



East Dakota Water Development District
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MINUTES

August 16, 2012

The Board of Directors of the East Dakota Water Development District (EDWDD) held a regular meeting on August 16, 2012, at the Visitors and Information Center in Milbank. Chairman Jarrett called the meeting to order at 9:45 a.m. The following persons attended:

Directors Present

Lois Brown
Mary Ellen Connelly
Vincent Flemming
Martin Jarrett
Kay Kassube
Roger Scheibe
Jerry Soholt
John Weidler

Staff Present

Jay Gilbertson

Others Present

Darrell Ellefson, Lac qui Parle- Yellow Bank WD
Shirley Flemming, Florence
Senator Jason Frerichs, District 1
Wayne Fritz, Grant Conservation District
Trudy Hastad, Lac qui Parle- Yellow Bank WD
Mary Homan, Lac qui Parle- Yellow Bank WD
Jesse Johnson, SD Corn
David Ludvigson, La qui Parle- Yellow Bank WD
Ken Madison, Watertown
Diane Radermacher, Upper Minnesota River WD
Bill Randall, Citizens 4 Big Stone Lake
Representative Val Rausch, District 4
William Rois, Citizens 4 Big Stone Lake
Dennis Skadsen, NE Glacial Lakes Watershed Project
Roger Steuck, Grant Conservation District
Wendy Storm, Grant-Roberts Rural Water System
Laura Tempel, NE Glacial Lakes Watershed Project
Kathy Tyler, Milbank
Cory Zirbel, NE Glacial Lakes Watershed Project

Administrative Items

Approval of Agenda

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

Minutes - The Board reviewed the Minutes of the July 19th, 2012.

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

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Financial Reports - The Board reviewed the July 2012 Financial Report.

Motion by Flemming, seconded by Soholt to accept the July 2012 Financial Report. Motion carried unanimously. Chairman Jarrett then asked that the reports be placed in the District files.

Report of Meetings and Conferences - Director Flemming attended the August 15th meeting of the Lake Pelican Water Project District in Watertown.

Directors Scheibe and Weidler attended the Hefty Seeds Field Day at Baltic on July 27th to observe the tile water nitrate removal bioreactor demonstration.

Director Weidler attended the Regional Watershed Advisory Task Force meeting in Pierre on July 23rd.

Chairman Jarrett attend the July 26th meeting of the Lake County Clean Water Committee in Madison.

The Manager briefly commented on the following meetings he had attended:

1. **July 23** - Pierre. Regional Watershed Advisory Task Force.
2. **July 24** - Sioux Falls. 25th Rural Water Open.
3. **July 25** - Vermillion. SD Association of Rural Water Systems Managers Group Meeting.
4. **August 2** - Sioux Falls. Minnehaha County Comprehensive Plan Development Committee.
5. **August 13** - Watertown. EDWDD Finance Committee.
6. **August 14** - Sioux Falls (teleconference at SD Attorney General's Office). SD Board of Water and Natural Resources.
7. **August 14** - Sioux Falls. Personnel Committee.

Upcoming Meetings

1. **August 17** - 8:30 a.m. - Matthews Training Center, Pierre. SD Water Management Board - Twin Lakes (Highway 81) Flood Control Permit.
2. **August 21** - 10:00 a.m. - Vermillion. Opening of the Lewis and Clark RWS water treatment plant.
3. **September 6** - 9:00 a.m. - Kelly Inn, Yankton. South Dakota Association of Rural Water Systems Board of Directors.
4. **September 11** - 9:00 a.m. - Ramkota Inn, Aberdeen. James River Water Development District Board of Directors.
5. **September 14** - Rapid City. South Dakota Chapter - American Water Works Association.
6. **September 17-19** - Sioux Falls. South Dakota County Commissioners Association Annual Meeting.
7. **September 20** - 9:00 a.m. - EDWDD Office, Brookings. September EDWDD Board of Directors Meeting - public hearing on the 2013 District budget at 10:00 a.m..

