



East Dakota Water Development District
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MINUTES
March 17, 2016

The Board of Directors of the East Dakota Water Development District (EDWDD) held a regular meeting on March 17, 2016, at the EDWDD office in Brookings. Chairman Jarrett called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. The following persons attended:

Directors Present

Mark Anderson
Lois Brown
Gary Duffy
Martin Jarrett
Kay Kassube
John Moes
Jerry Soholt
Janelle Weatherly

Directors Absent

Mary Ellen Connelly

Others Present

Scott Anderson, Minnehaha County
Dale Blegen, Lake Preston Times
Luke Holland, City of Lake Preston
Gregg Jorgenson, Banner Associates
Dana Loseke, Friends of the Big Sioux River
Mike Schmidt, SD Farm Bureau
Stuart Twite, Lake Preston Times
Alan Wittmuss, SD Dept. Environment & Natural Resources

Staff Present

Kevin Christenson
Jay Gilbertson
Jeremy Hinke
Deb Springman

Administrative Items

Approval of Agenda -

Motion by Duffy, seconded by Anderson to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Minutes - The Board reviewed the Minutes of the February 18th, 2016, Board meeting. A typographical error was noted in the 2nd paragraph on the Discussion of Use of Tablets for Information Distribution on page 3, wherein “differ” is used when “defer” is needed.

Motion by Duffy, seconded by Weatherly to approve the Minutes as so amended. Motion carried unanimously.

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Financial Reports - The Board reviewed the February 2016 financial reports.

Motion by Moes, seconded by Soholt to accept the February 2016 financial report. Motion carried unanimously. Chairman Jarrett then asked that the report be placed in the District files.

The Manager noted that on March 15th, former District Administrative Assistant Kristi Thielen had plead guilty to one count of grand theft, a Class 4 felony, for embezzling District funds between 2010 and 2014. Full restitution of the funds taken, plus the extraordinary costs associated with documenting the losses, is expected. Sentencing is scheduled for April 12th.

Report of Meetings and Conferences - Director and Weatherly attended the Big Sioux River Watershed Project Steering Committee in Sioux Falls on March 16th.

Director Moes attended meetings of the Lake Pelican Water Project District on February 24th and March 15th, both meeting were held in Watertown.

Director Weatherly attended the Sioux Empire Water Festival on March 9th at the University of Sioux Falls in Sioux Falls.

Chairman Jarrett attended the March 7th meeting of the Rotary Club in Madison.

The Manager briefly commented on the following meetings he attended:

1. **February 22** - Huron. USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) cooperative agreement discussion.
2. **February 26** - Brookings. SDSU College of Agriculture and Biological Sciences Advisory Board.
3. **March 1** - Pierre. House & Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee testimony.
4. **March 3** - Pipestone, MN. Missouri River Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategy (WRAPS) Steering Committee.
5. **March 8** - Armour. South-Central Water Development District Board of Directors.
6. **March 8** - Rapid City. West Dakota Water Development District Board of Directors.
7. **March 9** - Murdo. West River Water Development District Board of Directors.
8. **March 11** - Brookings. 2016 Envirothon.
9. **March 15** - Flandreau. Moody County Conservation District Board of Supervisors.
10. **March 16** - Sioux Falls. Big Sioux River Watershed Project Steering Committee.
11. **March 16** - Brookings. Eastern South Dakota Water Conference Steering Committee.

Upcoming Meetings -

1. **March 22 & 23** - Ramkota Hotel, Pierre. 28th Annual Environmental & Ground Water Quality Conference.
2. **March 29** - Pierre. Final day of the 2016 Legislative Session.
3. **March 30 & 31** - Matthews Training Center, Pierre. SD Board of Water & Natural Resources.
4. **April 5** - White. Brookings-Deuel Rural Water System Annual Meeting.
5. **April 7 & 8** - Rapid City. 2016 Western South Dakota Hydrology Conference.
6. **April 11** - Arlington. Kingbrook Rural Water System Annual Meeting.
7. **April 14** - Britton. James River Water Development District Board of Directors.

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8. **April 21 - 9:30 a.m.** - Minnehaha Community Water Corporation Office, Dell Rapids. April EDWDD Board of Directors.

Equipment Purchase Authorizations - The Manager requested Board authorization to purchase surveying equipment to be used for developing transects across rivers and streams under study, and to measure water levels in area lakes using state and federal benchmarks. The equipment would replace similar items acquired 17 years ago which must be replaced. Replacement costs are estimated at \$1,000.00.

Motion by Kassube, seconded by Duffy to authorize the purchase of surveying equipment as requested. Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion continued on the acquisition of tablet computers for use by the Board for information distribution and record access. This would use internet-based mechanisms to distribute the monthly Board packet, meeting Minutes, and general announcements. The Manager indicated that acquisition of the hardware (tablets) would require an investment of about \$4,000 to \$5,000. There would also be a monthly access charge (\$100 to \$120) to allow use of the devices at times when wifi service was unavailable. The Manager noted that hard copy of many of the documents distributed in this manner would still need to be generated to satisfy public record and open meeting requirements.

Motion by Sohlt, seconded by Anderson to authorize the purchase of the necessary hardware and support services to initiate use of tablet computers as proposed. Motion carried with Directors Anderson, Brown, Kassube, Sohlt, Weatherly and Chairman Jarrett supporting and Directors Duffy and Moes opposed.

