconded by Moes to provide up to \$20,000 in District cost-share support to the USGS for the Assessment of Climatic Effects on Streamflow Characteristics in Eastern South Dakota - Phase 2. Specifically, District support would be limited to no more than one-third of total project costs, and is further contingent on USGS securing the balance of the non-USGS cost-share from other sources. Motion carried unanimously.

Local Water Resource Programs/Projects

Lake Poinsett Watershed Project - Rick Smith, Project Manager for the Lake Poinsett Watershed Project, reviewed Project efforts and activities. He noted that on September 11, 2014, he would be hosting a farm tour featuring Allan Savory. Mr. Savory is a world-renowned expert on grassland management and sustainable development. He will be making several presentations in the area with the sponsorship of South Dakota State University Extension Service. Mr. Smith indicated he would forward additional information on the tour as it became available.

USGS South Dakota Water Science Center - Dan Driscoll, USGS, reviewed a recently completed pilot project that utilized recently acquired lidar (a remote sensing technique) data to delineate watershed boundaries in central Minnehaha County. The work demonstrated that high-resolution hydrographic maps could be developed that often identified problems with earlier watershed maps based on conventional topographic maps.

District Updates

NWQI Jensen Creek-Skunk Creek HUC WQM Project - The Manager presented the Board with a proposal for the NWQI Jensen Creek-Skunk Creek HUC WQM Project (Project), which was developed by SD DENR in conjunction with District staff. The Project is designed to evaluate the effectiveness of several best management practices in addressing water quality impairments on a portion of the Skunk Creek watershed in west-central Minnehaha County. Funding for this two-year effort, \$87,648, will come entirely from SD DENR, using available United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) 604(b) funds. The Project will entail District staff collecting water quality samples on a twice-per-week basis, starting in late April, during the recreational season (Late April thru early October), and then monthly sampling during the balance of the year.

The Manager indicated that he had reviewed the proposal, and he had concluded that the effort would address ongoing water quality concerns in the District. Sampling would be integrated with ongoing District

sampling activities. He requested that the Board agree to enter into an agreement with SD DENR, and authorize Chairman Jarrett to execute the contracts.

Motion by Kassube, seconded by Soholt to enter into an agreement with SD DENR to undertake the NWQI Jensen Creek-Skunk Creek HUC WQM Project and to authorize Chairman Jarrett to sign such an agreement. Motion carried unanimously.

2014 Field Season Activities - The Manager reviewed his proposed efforts to gather water quality information from rivers and streams within the District during the 2014 field season. The work, developed in discussions with SD DENR, along with the sponsors of the regional watershed implementation projects, will re-establish water quality monitoring sites at a range of locations previously sampled as part of prior investigations, along with increasing the frequency of visits to active sites. The sampling will take place in both the Big Sioux River and Minnesota River watersheds. He indicated that the watershed projects (Central Big Sioux River, Lake Poinsett, Upper Big Sioux River and Northeast Glacial Lakes) are all willing to contribute to the costs of this effort. The work will include sampling and discharge measurements at several locations on the lower Big Sioux River in Lincoln and Union Counties. The costs for this work, which will take place wholly outside of the District, will be covered by the Central Big Sioux River Watershed Project.

The Manager indicated that he estimated the overall costs of the such efforts would be \$24,500, and requested that the Board set aside this amount to cover anticipated expenses. The funds would be applied toward travel costs, analytical costs and to acquire a laptop computer for field use.

Motion by Kassube, seconded by Connelly to allocate \$24,500 in District project assistance funds for 2014 District water quality monitoring activities, and to authorize expenditure as necessary, as requested. Motion carried unanimously.

Adjournment

There being no further District business, Chairman Jarrett declared the meeting adjourned at 12:20 p.m.

Roger Scheibe, Secretary

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