



East Dakota Water Development District
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MINUTES
February 23, 2012

The Board of Directors of the East Dakota Water Development District (EDWDD) held a regular meeting on February 23, 2012, at the EDWDD office in Brookings. Chairman Jarrett called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. The following persons attended:

Directors Present

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

Others Present

Shirley Flemming, Florence
Roger Hageman, Lake County Commission
Jeppe Kjaersgaard, SDSU Water Resources Institute
Mike Kuck, SD Association of Conservation Districts
Bob Litz, Minnehaha County

Directors Absent

None

Staff Present

Jay Gilbertson
Deb Springman

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Administrative Items

Approval of Agenda - The Manager asked to have two items added to the Agenda - a description of the District's Riparian Area and Wetland Restoration & Protection WREP Project and a funding request from Big Sioux Community Water System.

Motion by Flemming, seconded by Brown to approve the agenda as amended. Motion carried unanimously.

Minutes - The Board reviewed the Minutes of the January 19, 2012, meeting.

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

Financial Reports - The Board reviewed the January 2012 financial report.

Motion by Soholt, seconded by Scheibe to accept the financial report. 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 Flemming attended the Upper Big Sioux Watershed Advisory Board meeting in Watertown on February 16th.

Director Scheibe attended the January 24th meeting of the Central Big Sioux River Watershed project Advisory Board at Colman.

The Manager briefly summarized the following meetings he attended:

1. January 19 & 20 - Pierre. Lobby - House Bills 1203 and Senate Bill 83.
2. January 23 thru 26 - Pierre. Lobby - SB 83, HB 1203, Senate Concurrent Resolution 5.
3. January 25 - Mitchell. SD Association of Rural Water Systems Quality On Tap Editorial Board.
4. January 30 thru February 2 - Pierre. Lobby SB 83, 160,169, HB 1203, SCR 5.
5. February 1 & 2 - Pierre. SD Association of Rural Water Systems Managers Group.
4. February 6 & 7 - Pierre. Lobby - SCR 5, SB 160 and 169.
5. February 13 thru 16 - Pierre. Lobby SB 83, 160,169, HB 1203, SCR 5.
6. February 20 & 21 - Pierre. Lobby SB 83.

Upcoming Meetings -

1. **March 1 - 9:00 a.m.** - Marshall, MN. Minnesota River Basins Project AREA II Board of Directors.
2. **March 1 - 7:00 p.m.** - Dakota State University, Madison. Lake County Water Quality Committee.
3. **March 7 & 8** - Pierre. South Dakota Water Management Board.
4. **March 9 - 10:00 a.m.** - various Dakota Digital Network sites. South Dakota Board of Water and Natural Resources.
5. **March 15 - 9:00 a.m.** - EDWDD Office, Brookings. March EDWDD Board of Directors Meeting.

Payment Request(s) -

Brookings-Deuel Rural Water System - At the October 2011 meeting, the Board agreed to provide District cost-share assistance of up to \$25,000 as cost-share for the purchase of land that is part of the well head protection area for the Brookings-Deuel Rural Water System (BDRWS) Joint Well Field near Bruce in Brookings County. The funds would be allocated from the District's Wellhead Protection Area Assistance program (Program). District support was limited to no more than fifty percent (50%) of the purchase cost, with a cap of \$25,000, as per Program policy. BDRWS has completed the purchase of the land, and has submitted a payment request for \$25,000. The Manager indicated that the purchase price for the 151.5 acre parcel was in excess of \$50,000, therefore qualifying for the full amount of the support.

Motion by Kassube, seconded by Weidler to authorize payment of \$25,000 as requested. The Manager noted that this payment would complete the District's obligation under this agreement. Motion carried unanimously.

2012 SD Legislative Review

The Manager reviewed the status of numerous bills he is following during the ongoing 87th Session of the South Dakota Legislature.

House Bill 1087, An Act to limit the terms of certain conservation easements. Tabled by the House of Representatives on February 8th.

House Bill 1203, An Act to revise auditing requirements for water development districts. The bill has passed both chambers and is awaiting action by the Governor.

House Bill 1240, An Act to separately classify, assess, and tax agricultural land that is leased for certain purposes that restrict the use of the land. This bill was deferred until the 41st day on February 7th.

House Bill 1243, An Act to require that notice be provided before certain drainage activities are undertaken. This bill was tabled in House Local Government on February 7th.

Senate Bill 37, An Act to make an appropriation from the coordinated natural resources conservation fund to the State Conservation Commission and to declare an emergency. The bill has passed both chambers and is awaiting action by the Governor.

Senate Bill 83, An Act to revise certain provisions relating to water development districts. The bill has passed both chambers and is awaiting action by the Governor.

Senate Bill 160, An Act to revise certain provisions relating to the James River Water Development District. Passed the full Senate, but was tabled by the House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee that morning (February 23rd).

Senate Bill 169, An Act to establish the Regional Watershed Advisory Task Force. Passed the full Senate and House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee, and is awaiting action by the full House.

Senate Bill 195, An Act to make appropriations from the water and environment fund, the water pollution control revolving fund subfund, and the drinking water revolving fund subfund for various water and environmental purposes, to revise the state water plan, to authorize the construction and establish the state cost share for the Belle Fourche irrigation upgrade project, and to declare an emergency. Passed the full Senate and House Appropriations without opposition, and is awaiting action by the full House.

