



East Dakota Water Development District

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MINUTES

February 21, 2006

The Board of Directors of the East Dakota Water Development District (EDWDD) held a regular meeting on February 21, 2006, at the EDWDD office in Brookings. Vice-Chairman Eggers called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. The following persons attended:

Directors Present

Dave Bennett

Lois Brown

Curt Eggers

Doug Feten

Vincent Flemming

Kay Kassube

Directors Absent

Bill Dempsey

John Weidler

Others Present

Deb Callahan, Sioux Empire Water Festival

Staff Present

Becky Banks

Lisa Bretsch

Jay Gilbertson

Angela Guidry

Pat Hammond

Deb Springman

Administrative Items

Approval of Agenda - **Motion** by Flemming, seconded by Bennett to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Minutes - The Board reviewed the minutes of the January 19, 2006. **Motion** by Kassube, seconded by Brown to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Financial Reports - The Board reviewed the January 2006 financial report (Attachment A). **Motion** by Bennett, seconded by Feten to accept the financial report. Motion carried unanimously. Vice-Chairman Eggers then asked that the report be placed in the District files.

Report of Meetings and Conferences - Director Bennett attended the meeting of the South Dakota Water and Wastewater Operators in Sioux Falls on February 8 & 9.

Director Flemming attended the February 16, 2006, meeting of the Upper Big Sioux River Watershed Advisory Board in Watertown.

The Manager briefly summarized the following meetings he attended:

1. January 19 - Watertown. Upper Big Sioux River Watershed Advisory Board.

2. January 24 - Sioux Falls. KELO-AM radio interview (Farm Bureau Town and Country Program) on Big Sioux River watershed issues.
3. January 24 - Trent - Town council meeting on water supply issues.
4. January 25 & 26 - Sioux Falls. Interview media companies for Central Big Sioux River Watershed Project (CBSRWP).
5. January 27 - Pierre. Lobbying in opposition to Senate Bill 106.
6. January 28 - Lake Poinsett. Informational meeting on water quality and quantity.
7. February 6 - Marshall, MN. MPCA TMDL presentation for SW Minnesota water bodies.
8. February 7 - Flandreau. Moody County Commission - drainage ordinance discussion.
9. February 8 & 11 - Watertown. Watertown Winter Farm Show - Nitrate testing project.
10. February 14-18 - Denver, CO. Rocky Mountain Regional Lakes and Reservoir Management Workshop.

Upcoming Meetings -

1. **February 21 - 1:00 p.m.** - Flandreau & Sioux Falls. Moody & Minnehaha County Conservation District Board of Supervisors Meetings.
2. **February 23 - 2:00 p.m.** - SDSU, Brookings. First Planning District BOD.
3. **February 24 - 11:00 a.m.** - Sioux Falls. CBSRWP media campaign discussion.
4. **February 28 - 10:30 a.m.** - Lincoln-Pipestone RWS, Lake Benton, MN. Annual interagency meeting on Burr well field pumping and operations.
5. **March 1 - 10:00 a.m.** - Huron. JRWDD Feasibility Study/Environmental Impact Statement Technical Advisory Group.
6. **March 1 - 1:00 p.m.** - Pierre. SD Conservation Commission.
7. **March 9 - 9:00 a.m.** - Huron. JRWDD BOD.
8. **March 9 - 1:00 p.m.** - Lake Poinsett. South Dakota Lakes & Streams Association Board meeting.
9. **March 14** - Bloomington, MN. MPCA Lake Pepin TMDL Workshop.
10. **March 15-16** - Ramkota, Pierre. 18th Annual Environmental and Ground Water Quality Conference.
11. **March 16 - 9:00 a.m.** - EDWDD Office, Brookings. March EDWDD Board of Directors meeting.
12. **March 17 - 10:00 a.m.** - Flandreau. Moody County Farm and Home Show - nitrate testing.

Payment Requests - *Professional Soil Scientists of South Dakota* - The Manager presented the Board with a payment request from the Professional Soil Scientists of South Dakota (PSSSD) for District support of an exhibit on the State Soil (Hudak) being developed for the Smithsonian Institution. In July 2005, the District agreed to provide \$1,000 toward the activity. PSSSD has submitted a request for the full amount. **Motion** by Brown, seconded by Bennett to authorize payment of \$1,000 to PSSSD as requested. The Manager noted that this would complete the District's obligation to this activity. Motion carried unanimously.

Project Assistance Requests

City of Hartford - At the January meeting, the Board tabled a request from the City of Hartford for cost-share assistance for wastewater facility plans. The Board asked for additional information on the project expenses. No response from the City was received. The Board took no action.

Big Sioux Water Festival - Lisa Bretsch, Chairperson for the Big Sioux Water Festival Steering Committee, presented the Board with a request for \$5,000 to support the 2006 festival. The event is scheduled for Thursday, May 18th, and will once again be held on the campus of South Dakota State University in Brookings. To date, over 1,000 fourth grade students from about 45 classes have registered for the event. Ms. Bretsch briefed the Board on planned activities. She noted that information about the festival was available on it's new web site, www.bigsixwaterfestival.org. **Motion** by Bennett, seconded by Brown to provide \$5,000 in District project assistance funds to the Big Sioux Water Festival in support of the 2005 event and to authorize expenditure of the funds. Motion carried unanimously.

