



**East Dakota Water Development District**  
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**MINUTES**  
**April 21, 2016**

The Board of Directors of the East Dakota Water Development District (EDWDD) held a regular meeting on April 21, 2016, at the Minnehaha Community water Corporation Office, 47381 248<sup>th</sup> Street, Dell Rapids. Chairman Jarrett called the meeting to order at 9:39 a.m. The following persons attended:

**Directors Present**

Mark Anderson  
Lois Brown  
Mary Ellen Connelly  
Gary Duffy  
Martin Jarrett  
Jerry Soholt  
Janelle Weatherly

**Others Present**

Scott Anderson, Minnehaha County Planning & Zoning  
Barry Berg, Big Sioux River Watershed Project  
Tim Cowman, SD DENR Geological Survey Program  
John Hult, Sioux Falls Argus Leader  
Dana Loseke, Friends of the Big Sioux River  
Tim Spade, FSST Department of Natural Resources

**Directors Absent**

Kay Kassube  
John Moes

**Staff Present**

Jay Gilbertson

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**Administrative Items**

**Approval of Agenda**

**Motion** by Anderson, seconded by Brown to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

**Minutes** - The Board reviewed the Minutes of the March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2016, meeting. It was noted that under the Report of Meetings and Conferences, Director Brown should be added to the attendees of the March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2016, meeting of the Big Sioux River Watershed Project Steering Committee.

**Motion** by Weatherly, seconded by Duffy to approve the Minutes as amended. Motion carried unanimously.

**Financial Reports** - The Board reviewed the March 2016 Financial Reports.

**Motion** by Duffy, seconded by Connelly to accept the March 2016 Financial Reports. Motion carried unanimously. Chairman Jarrett then asked that the report be placed in the District files.

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Report of Meetings and Conferences - Directors Anderson and Connelly attended the April 18<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Friends of the Big Sioux River in Sioux Falls.

Director Connelly attended the Sioux Empire water Festival on March 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> in Sioux Falls.

Director Duffy attended the KingBrook Rural Water System Annual Meeting in Arlington on April 11<sup>th</sup>.

Director Soholt reported on the SD Board of Water and Natural Resources meeting held in Pierre on March 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup>.

Director Weatherly attended the Big Sioux Community Water System Annual Meeting in Colman on April 5<sup>th</sup>.

Chairman Jarrett spoke to the Kiwanis Club in Madison on April 12<sup>th</sup>.

The Manager briefly commented on the following meetings he attended:

1. March 21 - Vermillion. SDGS Lithologic Log database training.
2. March 23 & 24 - Pierre. 28<sup>th</sup> Annual SD DENR Ground Water Conference.
3. March 30 & 31 - Pierre. South Dakota Board of Water and Natural Resources.
4. April 5 - White. Brookings-Deuel Rural Water System Annual Meeting.
5. April 7 & 8 - Rapid City. Western South Dakota Hydrology Conference.
6. April 11 - Arlington. Kingbrook Rural Water System Annual Meeting.
7. April 12 - Brookings. Brookings Morning Optimists Club.
8. April 14 - Britton. James River Water Development District Board of Directors.
9. April 18 - Sioux Falls. Friends of the Big Sioux River.
10. April 19 - Flandreau. Moody County Conservation District Board of Supervisors.

Upcoming Meetings -

1. **April 28 & 29** - Deadwood. SD Association of Rural Water Systems Managers Group.
2. **April 30** - Lake Poinsett. Lake Poinsett Water Project District Annual Meeting.
3. **May 4 & 5** - Mathews Training Center, Pierre. SD Water Management Board.
4. **May 10 - 9:30 a.m.** - South Dakota State University, Brookings. 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Big Sioux Water Festival.
5. **May 13 - 11:00 a.m.** - Cultural Heritage Center, Pierre. SD Envirothon planning.
6. **May 19 - 9:00 a.m.** - EDWDD Office, Brookings. May EDWDD Board of Directors.
7. **June 1 & 2** - Brookings. Governor's Agricultural Summit.

