



East Dakota Water Development District
132B Airport Drive
Brookings, SD 57006

605-688-6741

605-688-6744 Fax

MINUTES
July 17, 2008

The Board of Directors of the East Dakota Water Development District (EDWDD) held a regular meeting on July 17, 2008 at the District Office in Brookings. Chairman Eggers called the meeting to order at 9:08 a.m. The following persons attended:

Directors Present

Lois Brown
Curtis Eggers
Doug Feten
Vincent Flemming
Martin Jarrett
Kay Kassube
Jerry Seigel
Robert Todd
John Weidler

Others Present

Silvia Christen, Dakota Rural Action
Frank James, Dakota Rural Action
Luanne Napton, South Dakota Resources Coalition
Jerry Myers, South Dakota Lakes & Streams Association

Staff Present

Jay Gilbertson
Deb Springman
Kristi Thielen

Directors Absent

none

Administrative Items

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

Minutes - The Board reviewed the Minutes of the June 19, 2008 meeting. Director Todd noted that the date for the meeting of the Interlakes Water Quality Committee should be July 10, not June 24. The Manager noted that the former mileage reimbursement rate should have been \$0.48 per mile, rather than \$0.41 per mile. Finally, on the last page, Director Eggers was identified as Vice-Chairman, rather than Chairman. **Motion** by Todd, seconded by Brown to approve the Minutes as amended. Motion carried unanimously.

Financial Reports - The Board reviewed the June 2008 Financial Report. **Motion** by Johnson, seconded by Kassube to accept the June 2008 Financial Report. Motion carried unanimously. Chairman Eggers then asked that the report be placed in the District files.

Report of Meetings and Conferences - Director Todd attended the July 10 meeting of the Interlakes Water Quality Committee in Madison.

Chairman Eggers attended a presentation in Sioux Falls on June 24 on a proposed Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) project for the Big Sioux River between Dell Rapids and Sioux Falls. He also attended the State Conservation Commission meeting in Brookings on July 10.

The Manager briefly commented on the following meetings he attended:

1. **June 26** - Pierre. South Dakota Board of Water and Natural Resources.
2. **July 10** - Brookings. South Dakota Conservation Commission.
3. **July 10** - Madison. Interlakes Water Quality Committee.
4. **July 12** - Grass lake (Minnehaha County). MonitOAR Water Quality Sampling event.
5. **July 16** - Brookings. Regional Water System Research Center Advisory Committee.

Upcoming Meetings -

1. **July 17 - 9:00 a.m.** - Milbank. SD Board of Minerals and Environment. Preliminary hearings on air quality permits for Big Stone II.
2. **July 17 - 7:00 p.m.** - Watertown. Upper Big Sioux River Watershed Advisory Board.
3. **July 21 - 9:00 a.m.** - Spink County Courthouse, Redfield. Presentation on groundwater protection through zoning ordinances.
4. **July 23 - 6:30 p.m.** - Sisseton. Red River Basin Commission - South Valley Meeting.
5. **July 30 - 8:30 a.m.** - Sioux Falls. South Dakota Association of Rural Water Systems Managers Association meeting.
6. **August 7 - 7:00 p.m.** - Public Library, Madison. Interlakes Water Quality Committee.
7. **August 13 - 4:30 p.m.** - Milbank. Public hearing on proposed Riverview Farms dairy operation.
8. **August 14 - 1:00 p.m.** - EDWDD Office, Brookings. South Dakota Lakes & Streams Association Board of Directors meeting.
9. **August 21 - 10:00 a.m.** - EDWDD Office, Brookings. August EDWDD Board of Directors meeting.

Appointment of EDWDD Standing Committees - Chairman Eggers appointed the following Directors to the District's Standing Committees for 2008:

Finance	Planning	Legislative	Personnel
Weidler, Chair	Brown, Chair	Feten, Chair	Jarrett, Chair
Feten	Feten	Johnson	Brown
Johnson	Jarrett	Siegel	Kassube
Kassube	Kassube	Todd	Weidler
Siegel	Todd		

South Dakota Open and Clean Government Act

The Manager presented the Board with a brief review of the South Dakota Open and Clean Government Act, which will be on the November 2008 ballot as an initiated measure. The Act is intended to limit the ability of public entities to use tax dollars for lobbying activities. A representative of the group promoting this effort will be at the August Board meeting.

South Dakota Resources Coalition

Luanne Napton, Executive Director for the South Dakota Resources Coalition (SDRC), provide the Board with an overview of topics and issues of interest to her organization. SDRC was originally organized in the 1970s as a vehicle for the scattered groups interested in the environment to have a politically viable voice. They continue to be active on the political front, sponsoring educational forum and supporting lobbying efforts aimed at environmental protection. SDRC played a key role in 1998 litigation that brought about renewed emphasis on addressing impaired water bodies in South Dakota (TMDLs). The group is currently focused on the potential environmental impacts of three major industrial developments - the proposed expansion of the electrical generating plant (Big Stone II) near Milbank, the Keystone petroleum pipeline across eastern South Dakota, and the Hyperion oil refinery east of Vermillion. Ms, Napton answered several questions from the Board.

Dakota Rural Action

Frank James, Staff Director for Dakota Rural Action (DRA), provide the Board with an overview of topics and issues of interest to his organization. He noted that DRA is a grass-roots organization that focuses on community organizing and membership action to influence public policy decisions that affect the lives of rural South Dakotans. They are currently working on efforts to protect the rights of South Dakotans to use the initiative and referendum process, promote strong, locally-driven county zoning ordinances, support Country of Origin labeling on foods, and promoting local foods efforts and farmers markets. They are also provide organizational support to groups in response to local concerns, and he cited the recent interest in large-scale dairies in Grant County as an example. Mr. James answered several questions from the Board.

Project Updates

Watershed Assessment Projects - Deb Springman reviewed the status of the District's watershed assessment projects. Her efforts over the past few months have focused primarily on water quality sampling for the Lake Campbell Watershed Reassessment Project and the Central Big Sioux River Watershed Project. She is also collecting additional samples from sites on Bachelor Creek in Moody County and Peg Munky Run in Hamlin County to support the development of Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) reports for these water bodies. She has also been providing support to Dakota Water Watch activities.

Central Big Sioux River Watershed Implementation Project - The manager reported limited activity on this project during the past month due to limited staff time. Job announcements have been posted for the open Project Manager position, and interview are scheduled for late July. He indicated a desire to have the position filled by mid- to late-August.

Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring/Dakota Water Watch - The Manager reported on the most recent volunteer effort, a mass, one-day water sampling event on Grass Lake in western Minnehaha County. On July 12th, about 20 members of the South Dakota Canoe and Kayak Association (SDCKA), with support from Jeanne Fromm, Deb Springman and the Manager, collected water samples from 19 different sites in the lake. Three of the sites were from conventional middle-of-the-lake locations, and 16 more were taken from various sites along the lake shore. Volunteers collected samples to be tested for bacteria and nitrates. They also gather information on water clarity, temperature and other physical conditions.

Test results showed very low concentrations of E. Coli bacteria in any of the samples, and nitrates were also

very low (under 1 milligram per liter). However, water clarity, as measured with Secchi disks, was quite poor at generally less than 25 centimeters. The water was quite green due to high algae concentrations. SDCKA participants were very enthusiastic about the event, and have already started to talk about another, similar effort elsewhere.

Adjournment

There being no additional District business, Chairman Eggers declared the meeting adjourned at 11:25 a.m.

DRAFT

Doug Feten, Secretary

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