Payment Requests - ***Northern Prairies Land Trust*** - At the April 2012 meeting, the Board agreed to provide District cost-share assistance of up to \$160,820 in support of the East Dakota Riparian Area Restoration and Protection Project (Project). The Project is intended to restore and protect the beneficial uses of impaired water bodies within the Minnesota, Big Sioux, and Vermillion River basins in the East Dakota Water Development District by promoting and implementing riparian conservation easements to reduce sediment loading and prevent bacterial contamination. The project sponsor is the Northern Prairies Land Trust (NPLT), which has been the District's primary partner in riparian easement projects.

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Patrick Anderson, NPLT Executive Director, has submitted a request for payment of \$10,018.60, which is the District's cost share of a perpetual easement the project has acquired along the Big Sioux River in Hamlin County. The Manager indicated that the request and paperwork are in order.

Motion by Soholt, seconded by Kassube to authorize payment of \$10,018.60 to NPLT as requested. Motion carried unanimously.

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." Dr. Christopher Hay and colleagues are examining the hydrologic impacts of subsurface agricultural drainage (tiling) at the field level using field-calibrated computer models. The project has two major research objectives. One is to evaluate the performance of the DRAINMOD drainage simulation model using estimated soil hydraulic parameters. The second is to estimate the hydrologic effects of drained fields compared to undrained fields under typical crop rotations for commonly drained soils in eastern South Dakota. Changes to both the timing and overall volume of flows will be assessed.

Dr. Hay has submitted a request for reimbursement of \$6,411.64 for project expenses. The Manager indicated that the request and documentation are in order.

Motion by Weidler, seconded by Flemming to authorize payment of \$6,411.64 to SDSU as requested. Motion carried unanimously.

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Personnel Committee Report - Director Brown, Chair of the Personnel Committee, presented the results of the Committee's meeting held on August 14th. Annual performance reviews were completed on District staff by the Manager. The staff received generally high marks, and there were no significant concerns or problems identified. Director Brown reported that the Manager's performance evaluation, a composite completed by all Board members, also indicated a high level of satisfaction with his efforts.

For compensation for Fiscal Year 2013, the Committee recommended increases of between 3.5 % and 5 % for District staff. The Manager indicated that these salary recommendations were built into the draft Fiscal Year 2013 budget developed by the Finance Committee (below).

Motion by Scheibe, seconded by Kassube to accept the salary recommendations of the Personnel Committee. Motion carried unanimously.

Finance Committee Report - Committee Chairman Kassube and the Manager reviewed the draft FY 2013 budget developed at the Finance Committee meeting held on August 13th. They noted that there were no substantial changes in the proposed budget, with most sections remaining at the same levels as 2012. The Manager noted that no formal Board action on the proposed budget, beyond establishing the time and place for the public budget hearing at the September meeting, was necessary at the time.

Motion by Weidler, seconded by Brown to hold the public hearing on the District's FY 2013 budget on September 20, 2012, at 10:00 a.m. at the District office in Brookings and to authorize publication of the draft budget and necessary public notices. The Manager indicated that the draft budget will be published in all District newspapers in advance of the public hearing. Motion carried unanimously.

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Area Water Resources Activities

Northeast Glacial Lakes Watershed Project - Dennis Skadsen, Coordinator for the Northeast Glacial Lakes Watershed Project, reviewed the project goals and activities. The Project involves numerous lakes (and corresponding watersheds) in the northeast part of the state, covering the headwaters of three major watersheds (James River, Minnesota River and the Red River of the North). By combining several efforts that might otherwise be conducted separately, the Project can realize economies of scale. The Day Conservation District is the primary project sponsor, with cooperation from the Grant, Marshall and Roberts County CDs and a variety of other local entities. A somewhat unique feature of the Project is that some of the water bodies involved are not defined as impaired, and activities are designed to protect water quality, as opposed to the conventional efforts to restore water quality. He noted that the Whetstone River and Yellow Bank River watersheds in Grant, Deuel and Codington Counties, all part of East Dakota, had recently been added to the Project.

