



East Dakota Water Development District
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MINUTES
February 20, 2014

The Board of Directors of the East Dakota Water Development District (EDWDD) held a regular meeting on February 20, 2014, 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
Gary Duffy
Martin Jarrett
Kay Kassube
John Moes
Roger Scheibe

Directors Absent

Mark Anderson
Mary Ellen Connelly
Jerry Soholt

Others Present

Dave Bartel, James River Water Development District
Deb Callahan, Sioux Empire Water Festival
Nathan Edwards, South Dakota State University
Jesse Johnson, SD Corn
Sean Kruger, SD Dept. of Environment & Natural Resources
Dana Loseke, East River SD Sierra Club
Dianne Radermacher, Upper Minnesota River WD
Harvey Shafer, Moody County Conservation District

Staff Present

Jay Gilbertson
Jeremy Hinke
Deb Springman
Kristi Thielen

Administrative Items

Approval of Agenda - The Manager requested to add a Project Assistance request from the Moody County Conservation District to the agenda.

Motion by Duffy, seconded by Scheibe to approve the agenda as so amended. Motion carried unanimously.

Minutes - The Board reviewed the Minutes of the January 23rd, 2014, meeting.

Motion by Scheibe, seconded by Kassube to approve the January 23rd, 2014, Minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Financial Reports - The Board reviewed the January 2014 financial report.

Motion by Scheibe, seconded by Moes to accept the January 2014 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 - Director Moes attended meetings of the Upper Big Sioux Watershed Advisory Board and the Lake Pelican Water Project District in Watertown on February 19th.

Chairman Jarrett attended the January 30th meeting of the Lake County Clean Water Committee in Madison.

The Manager briefly summarized the following meetings he attended since the last Board meeting:

1. January 31 - Brookings. Eastern South Dakota Water Conference planning.
2. February 10 - Sioux Falls. WRI Winter Manure Application Project Steering Committee.
3. February 12 - Lake Benton, MN. Lincoln Pipestone Rural Water 2013-2014 Operations & Contingency Plan Update.
4. February 14 - Sioux Falls. WRI Bioreactor Tile water Project Steering Committee.
5. February 18 - Madison. Lake County Ag Forum.

In addition, the Manager acted in his capacity as District lobbyist to the 2014 South Dakota Legislature in Pierre during this period.

Upcoming Meetings -

1. **February 26 & 27** - Nebraska City, NE. National Integrated Drought Information System (NIDIS) Missouri Basin Project Kickoff Meeting.
2. **February 28 - 9:00 a.m.** - Hawarden, Iowa. Project AWARE planning meeting.
3. **March 6** - Pierre. South Dakota Water Management Board.
4. **March 12 - 9:00 a.m.** - Environmental Office, Sioux Falls. Central Big Sioux River Watershed Project Steering Committee.
5. **March 14** - Pierre. Close of regular 2014 Legislative Session.
6. **March 19 & 20** - AmericInn Conference Center, Fort Pierre. 26th Annual Environmental & Ground water Quality Conference.
7. **March 20 - 9:00 a.m.** - EDWDD Office, Brookings. March 2014 EDWDD Board of Directors Meeting.
8. **March 27 & 28** - Matthews Training Center, Pierre. South Dakota Board of Water & Natural Resources.
9. **March 31** - Pierre. Last day of 2014 Legislative Session (Veto Day).
10. **April 9 - 8:00 a.m.** - Rushmore Plaza, Rapid City. Western South Dakota Hydrology Conference.

Payment Requests

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." The Manager noted that SDSU has submitted a billing covering project costs during December 2013 and January 2014 for a total of \$4,581.59.

Motion by Kassube, seconded by Duffy to authorize payment \$4,581.59 to SDSU as requested for "Agricultural Subsurface Drainage Impacts on Hydrology in Eastern South Dakota" project expenses. Motion carried unanimously.

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Travel Requests

9th National Monitoring Conference - The Manager requested Board authorization for Jeremy Hinke, Dakota water Watch Coordinator, to attend the 9th National Monitoring Conference to be held in Cincinnati, Ohio, from April 28th to May 2nd. The conference is organized by the National Water Quality Monitoring Council (NWQMC). He noted that the estimated cost would be \$1,500, however application has been made for a travel assistance grant from the NWQMC, which could cover up to 50% of the costs.

