



**East Dakota Water Development District
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**MINUTES
July 15, 2010**

The Board of Directors of the East Dakota Water Development District (EDWDD) held a regular meeting on July 15, 2010, at the District Office in Brookings. Chairman Eggers called the meeting to order at 9:40 a.m. The following persons attended:

Directors Present

Lois Brown
Curtis Eggers
Doug Feten
Vincent Flemming
Martin Jarrett
John Johnson
Kay Kassube
John Weidler

Director(s) Absent

Robert Todd

Others Present

Jerry Soholt, Sioux Falls
Gary Williams, City of Watertown

Staff Present

Kevin Christenson
Jay Gilbertson
Jeremy Hinke
Deb Springman
Roger Strom
Kristi Thielen

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Administrative Items

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

Minutes - The Board reviewed the Minutes of the June 17th, 2010 meeting. **Motion** by Weidler, seconded by Kassube to approve the Minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Financial Reports - The Board reviewed the June 2010 Financial Report. **Motion** by Kassube, seconded by Johnson to accept the June 2010 Financial Report. Motion carried unanimously. Chairman Eggers then asked that the report be placed in the District files.

Report of Meetings and Conferences - Director Jarrett attended the American Water Works Association Annual Meeting in Chicago on June 20-23.

Director Flemming attended the Upper Big Sioux River Watershed Advisory Board on June 17th and a meeting of the Watertown Area Flood Control Assessment task Force on July 7th. Both meetings were held in Watertown.

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Director Weidler attended the Kingbrook RWS Source Water Protection meeting in Arlington on June 24, the Big Sioux CWS Brant Lake water Treatment Plant open house on July 5th, and the Minnehaha County Drainage Task Force meeting in Sioux Falls on July 7th.

The Manager briefly commented on the following meetings he attended:

1. **June 18** - Brookings. Discussion of possible zero phosphorus fertilizer legislation with Jerry Myers, SD Lakes & Streams Association.
2. **June 23** - Dell Rapids. Minnehaha County Drainage Task Force.
3. **June 24 & 25** - Pierre. South Dakota Board of Water & Natural Resources.
3. **July 6** - Madison. Lake County Commission.
4. **July 7** - Brookings. SD Water Management Board teleconference.
5. **July 7** - Sioux Falls. Minnehaha County Drainage Task Force.
6. **July 13** - Webster. Day County Commission.

Upcoming Meetings -

1. **July 15 - 9:00 a.m.** - Kelly Inn, Yankton. James River Water Development District.
2. **July 15 - 7:00 p.m.** - Redlin Environmental Center, Watertown. Upper Big Sioux River Watershed Advisory Board.
3. **July 21 - 10:00 a.m.** - Room 413, State Capitol Building, Pierre. Legislative Review of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.
4. **July 21 - 7:00 p.m.** - Minnehaha County Commission Room, Sioux Falls. Minnehaha County Drainage Task Force meeting.
5. **July 26 - 7:00 p.m.** - Living Waters Retreat Center, Lake Poinsett. Lake Poinsett Water Project District
6. **July 28 - 8:00 a.m.** - Lewis & Clark RWS Office, Sioux Falls. South Dakota Association of Rural Water Systems Manager's Group Meeting.
7. **July 28 - 7:00 p.m.** - Minnehaha County Commission Room, Sioux Falls. Minnehaha County Drainage Task Force meeting.
8. **Early August (TBD)** - Teleconference/DDN. South Dakota Board of Water and Natural Resources.
9. **August 12 - 1:00 p.m.** - EDWDD Office, Brookings. South Dakota Lakes and Streams Association.
10. **August 19 - 9:00 a.m.** - EDWDD Office, Brookings. August EDWDD Board of Directors Meeting. Public hearing on 2011 District Budget at 10:00 a.m.

Payment Requests:

City of Watertown - In September 2009, the District agreed to provide cost-share assistance to the City of Watertown to bring in the U.S. Institute for Environmental Conflict Resolution (USIECR) to assess the diverse stakeholder perspectives on proposed flood-control measures. The pledge was for 50% of the project costs, up to a cap of \$11,266. The effort is nearing completion, and the City has requested payment of the District's commitment. The request is for the full amount, in that the cost to-date is \$27,854. **Motion** by Kassube, seconded by Feten to authorize payment of \$11,266 to the City of Watertown to cover the District's obligation for the costs of the study. The Manager indicated that this action would complete the District's commitment to the project. Motion carried unanimously.

Dakota Rural Action - In May 2010, the District agreed to provide \$5,000 in project assistance to Dakota Rural Action in support of the 2010 Farm Beginnings Program, with \$3,000 to be applied to general program support and \$2,000 to be used as scholarships for participating District residents. The Manager presented

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the Board with a request for the scholarship support funds (\$2,000). **Motion** by Flemming, seconded by Brown to authorize payment of \$2,000 to Dakota Rural Action as requested. The Manager indicated that this action would complete the District's commitment to scholarship portion of the support, but there remains a \$3,000 commitment for program support. Motion carried unanimously.

Personnel Committee Report - Director Jarrett, Chairman of the Personnel Committee, presented the results of the Committee's meeting held on July 8th. Annual performance reviews were completed on District staff by the Manager. The staff received generally high marks, and there were no significant concerns or problems identified. Director Jarrett reported that the Manager's performance evaluation, a composite completed by all Board members, also indicated a high level of satisfaction with his efforts.

