



East Dakota Water Development District
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MINUTES
July 19, 2012

The Board of Directors of the East Dakota Water Development District (EDWDD) held a regular meeting on July 19, 2012, at the District 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
Vincent Flemming
Martin Jarrett
Kay Kassube
Roger Scheibe
Jerry Soholt
John Weidler

Others Present

Gary Duffy, Oldham
Jesse Johnson, SD Corn
John Maursetter, Lake County Environmental
John Moes, Florence

Staff Present

Kevin Christenson
Jay Gilbertson
Jeremy Hinke
Deb Springman
Kristi Thielen

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Administrative Items

Approval of Agenda The Manager requested that two items be added under the Administrative Items (Travel Authorization and Equipment Purchase), and to have one item added under District Project Updates (Watershed Education Grant).

Motion by Soholt, seconded by Kassube to approve the agenda as amended. Motion carried unanimously.

Minutes - The Board reviewed the Minutes of the June 21st, 2012 meeting.

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

Financial Reports - The Board reviewed the June 2012 Financial Report.

Motion by Soholt, seconded by Brown to accept the June 2012 Financial Report. Motion carried unanimously. Chairman Jarrett then asked that the report be placed in the District files.

Report of Meetings and Conferences - Directors Brown, Connelly, Flemming and Kassube attended the Upper Minnesota River Watershed Friendship Tour in Grant County on July 11.

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Director Flemming attended meetings of the Upper Big Sioux Watershed Advisory Board on June 21 and the Lake Pelican Water Project District on July 18. Both meetings were held in Watertown.

The Manager briefly commented on the following meetings he attended:

1. **June 26** - Vermillion. Discussion of well head protection measures with SD Geological Survey.
2. **June 27** - Brookings. Open World Program - Presentations to visiting delegation of Russian educators and scientists.
3. **June 28 & 29** - Pierre. South Dakota Board of Water & Natural Resources.
3. **July 10** - Yankton. James River Water Development District Board of Directors.
4. **July 11** - Northeast South Dakota. Upper Minnesota River Watershed Friendship Tour.
5. **July 17** - Rapid City. US Geological Survey - Stream discharge research discussion.
6. **July 18** - Rapid City. West Dakota Water Development District Board of Directors.

Upcoming Meetings -

1. **July 23** - 9:00 a.m. - Room 413 State Capitol Building, Pierre. First meeting of the Watershed Task Force.
2. **July 25** - 8:30 a.m. - Lewis & Clark RWS Water Treatment Plant, Vermillion. SDARWS Managers Group.
3. **July 26** - 7:00 p.m. - Madison. Lake County Clean Water Committee.
4. **August 2** - 3:30 p.m. - County Commissioner's Room, Minnehaha County Administrative Building, Sioux Falls. Minnehaha County Comprehensive Plan Development Committee.
5. **August 16** - 9:30 a.m. - Milbank Community Center, 1001 East Fourth Avenue (US Highway 12), Milbank. August EDWDD Board of Directors Meeting.

Payment Requests:

Lake County Commission - At the October 2010 meeting, the Board agreed to award \$45,000 in District cost-share assistance, to be distributed in annual payments of \$15,000, to Lake County in support of their environmental education and compliance position. The County requested the first payment of \$15,000 in December 2010, to cover 2011 expenses. The County has submitted a request for a second payment of \$15,000 to cover 2012 expenses for the effort.

Motion by Kassube, seconded by Weidler to authorize payment of \$15,000 to Lake County as requested. Motion carried unanimously.

Day County Conservation District - At the December 2009 meeting, the Board agreed to provide District cost-share assistance totaling \$8,000 in general support for the Northeast Glacial Lakes Watershed Protection and Implementation Project, sponsored by the Day County Conservation District (DCCD). A payment of \$1,800 was made in support of project activities in December 2010. DCCD has requested a second expenditure of \$1,180 in support of educational outreach activities, specifically the Upper Minnesota River Watershed Friendship Tour.

Motion by Brown, seconded by Flemming to authorize expenditure of \$1,180 as requested. The Manager noted that with this payment, \$5,020 of District support would remain for this effort. Motion carried with Directors Brown, Connelly, Flemming, Kassube, Scheibe, Weidler and Chairman Jarrett in favor, and Director Sohlt opposed.

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Chairman Jarrett noted that when the original award of project assistance was made, the Northeast Glacial Lakes Project encompassed a portion of the District (eastern Day County). However, with the withdrawal of eastern Day County from the District in late 2010, he had concern about providing support for a program that was benefitting an area that was no longer part of East Dakota. The Manager indicated that with the recent expansion of the Project into Grant County to support restoration efforts in the Yellow Bank River watershed, the Project once again is partially within the District. It was the consensus of the Board to revisit the District's commitment to the Project at the August meeting, and to perhaps expressly limit District assistance to activities within the District. The Manager said he would place the issue on the August agenda, and ask representatives of the Project to attend.

Travel Authorization - The Manager requested Board authorization for Jeremy Hinke to attend training workshops on the IOWATER Volunteer Water Monitoring Program in Des Moines, Iowa, on August 4th and on Conservation Applications of LiDAR Data, to be held in St. Cloud, Minnesota, on August 14 & 15.

Motion by Connelly, seconded by Kassube to authorize Mr. Hinke's attendance at the workshops as requested. Motion carried unanimously.