Senate Concurrent Resolution 5, Supporting and encouraging a 2012 interim study and thorough review of drainage laws in South Dakota. Passed both chambers with minimal opposition.

The Manager indicated that with the bills brought forward by the water development districts (SB 83 and HB 1203), proposals to address water management/drainage (SCR 5 and SB 169) and the ongoing troubles experienced by the James River WDD, it had been a very busy session.

Project Assistance Requests

Sioux Empire Water Festival - The Manager presented the Board with a request from Deb Callahan, Fundraising Chair for the Sioux Empire Water Festival, for project assistance of \$5,000 for the 2012 event. The Festival is scheduled for Monday and Tuesday, March 19th and 20th, and will be held on the campus of the University of Sioux Falls.

Big Sioux Water Festival - Deb Springman, Project Coordinator for the Big Sioux Water Festival (BSWF), presented the with a request for project assistance of \$5,000 for the 2012 event. The Festival is scheduled for Tuesday, May 8th on the campus of South Dakota State University.

Motion by Soholt, seconded by Kassube to provide \$5,000 each in District project assistance funds to the 2012 Sioux Empire Water Festival and 2012 Big Sioux Water Festival as requested and to authorize expenditure of the funds. Motion carried unanimously.

Big Sioux Community Water System - The Manager presented a request from Dave Bennett, Chief Water Plant Operator for the Big Sioux Community Water System (BSCWS), for project assistance from the 2010 Well Head Protection Area Protection Program (Program). BSCWS is requesting \$499.20 in Program assistance to be applied toward the cost of soil testing conducted to optimize nutrient applications to crop land within the well head protection area (WHPA) for their Egan well field. The Manager indicated he had examined the material provided by BSCWS, and that the request meets all Program requirements. He also noted that a public water supply may request up \$500 per calendar year for such efforts, so this request effectively covers any further soil testing cost-share for BSCWS in calendar year 2012.

Motion by Flemming, seconded by Soholt to provide \$499.20 in District cost-share assistance from the 2010 Well Head Protection Area Protection Program to cover soil testing costs as requested, and to authorize payment of same. Motion carried unanimously, with Director Jarrett abstaining.

EDWDD Water Festival Display - In her efforts to locate new and interesting exhibits and presentations for the Big Sioux Water Festival, Ms. Springman has located an organization that has a large, inflatable whale that comes with a variety of related education activities. As she looked further into the display, she spoke with the manufacturing firm that made the display, and also with Anne Lewis, SD Discovery Center, who manages the SD Non-Point Source Information and Education Program. Ms. Lewis is willing to acquire an inflatable whale display for all South Dakota's water festivals. A home-made whale has been an integral, and very popular, part of the BSWF Exhibit Hall since its inception in 1993.

Ms. Springman and the Manager presented the Board with a request to acquire an inflatable display to be used at the two water festival supported by the District, and perhaps at other water festivals across the state. They envisioned some sort of water-related entity, similar to the Exhibit Hall whale, but one that would have a clear connection to South Dakota. Ms. Springman indicated that it was her intent to develop a variety of classroom activities that would be tied to the display. She also noted that whatever creature/entity was selected would become the default "mascot" of the BSWF. She noted that after considering a variety of possible options, including various sport fish and waterfowl, inclination was to select one of the common marine reptiles found as fossils around the state. Such a creature has a clear water connection, with the added advantage of being a "dinosaur," which are always popular with the target age group (fourth graders). There ensued a spirited discussion among some of the Board members as to which creature should be selected, with mosasaurs, plesiosaurs and sharks in the mix.

Motion by Weidler, seconded by Kassube to provide District cost-share assistance of four thousand dollars (\$4,000), and authorize its expenditure, for the acquisition of an inflatable display for use at District-sponsored or supported events as requested. Motion carried unanimously.

EDWDD Riparian Area and Wetland Restoration and Protection Project

Mike Kuck, with the South Dakota Association of Conservation Districts, presented the Board with an overview of the East Dakota Water Development District (EDWDD) Riparian Area and Wetland Restoration and Protection Project. The project has been submitted for funding under the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Wetlands Reserve Enhancement Program (WREP). The Manager noted that while the

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District was the Project sponsor, he acknowledged that Mr. Kuck had done a considerable amount of the work developing the proposal in conjunction with staff from USDA and the Northern Prairies Land Trust.

The purpose of the project is to provide restoration and enhancement of riparian areas and wetlands to improve water quality and wildlife habitat within the Minnesota, Big Sioux, and Vermillion River watersheds within the District. The project area is within the Prairie Pothole Joint Venture Region of the Northern Plains and a portion of the Mississippi River Basin Initiative. The goal of the project is to enroll from 1,000 to 6,000 acres of eligible lands in the WREP through permanent or 30-year easements. The total budget for option #1 (6,000 acres) is \$14,761,700 over three years with \$14,460,000 requested in WREP funds. Total Cost for option #2 (1,000 acres) is \$2,461,450 over three years with \$2,409,500 requested in WREP funding. At the present time, the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service has roughly 2,500 acres of existing applications for the 10-county project area. Mr. Kuck noted that USDA has funding for just 6,000 acres nation-wide, so if the Project is selected, option #2 is most likely.

A project coordination team will be developed to provide input for project management and coordination. The chairman of the team will be the project manager and each collaborating partner may provide one member to the team. Other individuals or entities may be added as needed.

Adjournment

There being no further District business or other matters, Chairman Jarrett declared the meeting adjourned at 11:10 a.m.

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Roger Scheibe, Secretary

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