



East Dakota Water Development District
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MINUTES
March 15, 2012

The Board of Directors of the East Dakota Water Development District (EDWDD) held a regular meeting on March 15, 2012, 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
Mary Ellen Connelly
Martin Jarrett
Kay Kassube
Roger Scheibe
Jerry Soholt
John Weidler

Others Present

- none -

Staff Present

Kevin Christenson
Jay Gilbertson
Jeremy Hinke
Deb Springman
Kristi Thielen

Directors Absent

- none -

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Administrative Items

Approval of Agenda

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

Minutes - The Board reviewed the Minutes of the February 23, 2012.

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

Financial Reports - The Board reviewed the February 2012 financial report.

Motion by Scheibe, seconded by Soholt to accept the February 2012 financial report. Motion carried unanimously. Chairman Jarrett then asked that the report be placed in the District files.

The Manager presented and reviewed changes to the FY 2012 District operational budget. He noted that the changes reflect the actual closing 2011 expenditures and accountant balances. Specific changes were proposed for the District staff travel (increase of \$2,700) and water quality testing (increase of \$500) budget. The balance of the unobligated funds were included in Project Assistance fund.

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Motion by Weidler, seconded by Kassube to adopt the changes to the 2012 District operational budget as presented. Motion carried unanimously. Chairman Jarrett then asked that the report be placed in the District files.

Report of Meetings and Conferences - Director Flemming attended the Annual Meeting of the Lake Pelican Water Project District in Watertown on March 13th.

Director Weidler attended the March 6th meeting of the Miner County Commission in Howard.

Chairman Jarrett attended the Lake County Clean Water Committee meeting in Madison on March 1st.

The Manager briefly commented on the following meetings he attended:

1. March 1st - Minnesota River Basin Projects AREA II Board of Directors Meeting.
2. March 1st - Madison. Lake County Clean Water Committee.
3. March 2nd - SDSU, Brookings. 2012 Eastern South Dakota Water Conference planning session.
4. March 6th - SDSU, Brookings. South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks-sponsored discussion of wildlife habitat loss.
5. March 8th - Hayti. North Marsh Lake Watershed District Board of Supervisors Meeting.
6. March 9th - via teleconference. South Dakota Board of Water and Natural Resources.
7. March 9th - Madison. City of Madison Public Works Director.
8. March 13th - Brookings. Brookings County Commission.
9. March 13th - Bradley. Rural drainage presentation to northern Clark County residents.

Upcoming Meetings -

1. **March 19 & 20** - University of Sioux Falls, Sioux Falls. Sioux Empire Water Festival.
2. **March 19 - 1:00 p.m.** - Brookings. Sioux Valley County Commissioners Group.
3. **March 20 - 9:30 a.m.** - Howard. Miner County Commission.
4. **March 21 - 10:00 a.m.** - Galleon Café, Webster. South Dakota Association of Towns and Townships Northeast Counties Meeting.
5. **March 28 - 9:00 a.m.** - Sioux Falls. South Dakota Corn Council Board of Directors.
6. **March 29 & 30 - 10:00 a.m.** - Pierre. South Dakota Board of Water and Natural Resources.
7. **March 29 - 5:00 p.m.** - Community Center, Lake Norden. First District Association of Local Governments.
8. **March 30 - 1:00 p.m.** - Sioux Valley Electric, Colman. Central Big Sioux River Watershed Project public information meeting.
9. **April 3 - 6:30 p.m.** - Chester High School, Chester. Big Sioux Community Water System Annual Meeting.
10. **April 3 - 6:30 p.m.** - American Legion Hall, White. Brookings-Deuel Rural Water System Annual Meeting.
11. **April 5 - 9:00 a.m.** - AmericInn, Fort Pierre. South Dakota Association of Rural Water Systems Board of Directors Meeting.
12. **April 9 - 6:30 p.m.** - Arlington High School, Arlington. KingBrook Rural Water System Annual meeting.
13. **April 19 - 9:30 a.m.** - Big Sioux Community Water System water treatment plant, Egan. April EDWDD Board of Directors Meeting.

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2012 General Election - The Manager reviewed the current status of nominating petitions filed for positions on the District Board. The terms of office for Director Areas 2, 4, 6, and 8 will expire on December 31, 2012. New four-year terms of office will begin for these positions on January 1, 2013. In addition, the current term of office for Director Area 1 will expire on December 31, 2012. Successful candidates for this position will serve until the end of December 2014. Persons interested in any of these positions must file nominating petitions no later than March 27th for consideration during the 2012 general election cycle. He noted that as of that morning, petitions had been filed with the South Dakota Secretary of State Office by the incumbent directors for Areas 1, 4 and 8, and that petitions were being filed by the incumbents for the other positions (Areas 2 & 6). No other petitions had been filed for any of the pending vacancies on the Board.

