



East Dakota Water Development District
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MINUTES
August 20, 2015

The Board of Directors of the East Dakota Water Development District (EDWDD) held a regular meeting on August 20, 2015, at the District Office in Brookings, SD. Chairman Jarrett called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. The following persons attended:

Directors Present

Lois Brown
Gary Duffy
Martin Jarrett
Kay Kassube
John Moes
Jerry Soholt
Janelle Weatherly

Director(s) Absent

Mark Anderson
Mary Ellen Connelly

Others Present

Jeff Barth, Minnehaha County Commission
Roger Hageman, Lake County Commission
Jesse Johnson, SD Corn
Dana Loseke, Friends of the Big Sioux River
John Maursetter, Lake County

Staff Present

Kevin Christenson
Jay Gilbertson
Jeremy Hinke
Deb Springman

Administrative Items

Approval of Agenda The Manager asked to have Item V., Comments from Grant County resident concerning CAFO operations, removed from the Agenda. The individual was unable to attend the meeting.

Motion by Kassube, seconded by Soholt to approve the agenda as amended. Motion carried unanimously.

Minutes - The Board reviewed the Minutes of the July 16th, 2015. The Manager reported that Director Connelly had requested that the last sentence under the discussion of “**Grant County Planning & Zoning Office Request**” on page four (4) be amended to read as follows;

“The Board *and others present* engaged in a discussion of the request and possible implications for future activities.

Motion by Soholt, seconded by Moes to approve the Minutes as amended. Motion carried unanimously.

Financial Reports - The Board reviewed the July 2015 Financial Reports.

Motion by Duffy, seconded by Kassube to accept the July 2015 Financial Reports. Motion carried unanimously. Chairman Jarrett then asked that the reports be placed in the District files.

Report of Meetings and Conferences - Director Duffy attended the July 21st meeting of the Kingsbury County Commission at which an update on the District-support bridge and culvert inventory was presented.

Director Moes reported on the July 15th meeting of the Lake Pelican Water Project District, the July 23rd meeting of the Upper Big Sioux River Advisory Board, and the August 19th meeting Citizens Against the Waverly Dairy (CAWD). All three meeting were held in Watertown.

Director Weatherly reported on the June 24th meeting of the Friends of the Big Sioux River in Sioux Falls.

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

Water Committee.

1. **July 21** - DeSmet. Kingsbury County Commission.
2. **July 21** - Sioux Falls. Friends of the Big Sioux River.
3. **July 22** - Tea. South Dakota Association of Rural water Systems Manager's Group.
4. **August 9** - Rauville. We All Take Environmental Responsibility (WATER) Gathering.
5. **August 10** - Milbank. Grant County Planning and Zoning Committee.
6. **August 13** - Pierre. River Basin Natural Resource District Oversight Advisory Task Force.
7. **August 17** - Watertown. Watertown City Council informational meeting.
8. **August 18** - Brookings. Brookings County Commission.
9. **August 19** - Watertown. CAWD informational meeting.

Upcoming Meetings

1. **August 20 - 7:00 p.m.** - Watertown. Upper Big Sioux River Watershed Advisory Board.
2. **September 4** - Huron. SDSU College of Agriculture & Biological Sciences Advisory Board.
3. **September 10 - 2:00 p.m.** - Days Inn, Brookings. 2015 Mayors Big Sioux River Water Summit.
4. **September 12** - Rapid City. South Dakota Chapter of the America Institute of Professional Geologists (AIPG) field trip.
5. **September 16** - Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate Community Center, Agency Village. Water Quality Forum.
6. **September 17 - 9:00 a.m.** - EDWDD Office, Brookings. September EDWDD Board of Directors. Public hearing on 2016 District operational budget at 10:00 a.m.

Payment Requests - The Manager presented two payment requests:

South Dakota State University - In March 2011, the Board agreed to provide up to \$18,750 in cost-share assistance to Dr. Jeppe Kjaersgaard, Department of Agriculture and Biosystems Engineering at South Dakota State University (SDSU), for a project entitled, "Demonstration of nitrogen removal effectiveness of bioreactors for drainage water management." Dr. Christopher Hay is now managing this effort. SDSU has submitted a reimbursement request of \$1,190.09 for this project covering expenses incurred between December 1, 2014, thru July 31, 2015. Prior payments of \$10,221.76 have been made in support of this project.

