



**East Dakota Water Development District**  
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**MINUTES**  
**July 17, 2014**

The Board of Directors of the East Dakota Water Development District (EDWDD) held a regular meeting on July 17, 2014, at the District Office in Brookings. Chairman Jarrett called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. The following persons attended:

**Directors Present**

Mark Anderson  
Lois Brown  
Mary Ellen Connelly  
Gary Duffy  
Martin Jarrett  
Kay Kassube  
John Moes  
Roger Scheibe

**Others Present**

Roger Hageman, Lake County Commission  
Jesse Johnson, SD Corn  
Jeppe Kjaersgaard, SDSU Water resources Institute  
John Maursetter, Lake County  
Mike Schmidt, SD Farm Bureau  
Janelle Weatherly, Flandreau

**Directors Absent**

Jerry Soholt

**Staff Present**

Jay Gilbertson

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**Administrative Items**

Approval of Agenda The Manager requested that item III, Agricultural subsurface drainage impacts on hydrology in eastern South Dakota, be dropped from the Agenda.

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

Minutes - The Board revisited the Minutes of the May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2014, meeting. The Manager noted that he had left out a discussion, led by Chairman Jarrett, concerning efforts to encourage the regionalization of the management and oversight of waste water collection and treatment systems in small communities. He offered the following text (underlined below) as an addition/amendment to the May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2014, Minutes to address this omission:

**Management of Small Community Waste Water Systems**

Chairman Jarrett briefed the Board on the experience of the Big Sioux Community Water System at providing day-to-day management and operation of the waste water collection and treatment

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systems for several small communities in their service area. Individual small towns often have trouble retaining qualified staff to manage and maintain such facilities, resulting in more frequent problems and high repair costs. By providing a common source of service for multiple communities, better service is possible while concurrently keeping costs down. He also discussed his interest in promoting comparable waste water system management in other areas. He cited several recent examples of small community systems that required substantial state and federal grants to replace/update waste water systems, the need for which could likely be attributed to inadequate maintenance. It was the consensus of the Board that such “regionalization” of waste water system management could provide benefit to system users and reduce costs at a variety of levels. Chairman Jarrett and the Manager will explore options to promote this concept within the District and across the state.

**Motion** by Connelly, seconded by Brown to amend the May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2014, Minutes to reflect the addition of this text. Motion carried unanimously.

The Board reviewed the Minutes of the June 19<sup>th</sup>, 2014, meeting.

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

Financial Reports - The Manager requested deferral of consideration of the June 2014 Financial Report until the August Board meeting. With the resignation of the District Administrative Assistant at the end of June, he was in the process of transitioning the District bookkeeping activities to a local accounting service. As such, he had not been in a position to have the standard financial reports prepared in time for the July Board meeting.

**Motion** by Duffy, seconded by Kassube to defer consideration and action on the June 2014 Financial Report until the August Board meeting as requested. Motion carried unanimously.

Report of Meetings and Conferences - Director Connelly reported on a meeting of the Friends of the Big Sioux in Sioux Falls on June 25<sup>th</sup>.

Director Scheibe reported on a meeting of the Central Big Sioux River Watershed Project (CBSRWP) Steering Committee which met in Sioux Falls on June 24<sup>th</sup>. He noted that the Moody County Conservation District, CBSRWP sponsor, has requested that an alternate District Board member be appointed as an alternate to the Steering Committee.

**Motion** by Moes, seconded by Anderson to designate Director Scheibe as the District representative to the CBSRWP Steering Committee, with Director Brown as the alternate, with each to serve in this capacity until such time as the Board opts to change the representatives. Motion carried unanimously.

The Manager briefly commented on the following meetings and activities:

1. **June 24** - Webster. South Dakota Association of Conservation Districts (SDACD) Coteau Area meeting.
2. **June 29** - Brookings DDN site. South Dakota Board of Water & Natural Resources.

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3. **July 7** - Brookings. Meeting with SD DENR Groundwater Quality Program staff on source water protection.
4. **July 14-16** - Hamlin County. WHPA II drilling and observation well installation.

Upcoming Meetings -

1. **July 14 thru August 14** - various regional public water supply well fields. EDWDD WHPA II Project observation well installation with South Dakota Geological Survey drilling rig/crew.
2. **July 22 - 8:00 a.m.** - Bakker Crossing GC, Tea. Rural Water Open.
3. **July 23 - 8:00 a.m.** - Lewis & Clark RWS Office, Tea. SD Association of Rural Water Systems Manager's Group meeting.
4. **July 24 - 9:00 a.m.** - State Capitol, Pierre. Regional Watershed Advisory Task Force meeting.
5. **August 21 - 8:00 a.m.** - SDSU Extension Regional Center, Mitchell. SDSU College of Agriculture and Biological Sciences Advisory Board Summer Meeting.

**Motion** by Duffy, seconded by Scheibe to hold the August Board of Directors meeting on Friday, August 22<sup>nd</sup>, at the Buffalo Ridge Conference Center, Gary. Motion carried unanimously.

6. **August 22 - 9:30 a.m.** - Buffalo Ridge Conference Center, Gary. August EDWDD Board of Directors Meeting.