Director Area 5 Vacancy - The Manager reported that there had not been any nominating petitions had been submitted for the current vacancy within Director Area 5. The vacancy was advertised in the Sioux Falls Argus Leader. Petitions and explanatory material had been distributed to several persons who requested such information. According to the process established by the Board at the January meeting, and as stated in the public notices, nominating petitions for the vacancy for the balance of 2012 were to be submitted to the District office no later than 5:00 p.m. on March 7th. No petitions were received in the intervening period.

2012 Legislative Session Report

The Manager reviewed the results of the nearly completed 2012 South Dakota Legislative Session. He summarized the status of the bills he had been following over the course of the session, highlighting a few of the major issues of concern:

House Bill 1087, An Act to limit the terms of certain conservation easements. Tabled by the House of Representatives on February 8th.

House Bill 1203, An Act to revise auditing requirements for water development districts. The bill passed both chambers with nominal resistance, and was signed by the Governor on February 24th.

House Bill 1240, An Act to separately classify, assess, and tax agricultural land that is leased for certain purposes that restrict the use of the land. This bill was deferred until the 41st day on February 7th.

House Bill 1243, An Act to require that notice be provided before certain drainage activities are undertaken. This bill was tabled in House Local Government on February 7th.

Senate Bill 37, An Act to make an appropriation from the coordinated natural resources conservation fund to the State Conservation Commission and to declare an emergency. The bill passed both chambers and was signed by the Governor on March 2nd.

Senate Bill 83, An Act to revise certain provisions relating to water development districts. The bill passed both chambers with nominal resistance, and was signed by the Governor on March 2nd.

Senate Bill 160, An Act to revise certain provisions relating to the James River Water Development District. Passed the full Senate, but was tabled by the House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee on February 23rd.

Senate Bill 169, An Act to establish the Regional Watershed Advisory Task Force. The bill passed both chambers, and is awaiting action by the Governor.

Senate Bill 195, 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, to revise the state water plan, to authorize the construction and establish the state cost share for the Belle Fourche irrigation upgrade project, and to declare an emergency. The bill passed both chambers unopposed, and was signed by the Governor on March 2nd.

Senate Concurrent Resolution 5, Supporting and encouraging a 2012 interim study and thorough review of drainage laws in South Dakota. Passed both chambers with minimal opposition.

The Manager noted that with the two bills brought forward by the water development districts (SB 83 and HB 1203), proposals to address water management/drainage (SCR 5 and SB 169) and the ongoing troubles experienced by the James River WDD, it had been a relatively busy session.

Project Assistance Request

Town of Reville - The Manager presented the Board with a request for cost-share assistance on behalf of the Town of Reville. Several years ago, the community undertook an assessment of surface drainage within its borders. Reville is located on the eastern flank of the Coteau des Prairies in southern Grant County. Consequently, runoff from either snow melt or rain tends to cause flooding problems for this small community. The Town has recently initiated efforts to put recommendations from the earlier study into place, and has engaged the services of a local engineering firm to develop construction plans, conduct necessary surveys, ditch and culvert designs, etc.. The overall cost for these services is \$5,870. The request from the Town is for District cost-share assistance for one-half of the projected costs, which could amount to \$2,935.

Motion by Connelly, seconded by Scheibe to provide District cost-share assistance of fifty percent (50%) of the costs of the engineering and design work, up to a maximum amount of \$2,935. Motion carried unanimously.

Watershed Education Activities

The Manager indicated that while there is a growing legislative awareness of the need to address water quantity (drainage) issues, as represented by the passage of SCR 5 and the likely passage of SB 169, he has recognized a need to for better understanding of the role and function of watersheds. Much of the discussion during the legislative session involved an interest in looking at drainage matters from a watershed perspective, but there remained a number of basic questions about what are watersheds, how they are defined, and how they could be delineated for management purposes. To address this need, the Manager proposed to pursue the development of three projects to provide for a greater level of understanding of watersheds.

1. Development of a presentation that describes and defines watersheds in general, and South Dakota in particular. The material would be targeted at public officials, stakeholder groups and the general public. A comparable presentation on ground water was developed by the Manager several years

ago. Funding for the effort would be pursued through the South Dakota Watershed Information and Education Program.

2. Development of a South Dakota State University Cooperative Extension Service (CES) publication on watersheds. Several years ago, the District had agreed to support the publication of a CES publication in development that would provide a good overview of watersheds, with a particular emphasis on water quality protection. Several rounds of staff turnover at CES have kept this document from being finished and distributed. However, the District support remains, and the Manager will press current CES staff and leadership to complete this now very timely project. Funding for the publication of this document is already available from the District.
3. Installation of a series of road signs that mark watershed boundaries along state and county roads. The effort would be intended to raise public awareness of where watersheds begin/end. The signs could be developed for large regional watersheds such as the Big Sioux River, tributary streams (Skunk Creek), or even small local watersheds impacting a single lake. Funding for the effort would be pursued through the South Dakota Watershed Information and Education Program.

The Manager indicated that he would report on the status of these efforts at the April Board meeting.

Adjournment

There being no further District business, Chairman Jarrett declared the meeting adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

Roger Scheibe, Secretary

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