Motion by Moes, seconded by Duffy to authorize out-of-state travel for Jeremy Hinke to attend the 9th National Monitoring Conference as requested. Motion carried unanimously.

NIDIS Missouri Basin Project Kickoff - The Manager requested Board authorization to attend the National Integrated Drought Information System (NIDIS) Missouri Basin Project kickoff meeting to be held in Nebraska City, Nebraska, on February 26th & 27th.

Motion by Kassube, seconded by Duffy to authorize out-of-state travel for the Manager to attend the NIDIS Missouri Basin Project Kickoff meeting as requested. Motion carried unanimously.

South Dakota Agriculture and Rural Leadership Program - The South Dakota Agriculture and Rural Leadership, Inc., (SDARL), is a private, non-profit organization dedicated to identifying and developing leadership for agriculture and rural communities in order to enhance the quality of life for all South Dakotans. For the past fourteen years, SDARL has sponsored a series of classes and tours, each spanning a two-year period, with the goal of helping program participants gain the vision, knowledge, confidence, and commitment necessary to assume leadership roles in South Dakota's agricultural industry.

The Manager noted that Jeremy Hinke, project coordinator for the Dakota Water Watch Program, has expressed an interest in participating in the SDARL Program. He stated that he supported the idea, citing the training and experiences he would receive as providing very real benefits to both him and the District. The District Employee Policy Manual does allow for the possibility of District support for continuing educational activities by staff, particularly if there is a likely benefit. In that SDARL would provide certain collateral benefit, it would be appropriate to provide some level of assistance. At the same time, many elements of this program would not have direct application District activities, therefore complete support is unwarranted.

The Manager proposed to allow Mr. Hinke to apply for participation in the Eighth SDARL Program. If he was accepted into the program, for those dates (normal working hours) on which he is participating in SDARL activities, the District would treat it as allowed administrative leave, that is, his salary on those days would be paid as if he was working for the District. Finally, the District would provide partial tuition support, in an amount not to exceed fifty-percent (50%) of tuition costs. Tuition for the Eighth SDARL is projected at \$4,200 per participant.

Motion by Brown, seconded by Kassube to accept the Manager's recommendation on Mr. Hinke's SDARL Program participation and to authorize payment of \$2,100 in tuition support if he is successful in gaining entry in the program. Further, if Mr. Hinke were to leave employment of the District within six months of the completion of the SDARL Program, he would be required to reimburse the District for a pro-rated portion of the tuition payment. Motion carried unanimously.

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Project Assistance Requests

Moody Conservation District - Harvey Shafer, Office Manager for the Miner Conservation District (MCD), presented a request for \$5,000 in District cost-share assistance. MCD is planning to replace its current grass drill, which is used to plant native grasses by landowners within Moody County. The drill is also used by residents/landowners of eastern Lake County, as the Lake County Conservation District does not have such a device. The projected total cost of the drill is \$14,000. District funds would be used to cover a portion of the costs. Mr. Shafer answered several questions about how the drill has been used in the past, and who would operate the drill.

Motion by Brown, seconded by Scheibe to provide \$5,000 in District cost-share assistance to the Moody Conservation District as requested to support the purchase of a grass drill. Motion carried unanimously.

Sioux Empire Water Festival - Deb Callahan, Fundraising Chair for the Sioux Empire Water Festival, presented a request for District cost-share assistance for the 2014 event, set to be held at the University of Sioux Falls on Monday and Tuesday, March 18th and 19th. Ms. Callahan reviewed the history of the project and discussed planned events and programs. She noted that this would be the 21st annual event.

Big Sioux Water Festival - Deb Springman, Project Coordinator for the Big Sioux Water Festival, presented a request for District cost-share assistance for the 2014 event, set to be held at the South Dakota State University campus on Tuesday, May 13th. She reviewed the history of the project and discussed planned events and programs, noting that this would be the 22nd annual event.

Motion by Moes, seconded by Duffy to provide \$7,500 each in District project assistance funds to the 2014 Sioux Empire Water Festival and 2014 Big Sioux Water Festival and to authorize expenditure of the funds. **Substitute Motion** by Kassube, seconded by Brown to provide \$8,000 each in District project assistance funds to the 2014 Sioux Empire Water Festival and 2014 Big Sioux Water Festival and to authorize expenditure of the funds. It was the consensus of the Board that these events provide a unique and invaluable learning experience, and the organizers were to be commended for their efforts. Motion carried unanimously.