Payment Requests - The Manager presented two payments requests on behalf of District-sponsored activities that required Board action. He noted that each request was in order and consistent with provisions set by the Board at the time of award. He requested authority to make payments to the United States Geological Survey for operation of the real-time nitrate monitor on the Big Sioux River in 2015 (\$3,000.00) and to South Dakota State University for Dr. Guinghui Hua's research on storm water filtration (\$4,277.50).

**Motion** by Weatherly, seconded by Duffy to authorize payments of \$7,277.50 as requested. Motion carried unanimously.

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### **Project Assistance Request(s)**

Hamlin County Conservation District - The Manager presented a letter from Peggy Loomis, Office Manager for the Hamlin County Conservation District (HCCD), requesting \$5,000 in District cost-share assistance to be applied toward the purchase of a grass drill. HCCD is planning to replace it's current grass drill, which is used to plant native grasses by landowners within Hamlin County. The projected total cost of the new drill is \$40,000. District funds would be used to cover a portion of the costs. The Manager noted that this was similar request to those previously submitted by conservation districts in Miner, Moody, Brookings, Deuel and Codington Counties.

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

### **Big Sioux River Flood Modeling**

Tim Cowman, Environmental Scientist Manager with the SD DENR Geological Survey Program, explained State efforts to develop a new hydrologic and hydraulic model for the Big Sioux River basin. He noted that in early June of 2014, a series of intense rain events in southeastern South Dakota and northwest Iowa resulted in very high flows in the Big Sioux River and local tributaries. Record stage and discharge levels were measured, and preparation began to deal with the expected flooding in the lower river basin. This included closure of Interstate 29 in the area around McCook Lake for a short period of time, rerouting traffic and causing considerable disruption. In the end, although there was some serious flooding, the end result did not match what was predicted.

In the aftermath of the event, it was determined that the predictive flood model needed to be seriously improved/updated. Several new USGS river gaging stations have been established in the area to augment limited data. In addition, the SD Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) requested and received funding through the 2016 omnibus water bill to cover the costs of creating a new flood prediction model. The lower Big Sioux River basin will be targeted initially, but the entire watershed will eventually covered.

Data generated from the model will allow more accurate predictions of river stages during a flood event. The model will also consider such things as how natural landscape changes impact flows during a flood event and how variable flows in the Missouri River impact flood events in the lower Big Sioux River basin. The project will produce a user-friendly website that authorities can use to more accurately predict areas that will be inundated during a flood. The data, model and website generated from this study will predict impacted areas for a range of flood scenarios.

### **District Updates**

2016 Water Quality Monitoring - The Manager reported that staff had begun bi-weekly sample collection on April 11<sup>th</sup>, with weekly nitrate testing to begin on May 16<sup>th</sup>. Twice per week sampling to assess the impact of best management practices on Skunk Creek also began on April 11<sup>th</sup>.

Riparian Buffer Legislation - The Manager reviewed the history of Senate Bill 136, An Act to permit certain cropland along lakes, rivers, and streams to be assessed as noncropland. The bill would have provided a modest property tax reduction for landowners who planted permanent vegetation along rivers,

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streams and lakes. The change would apply to a 50'-wide strip of land. The legislation initially passed through both chambers with little opposition from legislators, despite resistance from Governor Daugaard. The Governor vetoed the bill, and although the Senate easily overrode the veto, the override failed in the House.

The Manager noted that while the concept was obviously (and rightly) popular, there were a number of legitimate questions about the bill that provided a basis for some opposition. Given the importance of riparian buffers in the restoration and protection of District water resources, Chairman Jarrett proposed that the District look into pursuing amendments to the original language to address the recognized problems, with an eye toward bringing this concept back in front of the Legislature in 2017. It was the consensus of the Board that such an effort would be timely and appropriate.

**Adjournment**

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

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John Moes, Secretary

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