Equipment Purchase - The Manager requested Board authorization to replace the six-year old laptop computer that he is currently using and to upgrade the operating system software for all District computers. The replacement cost for the computer would be approximately \$1,800, and the software upgrade approximately \$1,000. The funds for the unit are in the current District budget.

Motion by Soholt, seconded by Brown to authorize purchase of the computer and software as requested. Motion carried unanimously.

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General Program Review

Chairman Jarrett noted that staff and the Finance Committee would be developing the draft 2013 District budget over the course of the next two months. As such, he indicated that it might be a good time for the Board to discuss potential new District projects or activities so that any necessary adjustments could be made in the budgeting process. The Board and the Manager discussed several potential efforts, but did not make a final decisions. Chairman Jarrett indicated he would like this discussion to continue at the August meeting.

Watersheds for Public Officials Project

The Manager presented the Board with a Letter of Agreement for a grant from the South Dakota Discovery Center in support of a project to develop educational materials on watersheds in South Dakota. The Manager had previously submitted a proposal for funding under the State Non-Point Source Information and Education Program (managed by the SD Discovery Center) to develop a presentation on watershed delineation and hydrology for presentation to public officials and other stakeholders in eastern South Dakota. The presentations are intended to provide the recipients with an understanding of the role and importance of watershed of all scales in the area, particularly with regard to water management. The grant award is for \$4,500, with the balance of project costs (\$3,000) to be provided by the District. Work on the activity would begin in the fall, and it will be completed by August 31, 2013.

Motion by Weidler, seconded by Sohlt to authorize the Chairman to sign the Letter of Agreement as requested. Motion carried unanimously.

District Projects Updates

Regional Watershed Advisory Task Force - The Manager reviewed the agenda for the first meeting of the Regional Watershed Advisory Task Force, to be held on July 23rd in Pierre. Informational presentations are scheduled to be given by representatives of the United States Geological Survey (general hydrology of South Dakota, trends and historical comparisons of stream flow), the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (federal drainage and wetlands issues, requirements and restrictions) and the South Attorney General's Office (basic legal principles relating to drainage and state drainage law). The Manager is scheduled to give a presentation on the current situation and issues regarding implementation of drainage regulation.

The Manager indicated that the second meeting of the Task Force would likely be held in eastern South Dakota, and that it was his intention to offer to help facilitate the meeting.

Dakota Water Watch - Jeremy Hinke summarized the activities relating to Dakota Water Watch over the spring and first half of the summer. Four training sessions were held in April and May across the district (Watertown, Arlington, Madison, Sioux Falls) for veteran and new volunteers. To date, data has been submitted from 61 monitoring sites across 19 individual water bodies. This is an increase from 2011, and both numbers are expected to rise further before the end of the sampling season. Field data sheets have been reviewed and information entered into an Excel spreadsheet for analysis at the conclusion of the year. The South Dakota Canoe and Kayak Association held their annual sampling event on Lake Alvin on June 16th. This year was the best turnout for participants since the event began in 2008 with 15 people attending, allowing 14 sites to be monitored across the lake within a few minutes of one another. Results showed that the lake is not impaired for immersion recreation by South Dakota standards, but that the mouth of Nine Mile Creek should be avoided due to the higher probability of elevated bacteria counts in that area.

Education and Outreach

Deb Spring reported on District water resource education and outreach efforts:

The 20th Big Sioux water Festival was held on the SDSU Campus on May 8th. Over 1,000 fourth graders attended from 54 different classes from across the District. Teachers were asked to evaluate the various presenters at the event, and both teachers and presenters filled out post-event questionnaires. The evaluations and questionnaires will be used to improve future events, including bringing in new and different activities. For the event, a new event mascot was acquired, and the District now has an 18-foot tall, inflatable mosasaur. It was a big hit with everyone. The manufacturer, Landmark Creations of Burnsville, Minnesota, recently featured the inflatable and the water festival in their quarterly newsletter. She noted that they would also be making a permanent page devoted to the mosasaur on their web page, with links to both the water festival and the district sites.

Ms. Springman and Lindsey Thielen participated in the 5th Annual Outdoor Expo in Huron on June 9th and 10th.

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Ms. Springman wrote an article about water festivals in South Dakota for the July edition of the South Dakota Association of Rural water Systems Quality On Tap magazine.

Ms. Springman and Ms. Thielen organized and are leading water camps at the Children's Museum of South Dakota in Brookings. The camps present information on the water in lakes and streams and the animals that live in and around them. It includes building a beaver dam in the stream at the museum. Several programs were held in June, with others scheduled for late July. This is the second summer Ms. Springman has led this program.

The District website has been updated over the past few months. The pages on the Big Sioux Watershed, Dakota Water Watch and Big Sioux Water Festival all have on-line site-visitor questionnaires, forms for enrolling in programs and signing up for water festival trunks. Ms. Springman has added the program StatCounter, which tracks site and page visits, word searches length of time spent viewing sites/pages. In the past year there have been over 1,100 hits on the Big Sioux Water Festival website, 460 hits on the District website, 400 hits on the Big Sioux site and 84 on the Dakota Water Watch site.

Adjournment

There being no additional District business, Chairman Jarrett declared the meeting adjourned at 12:15 p.m.

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Roger Schiebe, Secretary

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