

MINUTES
February 17, 2005

The Board of Directors of the East Dakota Water Development District (EDWDD) held a regular meeting on February 17, 2005, at the EDWDD office in Brookings. Chairman Dempsey called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. The following persons attended:

Directors Present

Dave Bennett
Bill Dempsey
Curt Eggers
Doug Feten
Vincent Flemming
Royce Hueners
Kay Kassube
John Weidler

Directors Absent

Lois Brown

Others Present

Scott Buss, Minnehaha Community Water Corporation
Steve Freeling, Vermillion Basin WDD
Robert Kolbe, Minnehaha County Commission
Jeff Puthoff, Vermillion Basin WDD
Ken Stange, SD Lakes & Streams Association

Staff Present

Becky Banks
Lisa Bretsch
Jay Gilbertson
Pat Hammond
Deb Springman

Administrative Items

Approval of Agenda - The Manager indicated that he would like to add Organizational Memberships to Section II- Administration and Renner Sanitary District to Section IV - Project Assistance Requests. **Motion** by Hueners, seconded by Weidler to approve the agenda as amended. Motion carried unanimously.

Minutes - The Board reviewed the minutes of the January 20, 2005 meeting. The Manager noted that in the list of Standing Committees for 2005, Director Bennett should be listed in place of Chairman Dempsey on the Planning and Legislative Committees. Director Weidler said that his attendance at the I-29ers for Quality of Life presentation in Sioux Falls on January 6 should be noted. **Motion** by Eggers, seconded by Weidler to approve the minutes as amended. Motion carried unanimously.

Financial Reports - The Board reviewed the January 2005 financial report (Attachment A). **Motion** by Weidler, seconded by Hueners to accept the financial report. Motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Dempsey then asked that the report be placed in the District files.

Report of Meetings and Conferences - Director Flemming attended the January 20, 2005, meeting of the Upper Big Sioux River watershed Advisory Board in Watertown.

Director Feten attended the Grant County Farm Show (Milbank) on January 22 and the Deuel County Farm Show (Clear Lake) on January 29 to observe the nitrate testing clinics.

Director Weidler attended the Miner County Farm Show (Howard) on February 2 & 3 to observe the nitrate testing clinic.

Director Flemming attended the Watertown Winter Farm Show on February 12 to observe the nitrate testing clinic.

Chairman Dempsey attended the February 3 presentation on large-scale animal feeding operation issues, hosted by I-29ers for Quality of Life, in Brookings.

The Manager briefly summarized the following meetings he attended:

1. January 21 - Flandreau. Central Big Sioux River Watershed Project planning meeting.
2. January 21 & 22 - Milbank. Grant County Farm Show - Nitrate testing project.
3. January 26 - Sioux Falls. SDSU Precision Agriculture Workshop.
4. January 27 - Watertown. Presentation to the Watertown Rotary Club.
5. February 2 - Howard. Miner County Farm Show - Nitrate testing project.
6. February 9 - Watertown. Watertown Winter Farm Show - Nitrate testing project.
7. February 12 - Watertown. Watertown Winter Farm Show - Nitrate testing project.

Upcoming Meetings -

1. **February 22 - 9:00 a.m.** - County Courthouse, Sioux Falls. Minnehaha Commission meeting - Meyer feedlot permit reconsideration.
2. **February 22 - 10:30 a.m.** - Lincoln-Pipestone RWS, Lake Benton, MN. Annual interagency meeting on Burr well-field pumping and operations.
3. **February 26** - EDWDD Office, Brookings. Big Sioux Water Festival Steering Committee.
4. **February 28/March 1** - Foss Building, Pierre. Watershed Project Coordinators Conference.
5. **March 8 - 10:00 a.m.** - Pierre. Nonpoint Source Task Force.
6. **March 9 - 1:00 p.m.** - EDWDD Office, Brookings. South Dakota Lakes & Streams Association Board meeting.
7. **March 10 - 8:00 a.m.** - Governors Inn, Pierre. South Dakota Conservation Commission.
8. **March 16-17** - Ramkota, Pierre. 17th Annual Environmental and Ground Water Quality Conference.
9. **March 17 - 9:00 a.m.** - EDWDD Office, Brookings. March EDWDD Board of Directors meeting.
10. **March 29-30** - USF Campus, Sioux Falls. Sioux Empire Water Festival
11. **March 30 & 31** - Foss Building, Pierre. SD Board of Water and Natural Resources.
12. **April 5 - 6:00 p.m.** - Clear Lake. Brookings-Deuel RWS Annual Meeting and Dinner.
13. **April 5 - 6:00 p.m.** - Flandreau. Big Sioux CWS Annual Meeting and Dinner.