Sioux Empire Water Festival - Deb Callahan, Fundraising Chair for the Sioux Empire Water Festival presented a request for project assistance for \$5,000 for the 2006 festival. The event is scheduled for Tuesday and Wednesday, March 28 & 29, and will be held on the campus of the University of Sioux Falls. To date, over 2,300 third and fourth grade students from southeastern South Dakota have registered for the event. The District provided \$5,000 in support in 2005. She noted that the District's assistance would be used to support providing Project WET information to the schools attending the event. **Motion** by Kassube, seconded by Flemming to provide \$5,000 in District project assistance funds to the Sioux Empire Water Festival in support of the 2006 event and to authorize expenditure of the funds. Motion carried unanimously.

EDWDD Nitrate Testing Project

The Manager presented a summary of the District's private well nitrate testing project, and related activities. Between November 2004 and March 2005, the District held five nitrate testing clinics in conjunction with area conservation districts. The events were held at farm and home shows in De Smet, Milbank, Clear Lake, Howard and Watertown. A total of 155 samples were tested. About 25% of the samples had no detectable nitrate (machine detection is 0.1 milligrams per liter (mg/L)). 50 % of the samples had nitrate present but below 3 mg/L. 15% had between 3 and 9.9 mg/L, with 10% exceeding the drinking water standard of 10 mg/L. Of those that exceeded the standard, most were either no longer in use, or had some type of secondary treatment. In addition to the farm show clinics, the device was also used to monitor nitrate levels in observation wells near Estelline and household taps in Trent. Quality assurance samples showed an exceptionally strong correlation between machine results and analyses from the SDSU Water Quality Lab.

In 2006, clinics were held at the Watertown Farm and Home Show (February 8 & 11). Another is scheduled for the Flandreau Farm Show on March 17th. District staff will be demonstrating the device at the 18th Annual DENR Environmental and Ground Water Quality Conference in Pierre on March 15th.

2006 SD Legislative Review

The Manager reviewed the status of several bills he is following during the ongoing South Dakota legislative session. He noted that there were on a small number of water resource-specific bills.

House Bill 1019, An Act to revise and redirect certain revenues relating to the state capital construction fund, the ethanol fuel fund, the state highway fund, the water and environment fund, and the state general fund. Passed the House, Awaiting action by the Senate Appropriations Committee.

House Bill 1076, An Act to increase the amount of funding for conservation purposes from certain unclaimed motor fuel tax refunds. Deferred to 36th Day.

House Bill 1077, An Act to authorize water user districts to establish and operate wastewater systems. Signed by Governor.

House Bill 1096, An Act to regulate access to and use of natural nonmeandered lakes and to provide certain penalties. Failed in the House.

House Bill 1239, An Act to make appropriations from the water and environment fund, the environment and natural resources fee fund, the water pollution control revolving fund subfund, the drinking water revolving fund sub-fund for various water and environmental purposes, to revise the state water plan, and to declare an emergency. Passed both chambers.

Senate Bill 4, An Act to establish certain air quality standards for hydrogen sulfide and to provide for their application to livestock facilities. Tabled in Committee.

Senate Bill 62, An Act to revise certain reclamation surety requirements regarding uranium exploration and to authorize the Board of Minerals and Environment to adopt rules for the construction, operation, monitoring, and closure of uranium and other in situ leach mines. Passed Senate.

Senate Bill 66, An Act to exempt water distribution system routes from certain restrictions related to the acquisition of property or property rights. Passed both chambers.

Senate Bill 105, An Act to require financial assurances for certain concentrated animal feeding operations for the remediation of potential environmental damage. Tabled in Committee.

Senate Bill 106, An Act to exempt certain small sand, gravel, and other extraction operations from license fees and surety requirements. Failed in the Senate.

Senate Bill 204, An Act to make an appropriation from the coordinated soil and water conservation fund to the State Conservation Commission. Passed both chambers.

Project Updates

Watershed Assessment Projects - Becky Banks and Deb Springman reviewed the status of these projects. The DRAFT Final Reports for the Central Big Sioux River, North-Central Big Sioux River/East Oakwood Lake and School Lake Watershed Assessments and the associated total maximum daily load (TMDL) reports are under review by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and DENR.

Becky is compiling and starting a review and interpretation of the information collected during the re-assessment study of Wall Lake.

Deb is developing a proposal to conduct a watershed assessment study of Covell Lake in Sioux Falls.

Central Big Sioux River Watershed Project - Angela Guidry reviewed the status of this project. She has held meeting with the Brookings, Moody and Minnehaha Conservation Districts to work out a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to cover conservation district participation in the project. She expects the MOUs to be completed by mid-March. She has written a short article on the project for inclusion in the Big Sioux

Community Water System Quality On Tap Newsletter. It will be part of the spring 2006 issue. A media company has been selected (Paulsen Marketing of Sioux Falls) to help develop an education and information outreach program.

The Manager requested Board authorization for the Vice-Chairman to sign an MOU with Northern Prairies Land Trust, spelling out how the two groups will work to implement the projects land easement program. The document has been reviewed by District Counsel. **Motion** by Kassube, seconded by Brown to have the Vice-Chairman sign the MOU. Motion carried unanimously.

The Manager also requested that the Board commit \$2,000 in District project assistance funds toward Objective 2, Task 4 of the project, specifically to be used for the CRP Incentives Program. **Motion** by Brown, seconded by Bennett to allocate \$2,000 to the project as requested. Motion carried unanimously.

Adjournment

There being no further District business or other matters, Vice-Chairman Eggers declared the meeting adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

Doug Feten, Secretary