For compensation for Fiscal Year 2011, the Committee recommended a three percent (3%) increase for the Manager, and supported a similar 3% increase for staff, as requested by the Manager. **Motion** by Kassube, seconded by Johnson to support a 3% increase in District employee compensation for FY 2011. Motion carried unanimously. The Manager indicated that Committee's salary recommendations were subsequently built into the draft Fiscal Year 2011 budget considered by the Finance Committee.

Finance Committee Report - Committee Chairman Kassube and the Manager reviewed the draft FY 2011 budget developed at the Finance Committee meeting held earlier in the day. **Motion** by Jarrett, seconded by Weidler to hold the public hearing on the District's FY 2011 budget on August 19 at 10:00 a.m. at the District office in Brookings and to authorize publication of the draft budget and necessary public notices. The Manager indicated that the draft budget will be published in all District newspapers in advance of the public hearing. Motion carried unanimously.

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Day County Commission Resolution to Withdraw

The Manager reported to the Board that on Tuesday, July 13th, the Day County Commission passed a resolution calling for a vote of the residents of the county as to whether or not they remain in the James River (western half of the county) and East Dakota (eastern half) Water Development Districts. The Commission was exercising authority granted to it by the South Dakota Legislature earlier in the year with the passage of Senate Bill 184, the provisions of which went into effect on July 1, 2010. A similar resolution was also passed by the Hutchinson County Commission seeking to withdraw from James River on July 6th. The resolutions request the SD Board of Water and Natural Resources (BWNR) place the question on the respective general election ballots on November 2nd. Details on the process will be presumably established at an early August BWNR meeting.

The Manager noted that his most pressing question was the effective date of any potential withdrawal. Although he is seeking further clarification from the Department of Revenue, it is his understanding that if that part of Day County currently within the District was to be formally withdrawn prior to the end of the current calendar year, then the area would not contribute to the 2010, payable in 2011, District tax levy.

2010 Watertown Area Flood Control Assessment

Gary Williams, Mayor of the City of Watertown, reported on recent efforts in the community to address chronic flooding problems in the region. He noted that in 2009, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers completed a Value Engineering Study evaluating various alternatives for flood control in the Watertown area. The study looked at a wide range of possible actions to achieve the desired goal, from a single large dam to multiple smaller structures to digging diversion trenches around the City. Each option was assessed

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for both its technical merit and cost-effectiveness. However, the City recognized that while technical and fiscal viability would be major factors in deciding how next to proceed, public understanding and support would be equally important to implementing any potential solution.

The City engaged the services of the U.S. Institute for Environmental Conflict Resolution (USIECR) to Watertown to assess the diverse stakeholder perspectives on what has at times been a pretty controversial issue. While many parts of the community are prone to often serious flooding, previously proposed actions to address this problem have not always enjoyed wide-spread public support. It was hoped that the USIECR process would help determine 1) the potential for collaborative stakeholder involvement in the flood control planning process, and then 2) assemble a group of willing stakeholders to see if common ground could be found. After an extensive interview process, involving parties on all sides of the issue, USIECR concluded that a generally accepted solution was possible. However, they recognized that a considerable effort would be required to bring, and keep, all parties at the table. They recommended establishing a working group of stakeholders to consider and discuss further actions. To date, the stakeholder group (the Watertown Flood Risk Management Stakeholder Input Group) has held several meetings, and they have developed a list of flood control/prevention measures that will receive further consideration in this ongoing effort (a single large dam, 3-6 intermediate-sized dams, and/or hundreds of small dams throughout the watershed). The Corps has been asked to present cost estimates for the three options at the next meeting to be held in early September. Mayor Williams is the designated spokesperson for the Group.

District Projects Updates

Central Big Sioux River Watershed Implementation Project - Roger Strom reviewed activity on this project. Work continues on the draft final report, which has been reviewed in-house and by DENR staff. A series of conservation easements will be signed on Tuesday, July 20th, at the Castlewood City Hall. Four separate easements will be finalized, all located on land along the Big Sioux River in northern Hamlin County. The final project easements, along Slip Up Creek in Minnehaha County, are expected to be finalized by late August. Water quality sampling on the Big Sioux River will be restarted in August to compare with past readings.

WQM/Lake Poinsett Discharge Monitoring - Kevin Christenson reviewed District river and stream discharge monitoring activities. He and Ethan Swanson, District Summer Field Technician, gather stream/river discharge measurements from about twenty (20) sites in the watersheds of the Minnesota, Big Sioux and Vermillion Rivers. The locations are currently being monitored by the SD Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) for water quality. The discharge information, coupled with the water quality data, will allow determination of the actual loads of any pollutants detected.

Mr. Christenson also summarized District efforts to monitor the flow of water into and out of Lake Poinsett. Beginning in mid-April, the flow of water into the lake from Lake Albert (at the Prairie Quay development) and the flow out of the lake at the outlet flood control gates has been measured. The measurements were started after the spring melt/runoff. Through mid-June, the information suggests a net loss of water. However, for the past month, flows into the lake have exceeded discharge, resulting in a net gain of water.

In late June, the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers (Omaha Office) requested all available data, as they were attempting to create a predictive model for lake levels. At that time, the number of sites being monitored was expanded in an effort to better understand water movement in the lake, its watershed and how these interact with, and are influenced by, the Big Sioux River.

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Adjournment

There being no additional District business, Chairman Eggers declared the meeting adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

Doug Feten, Secretary

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