South Dakota State Climate Office - Nathan Edwards, State Climate Office, presented the Board with a series of proposals for support of the South Dakota Automatic Weather Data Network (SDAWDN). The proposals provided a variety of options for the District to support and/or upgrade existing SDAWDN weather monitoring stations within the District. Eight active automated weather stations are located within the District near South Shore, Oak Lake, Volga, Brookings, Flandreau, Baltic, Sioux Falls (57th St) and Sioux Falls (Landfill). The proposals also contained options for expanding SDAWDN to provide coverage in those parts of the District that do not currently have stations.

The Board, the Manager and Mr. Edwards discussed a variety of issues and concerns with regard to the levels and types of District support of SDAWDN.

Motion by Scheibe, seconded by Kassube to table the request and to direct the Manager to continue to work with the State Climate Office on the issue. Motion carried unanimously.

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2014 Legislative Session Review

The Manager reviewed the status of, and actions he has taken on, numerous bills he is tracking as the District lobbyist during the ongoing 89th Session of the South Dakota Legislature.

House Bill (HB) 1015, An Act to create an equitable process to handle water right applications submitted for aquifers determined to be fully appropriated by the Water Management Board. The bill passed out of the House 63-4 on January 30th, and is awaiting action by the full Senate.

HB 1083, An Act to restrict the term of conservation easements. The bill was voted down in the House of representatives 17-51 on February 10th.

HB 1139, An Act to limit the fees a government entity may charge a person to provide public documents. The bill was deferred to the 41st legislative day by the House State Affairs Committee on February 5th.

HB 1160, An Act to revise provisions and requirements relating to certain environmental complaints. The bill was deferred to the 41st legislative day by the House Energy & Commerce Committee on February 7th.

HB 1994, An Act to establish certain requirements relating to the crossings of railroad rights-of-way by utilities. The bill was awaiting consideration by the House Transportation Committee.

HB 1233, An Act to provide for the recall of certain state and local elected officials. The bill was deferred to the 41st legislative day by the House State Affairs Committee on February 19th.

Senate Bill (SB) 87, 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, and to declare an emergency. This is the annual omnibus water funding bill. The bill has cleared the Senate and is awaiting consideration by the House Appropriations Committee.

SB 169, An Act to provide for access to and use of public waters on public and private property and to protect private property rights for the citizens of South Dakota. The bill was tabled by the Senate at the request of the prime sponsor on February 18th.

Whetstone River Diversion Project

Dianne Radermacher, Administrator for the Upper Minnesota River Watershed District (UMRWD), briefed the Board on the status of a reconnaissance study and engineering assessment of a proposed re-diversion of the Whetstone River in northeast Grant County. In the 1930s, the river was diverted to flow directly into Big Stone Lake, in hopes that the additional flow would help maintain a stable lake level. However, the diversion exacerbated flooding on the lake at times of high flow and contributed a significant load of sediment and nutrients. UMRWD has brought together several local entities with interests in water resources (Grant, Roberts and Big Stone Counties, the City of Ortonville, Citizens for Big Stone Lake and East Dakota) and raised roughly \$90,000 to initiate the study. Work is progressing on schedule, with plans

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to have a draft final report available in mid-April. UMRWD is planning to hold several public forums to present the results of the study, and discuss plans for future action, most likely in late spring.

East Dakota WQM Stage/Discharge Projects I & II

Sean Kruger, South Dakota Department of Environment & Natural Resources (DENR), briefed the Board on the results of the East Dakota WQM Stage & Discharge Projects (Phases 1 & 2). DENR maintains roughly 150 water quality monitoring (WQM) stations at various points along rivers and streams. Water samples are collected for analysis at these sites on a regular basis (typically quarterly), but there has been limited discharge information available to assess actual pollutant loadings. Beginning in 2010, DENR worked with District staff to install stage recorders at 22 WQM sites within the Big Sioux, Minnesota and Vermillion River basins. District staff have downloaded data from these sites during the 2010 thru 2013 field seasons. In addition, District staff collected stream discharge measurements at these WQM sites during this period, visiting each site roughly every two weeks. Mr. Kruger noted that the resulting data set covers a broad range of flow conditions and have allowed him to develop stage/discharge curves for these locations that were unrivaled in the state. He commended District staff for their excellent work on this effort, and indicated he looked forward to additional cooperative investigations in the future.

Adjournment

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

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Roger Scheibe, Secretary

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