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Project Assistance Request

City of Lake Preston Wastewater Facility Plan - Luke Holland, Water Superintendent for the City of Lake Preston, and Gregg Jorgenson, Banner Associates, presented a request on behalf of the City of Lake Preston for District cost-share assistance to complete a facility plan of their waste water collection and treatment system. The focus of the effort will be to assess the current state of the system, and to assess the capability of the system to withstand the addition of a significant load increase (doubling of current load) as the result of a new industry. The City has entered into an agreement with Banner Engineering to complete the work, at a projected total cost of \$31,500. A Small Communities Planning Grant from the South Dakota Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has been requested for \$10,000, but no decision has been made. The Manager indicated that the City is requesting fifty percent of the local costs, which could be as high as \$15,750.

Motion by Brown, seconded by Duffy to provide District cost-share assistance to the City of Lake Preston covering fifty percent (50%) of the local costs of the proposed study, up to a maximum of \$15,750. The Manager reiterated that if a Small Communities Planning Grant was ultimately provided, District costs would be lowered accordingly. Motion carried unanimously.

2016 Legislative Session Review

The Manager reviewed the status of, and actions he has taken on, numerous bills he has tracked as the District lobbyist during the ongoing 91st Session of the South Dakota Legislature.

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House Bill (HB) 1024 An Act to make an appropriation for the maintenance and repair of state owned dams and to declare an emergency. This bill passed both chambers and was signed by Governor Daugaard.

HB 1082, An Act to codify the list of navigable streams requiring gates. This bill passed both chambers and was signed by the Governor.

HB 1094, An Act to increase the commercial fertilizer inspection fee for purposes of fertilizer-related research and education and to create the Nutrient Research and Education Council to promote such research and education. This bill passed both chambers and was signed by the Governor.

Senate Bill (SB) 68, An Act to make appropriations from the water and environment fund and its revolving subfunds for various water and environmental purposes, to revise solid waste management program recycling provision, to revise water and environment fund loan terms, and to declare an emergency. This bill passed both chambers and was signed by the Governor.

SB 116, An Act to remove any reference to land ownership being a requirement for participation in any actions pertaining to the creation of or withdrawal from a water development district. This bill passed both chambers and was signed by the Governor.

SB 136, An Act to permit certain cropland along lakes, rivers, and streams to be assessed as noncropland. This bill passed both chambers and is awaiting action by the Governor. Given that representatives from the SD Departments of Agriculture and Revenue opposed the bill in committee hearings, a veto is anticipated.

SD Department of Environment & Natural Resources Cooperative Studies

Alan Wittmuss, South Dakota Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Watershed Protection Program, briefed the Board on two activities which they would like the District to become involved with. He noted that District staff had unique skills that would allow DENR to expand its information collection efforts beyond what current DENR staff could achieve.

Stream Reference Site Development - At present, the primary assessment tool used by DENR to assess stream condition is water quality sampling. Assessments of the physical condition of the stream and the state of the flora and fauna have been completed, but only sporadically. To better understand stream health and condition, DENR is interested in establishing a number of reference sites for assessing the condition of our rivers and streams.

Physical, chemical and biologic conditions would be examined at up to sixty (60) sites across the state, a number of which are likely to fall within the District. With present resources, it would take DENR staff six to seven years to complete the initial assessment of these sites. District staff, either on our own or in conjunction with DENR staff, could reduce the time required to complete the first round of assessments to perhaps four years.

Supplemental Lake Water Quality Data - There are currently several lakes in eastern South Dakota which are considered to be impaired, but for which there is insufficient information available to complete a total maximum daily load (TMDL) determination. DENR has proposed a contract under which the District would gather the necessary data from four (4) of these lakes during the 2016 and 2017 field

seasons. Three of the lakes are within, or immediately adjacent to, the District - Bullhead Lake in Deuel County, Lake Thompson in Kingsbury County, and Lake Carthage in Miner County. The fourth water body is Twin Lakes in southwest Sanborn County.

The Manager is working with DENR to develop a proposal to have staff collect the necessary information. The District would provide the staff for the effort, and DENR would cover all associated travel (meals and mileage) and analytical costs. For the work on Twin Lakes, the District would also charge them for staff time, as this is well outside of the District's area of operation and interest.

District Updates

2016 Water Quality Monitoring - The Manager reviewed plans for work during the 2016 field season. Water quality samples would be collected in support of the Big Sioux River Watershed Project on the Big Sioux River and selected tributaries, along with testing along Skunk Creek under the DENR-funded NWQI Assessment Study. Weekly testing for nitrates at all monitoring sites would continue to assess current conditions in the Big Sioux River and Minnesota River basins. Well development, followed by bi-weekly water level measurements is planned in support of the re-assessment of the county wellhead protection areas, with funding provided by the State Legislature through the Board of Water and Natural Resources. Lastly, District staff would be working on the lake sampling and stream assessment efforts previously described by Mr. Wittmuss. He anticipated hiring three or four summer seasonal staff.

Big Sioux Watershed Project - The Manager reviewed progress on efforts to work out a staffing agreement for the Big Sioux Watershed Project (Project) with the Moody County Conservation District (MCCD), which is the Project sponsor. An agreement in principle has been reached, however MCCD is requiring that Project staff be housed at the offices of the United States Department of Agriculture - Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) offices in Minnehaha County. The Manager is working with the NRCS State Office to complete the necessary agreement.

Adjournment

There being no further District business, Chairman Jarrett declared the meeting adjourned at 12:17 p.m.

John Moes, Secretary

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