Citizens for Big Stone Lake - William Rois and Bill Randall, members of Citizens for Big Stone Lake (C4BSL), discussed the interest and activities of this lake group. With over 500 members, C4BSL is one of the largest lake groups in the state, and one of only two that straddle the South Dakota/Minnesota border (Lake Hendricks Improvement Association is the other). The C4BSL Board has members from both states, and they are working to foster cooperation for the benefit of the lake. Mr. Rois noted that the recent upturn in agricultural drainage activities (ditching and sub-surface tiling) in Roberts and Grant Counties is a cause for concern. The group has worked on various projects to reduce the loadings sediment and nutrients to the lake, and they are concerned that the increased drainage could have pronounced adverse impacts. The Manager encouraged C4BSL to share their concerns with the Regional Watershed Advisory Task, and perhaps attend the next Task Force meeting.

Upper Minnesota River Watershed District - Dianne Radermacher, Administrator of the Upper Minnesota River Watershed District (UMRWD), reviewed current activities. UMRWD was a key cooperater with the recently completed water quality study of the Whetstone and Yellow Bank Rivers. They hired and provided day-to-day management of the field technician responsible for data collection. She also reviewed the status of the effort to return the lower end of the Whetstone River to its original channel in an effort to reduce flooding and pollutant loadings to Big Stone Lake. The plan would route base flow along the historical channel. Only peak flood flows would use the diversion channel established in the 1930s to augment water levels in Big Stone Lake. A variety of local stakeholders, including UMRWD, Big Stone County, the City of Ortonville and East Dakota have pledged funds to develop the preliminary engineering plans for the effort. UMRWD is currently working with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to develop a scope for such a study.

Lac qui Parle-Yellow Bank Watershed District - Trudy Hastad, Administrator of the Lac qui Parle-Yellow Bank Watershed District, reviewed current activities. A major effort currently involves working with land owners to address water quality impairments in both the Lac qui Parle and Yellow Bank River systems in Minnesota. Ms. Homan noted that their efforts are very similar to the implementation projects underway in South Dakota, and that they are working in concert with the Northeast Glacial Lakes Watershed Project to address issues in the Yellow Bank River watershed. Funding for these activities is provided from various state and federal sources, under the general heading of a Clean Water Partnership (CWP) grant from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency. She indicated that the Manager was a part of their project technical advisory committee, acting primarily as a go between with South Dakota entities. The Watershed District,

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through the CWP grant, has worked for several years to build a network of volunteer water quality monitors for the numerous tributary streams which start along the flank of the Coteau des Prairies.

Grant County Conservation District - Wayne Fritz, Office Manager for the Grant County Conservation District, updated the Board on his organizations activities. He explained their outreach activities, which have recently emphasized the potential for damage to area trees from the emerald ash borer (EAB). He noted that ash trees make up between 40-60% of the trees in Grant County, and that an EAB infestation could dramatically impact area communities, parks and shelter belts. Grant CD is working to educate area landowners about preventative measures. The District is also working in collaboration with the Northeast Glacial Lakes Watershed Project to promote sound water resources management practices in the Whetstone and Yellow Bank River watersheds.

Discussion of Future District Activities

The Board continued a discussion, initiated at the July 2012 meeting, of potential District projects and activities for future consideration. Directors offered a number of ideas covering a range of topics and issues.

Ground Water Protection: Update well head protection area delineations first created during the District's effort in the early 1990s that implemented county aquifer protection ordinances. Continue to promote and support acquisition of property by public water suppliers around wells/well fields.

Watershed Protection/Water Quality Improvement: Expand cooperative efforts with area stakeholders to improve water quality in the Skunk Creek watershed, as a mechanism for improving the water quality of the Big Sioux River in and around Sioux Falls. Continue efforts to promote and support implementation of easement programs along major rivers and streams in the District to establish riparian area buffers. Promote efforts at water retention at the field and watershed scale.

Outreach and Education: Support development of community-/municipality-based water body (rivers and/or lakes) support organizations, particularly in Sioux Falls. Develop "know your watershed" materials for broad distribution to District residents. Upgrade/expand efforts to make the general public more aware of District programs and activities, to potentially include booths/displays at area fairs, trade and home shows. Develop/host tours within the District to highlight importance of area water resources and District activities. Continue support of volunteer-based water quality monitoring activities.

It was also suggested that the District Manager meet with constituent groups across the District to solicit their assistance in identifying potential activities and/or areas of need.

Adjournment

There being no further District business, Chairman Jarrett declared the meeting adjourned at 12:50 p.m.

Roger Scheibe, Secretary

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