Organizational Memberships - **Motion** by Bennett, seconded by Feten to authorize payment of \$55 to the North American Lake Management Society for District membership in 2005. Motion carried unanimously.

Payment Requests - The manager presented two payment requests.

Moody County Conservation District - The Manager presented the Board with a payment request from the Moody County Conservation District (MoCCD) for District support of the Bachelor Creek Watershed Project. In August 2004, the District agreed to provide \$1,500 toward the activity. To date, \$668 has been expended, and MoCCD is now seeking an additional \$41 from the award. **Motion** by Kassube, seconded by Eggers to authorize payment of \$41 to MoCCD as requested. Motion carried unanimously.

Minnehaha County Conservation District - At the August 2004 meeting, the Board agreed to provide \$6,000 in project assistance funds for the Minnehaha County Conservation District (MiCCD) for work on the Wall Lake Reevaluation Project. To date, \$3,360 has been expended, and MiCCD is now seeking an additional \$1,705 from the award. **Motion** by Weidler, seconded by Kassube, to authorize payment of \$1,705 to MiCCD as requested. The Manager noted that this payment would complete the District's obligation to the project, and the balance of the award would be reverted. Motion carried unanimously.

New Deputy Manager - The Manager introduced Pat Hammond, who has been hired to serve as the Deputy District Manager. Ms. Hammond is employed in a part-time capacity and will be working primarily out of her home in Brandon. The Manager noted that she brings a wealth of practical knowledge and experience to the District, having previously worked for the South Dakota Geological Survey on groundwater issues in eastern South Dakota. Ms. Hammond holds a Bachelors Degree in Geology from Knox College and a Masters Degree in Geology from Iowa State University.

Project Assistance Requests

Renner Sanitary District - The Renner Sanitary District has requested District cost-share assistance for the completion of a facility plan, with an estimated cost of \$8,500. They are requesting support for the effort from the State's Small Community Planning Grant Program, which should cover \$6,800. The request to the District is for some portion of the balance. The Manager noted that in the past, the District has provided cost-share assistance amounting to half of the local costs of such efforts. In this case, that would amount to a project assistance award of \$850. **Motion** by Hueners, seconded by Feten to award District cost-share assistance to the Renner Sanitary District for fifty percent (50%) of the local costs of the facility plan, not exceed a total of \$850. Motion carried unanimously.

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 2005 festival. The activity is scheduled for Thursday, May 12th, and will once again be held on the campus of South Dakota State University in Brookings. To date, over 1,200 fourth grade students from about 50 classes have

registered for the event. Ms. Bretsch briefed the Board on planned activities. The Manager noted that information about the festival was available on it's web site, www.brookings.com/bswf/. **Motion** by Eggers, seconded by Kassube 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 - The Manager presented a request for project assistance from the Sioux Empire Water Festival Steering Committee. They have requested \$5,000 to be used to support activities of the 2005 Sioux Empire Water Festival. The activity is scheduled for Tuesday and Wednesday, March 29 & 30, and will be held on the campus of the University of Sioux Falls. To date, over 2,700 third and fourth grade students from southeastern South Dakota have registered for the event. The District provided \$5,000 in support in 2004. **Motion** by Kassube, seconded by Bennett to provide \$5,000 in District project assistance funds to the Sioux Empire Water Festival in support of the 2005 event and to authorize expenditure of the funds. Motion carried unanimously.