United States Geological Survey (USGS) South Dakota Water Science Center - At the September 2014 Board meeting, the District pledged \$7,975 toward the operation and maintenance of a gaging station on the

Big Sioux River near Bruce during Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2015. The USGS has submitted a billing for the operation of the Bruce gage during FFY 2015 in the amount of \$7,975. This will complete the District obligation for this time period.

The Manager requested authority to make the requested payments, as presented, in the total amount of \$9,165.09.

Motion by Duffy, seconded by Weatherly to authorize payments totaling \$9,165.09 as requested. Motion carried unanimously.

Personnel Committee Report - Director Brown, Chair of the Personnel Committee, presented the results of the Committee's meeting held on August 12th in Sioux Falls. Directors Anderson, Brown, Moes and Sohlt participated. 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 salary compensation for Fiscal Year 2016, the Committee recommended an increase of four percent (4%) for all full-time, hourly District staff, and a five percent (5%) increase for the Manager.

Finance Committee Report - Director Kassube, Chair of the Finance Committee, and the Manager reviewed the draft FY 2016 budget developed at the Finance Committee meeting held earlier in the day. Directors Duffy, Kassube and Weatherly, along with Chairman Jarrett, participated. The budget contains an increase of three and 7/10ths percent (3.7%) increase in the District's base tax levy. They noted that there were no substantial changes in the proposed budget from the prior year, beyond modest reductions in Administration and Contingency Funds categories. The Manager noted that the proposed budget contained sufficient funds to cover the recommended staff salary increases. He also indicated that no formal Board action on the proposed budget was necessary at this time. However, he did request that the Board establish the time and place for the public budget hearing. He suggested that it be held at the September 17th Board meeting in Brookings.

Motion by Duffy, seconded by Brown to hold the public hearing on the District's FY 2016 budget on Thursday, September 17, 2015, 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.

Project Assistance Request - Mayor's 2015 Big Sioux River Water Summit

The Manager noted that the City of Sioux Falls would be holding the Third Annual Mayor's Big Sioux River Water Summit at the Days Inn in Brookings from 2:00 to 6:00 p.m. on September 10th. He will be speaking at the Summit, presenting the results of the District 2015 nitrate testing program and will be part of a panel discussion hosted by Sioux Falls Mayor Mike Huether. The Manager encouraged all present to consider attending the event.

The City of Sioux Falls Public Works Environmental Division is seeking co-sponsors for this event. The Manager stated that support for such an event seemed like a very appropriate action, and requested formal approval to sign on as a co-sponsor, at a cost of \$500.

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Motion by Kassube, seconded by Moes to have the District sign on as a co-sponsor to the 2015 Mayor's Big Sioux River Water Summit, to contribute \$500 toward the event, and to authorize payment as requested. Motion carried unanimously.

District Projects Updates

2015 Nitrate Monitoring Project - The Manager reviewed results to date of the District's nitrate testing program. The effort involves weekly water quality sampling and analyses from numerous collection sites in the Big Sioux River and Minnesota River watersheds. He offered the following general observations:

1. Through mid-August, most samples collected from the Big Sioux River above the City of Sioux Falls contained low concentrations of nitrate (less than 2.0 mg/L);
2. Nitrate levels immediately below the waste water treatment plant outlets for Cities of Watertown and Sioux Falls were elevated, but below the 10.0 mg/L maximum contaminant level (MCL);
3. Nitrate levels in samples collected below the City of Canton have persistently had concentrations in the 2.0 to 7.0 mg/L range, perhaps reflecting loading coming from Iowa and Minnesota by way of the Rock River; and
4. Basin-wide concentrations for late July through mid-August were quite low, at or below 2.0 mg/L, even in the lower part of the system. The Manager speculated that this was the result of persistently above average stream/river flows during this period.

Adjournment

There being no further District business, Chairman Jarrett declared the meeting adjourned at 11:50 a.m.

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John Moes, Secretary

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