Payment Requests - *South Dakota State University (I)* - The Manager presented the Board with a request for payment from South Dakota State University (SDSU). In October 2013, the District agreed to provide \$6,000 in cost-share assistance to SDSU (Guanghai Hua and others) for a research project entitled, "Nutrient Removal from Agricultural Subsurface Drainage Using Denitrification Bioreactors and Phosphate Adsorbents." The current billing, for \$107.10, covers District support obligations incurred between March 1 and May 31, 2014. This is the first request for this project.

*South Dakota State University (II)* - The Manager presented the Board with a request for payment from SDSU. In March 2011, the District agreed to provide \$18,750 in cost-share assistance to SDSU (Jeppe Kjaersgaard and others) for a research project entitled, "Demonstration of Nitrogen Removal Effectiveness of Bioreactors for Drainage Water Management." The current billing, for \$1,669.70, covers District support obligations incurred between April 1 and June 30, 2014. The District has previously provided \$2,345.68 in project assistance on this project.

The Manager requested authorization to pay both payment requests, for a total of \$1,776.80.

**Motion** by Kassube, seconded by Brown to authorize payments totaling \$1,776.80 to SDSU for the two projects as requested. Motion carried unanimously.

### **Out-of-State Travel Request**

The Manager requested authorization to attend the 59<sup>th</sup> Annual Midwest Groundwater Conference, which will be held in Lawrence, Kansas, on September 30 to October 2.

**Motion** by Connelly, seconded by Moes to authorize out-of-state travel by the Manager to attend the 59<sup>th</sup> Annual Midwest Groundwater Conference as requested. Motion carried unanimously.

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## Water Resource Information Outreach

The Manager reviewed several options that the Board has discussed over the past few months to provide the public with information about a range of water resource issues using signs or other forms of communication.

One option was to pursue development of informational signs for placement at highway wayside rest areas and similar venues. The intent would be to provide general information about the geology and hydrology of the area. The South Dakota Chapter of the American Institute of Professional Geologists (SDAIPG), in conjunction with other local stakeholders, installed a roadside sign along US Highway 16 near Rockerville in the Black Hills. The sign contains text, maps and images that describe the regional and local geology that can be observed at the stop, and includes links to additional resources that might be explored. SDAIPG has expressed an interest in establishing similar signs in the eastern part of the State.

Another option discussed was the placement of small signs/placards that denote such things as the boundaries of river/stream watersheds or reminders that storm water inlets lead directly to area lakes and streams. In contrast to the first option, these would contain minimal information and serve primarily as reminders of key points.

Lastly, discussion was held regarding signs or notices that would provide information about the condition of area water bodies, along with appropriate contextual information with which the information could be interpreted by the public. The signs could include information about the designated beneficial uses that have been established by the State of South Dakota for the water body, along with current water quality information and whether or not the water bodies are considered impaired. The Manager noted that developing the materials for such signs/notices would not be easy, particularly if current water quality data indicated that the threshold levels for one or more beneficial uses was being exceeded. For example, not all points of entry to a lake or river meet the definition of a public beach, and therefore there is no set mechanism for formal closure even if the water quality fails to meet the applicable standards.

Several Board members raised the issue of long-term maintenance of any signs that might be installed under the options presented. The Manager stated that he would include this in any forthcoming proposals.

Following the discussions, the Manager indicated that he would be comfortable pursuing specific proposals to implement either of the first two options, most likely in conjunction with other stakeholder groups, including SDAIPG. He indicated that it would be his intent to have something for the Board to consider later on in the year. It was the consensus of the Board and Manager that implementation of the third option would be deferred, pending further discussions with other potential stakeholders in the matter.

## District Projects Updates

East Dakota Riparian Area Restoration and Protection Project Update - The Manager reviewed the recent history of the East Dakota Riparian Area Restoration and Protection Project (Project). In April 2012, the District entered into an agreement with the Northern Prairies Land Trust (NPLT) to provide up to \$160,820 in support of the Project. The Project was intended to restore and protect the beneficial uses of impaired water bodies within the Minnesota, Big Sioux, and Vermillion River basins in the District by promoting and implementing riparian conservation easements. The District initiated the Project in late 2010, with support of EPA Section 319 grant funds. The 319 funds were leveraged largely by the District support.

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The Manager noted that for a variety of reasons, the Project has made little forward progress and is scheduled to expire at the end of July. By mutual agreement, NPLT and SD DENR have agreed to close the Project down. As a result, the balance of the 319 grant, roughly \$219,910, will revert to SD DENR and may be redirected to other projects. He noted that to date, NPLT has drawn \$16,544 of the pledged \$160,820 District support, with no further reimbursement requests pending. The balance of District support for the Project will eventually need to be formally de-obligated.

Updating/Implementation of Comprehensive Local Groundwater Protection for Shallow Aquifers in Eastern South Dakota (WHPA II) - The Manager reviewed recent field work in support of the *Updating/Implementation of Comprehensive Local Groundwater Protection for Shallow Aquifers in Eastern South Dakota (WHPA II) Project*. A South Dakota Geological Survey (SDGS) drilling rig arrived in the area on July 14<sup>th</sup>, with work beginning in the Lake Norden area. During five weeks of drilling, observation wells will be installed at well fields for public water supplies in Hamlin, Codington, Clark, Grant, and Clay Counties.

### Executive Session

**Motion** by Kassube, seconded by Brown to go into executive session at 11:55 a.m. to discuss personnel issues with the Manager/Treasurer. Motion carried unanimously. **Motion** by Schiebe, seconded by Moes to go come out of executive session at 12:14 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

### 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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