Vermillion Basin Watershed Assessment

Steve Freeling and Jeff Puthoff, with the Vermillion Basin Water Development District, presented an update on the Vermillion River Watershed Assessment Project. The assessment study covers the entire Vermillion River watershed below Lake Thompson. Several segments of the river system are listed as impaired for total suspended solids, fecal coliform bacteria and nutrients. In addition to the river and it's tributaries, they will also be examining impairments in Silver Lake and East Vermillion Lake. To date, their efforts have mostly involved gathering pre-existing data on water quality and land use. Actual field work will begin this spring (April 2005), and will continue through the summer of 2006. The Manager noted that East Dakota is providing \$15,000 in support of this activity.

2005 SD Legislative Review

The Manager reviewed activity during the ongoing South Dakota legislative session. He noted that only a couple of water resource-specific bills had been submitted, and reported on the status of each:

House Bill 1059, An Act to authorize the Water Management Board to establish the beneficial use of recreation on natural non-meandered lakes. The bill was tabled at the request of the sponsors and opponents. They were apparently unable to resolve their differences, and will try again next year.

House Bill 1215, 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, and the drinking water revolving fund subfund for various water and environmental purposes, and to declare an emergency. This is the annual omnibus water bill. It contains funding for the Consolidated Water Facilities Construction Program, State Water Resources Management System projects, the solid waste clean up programs and other activities. It has passed the full House and is awaiting action by the Senate. No negative comments have been raised, and passage is expected.

Project Updates

Central Big Sioux River, North-Central Big Sioux River/East Oakwood Lake and School Lake Watershed Assessment Projects - Becky Banks and Deb Springman reviewed the status of each project. The DRAFT Final Report for the Central Big Sioux River Assessment and the 24 total maximum daily load (TMDL) reports have been submitted to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for review and comment. For North-Central Big Sioux River/East Oakwood Lakes and School Lake, they have completed the modeling of nutrient and sediment loadings, and are starting on rough drafts of the final report.

Central Big Sioux River Watershed Project - The Manager noted that he had submitted the 319 grant application to DENR for the Central Big Sioux River Watershed Project (CBSRWP) on February 1. The CBSRWP is the first segment of what will be a multi-phase implementation project to address the impairments identified in the assessment project. The grant request is for \$5,053,125 out of a total project cost of \$11,403,567. Additional funds will come from the District, the City of Sioux Falls, area conservation districts and land owner cost-share. With only about \$2,600,000 available in the current funding round, he has proposed to fund the project through several smaller grants over the life of the project.

The State Nonpoint Source Task Force will meet on March 8th in Pierre to review the nine grant requests and will then develop funding recommendations to the Board of Water and Natural Resources (BWNR). The BWNR will meet on March 30 and 31 to make final grant decisions.

Nitrate Testing Project - District staff conducted nitrate testing clinics at farm and home shows in Milbank (January 21 & 22), Clear Lake (January 29), Howard (February 2 & 3) and Watertown (February 9 & 12) in the past month. Response to the program has been good. Most samples analyzed at the Milbank, Clear Lake and Howard events had fairly low nitrate levels (under 2 parts per million). The samples processed at Watertown, however, were a different story. About 25% of the samples analyzed exceeded the 10 ppm standard, and another 25% had nitrates between 5 and 10 ppm range. The Manager will be working with the DENR Groundwater Quality Program and State Geological Survey to assess the implications of the clinic results, and plans to conduct site visits at some of the higher occurrences.

On March 16th, District staff will be giving a talk about the project and results at the 17th Annual Environmental and Ground Water Quality Conference in Pierre.

Adjournment

There being no further District business or other matters, Chairman Dempsey declared the meeting adjourned at 10:55 a.m.

Doug Feten, Secretary