



East Dakota Water Development District
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MINUTES
May 21, 2009

The Board of Directors of the East Dakota Water Development District (EDWDD) held a regular meeting on May 21, 2009 at the District office in Brookings. Chairman Eggers called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. The following persons attended:

Directors Present

Lois Brown
Curt Eggers
Doug Feten
Vincent Flemming
Martin Jarrett
John Johnson
Kay Kassube
Robert Todd
John Weidler

Others Present

Robert Athey, Big Stone City
Shirley Flemming, Florence

Staff Present

Jay Gilbertson
Jeremy Hinke
Deb Springman
Roger Strom
Kristi Thielen

Directors Absent

none

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Administrative Items

Approval of Agenda - The Manager asked to have an update report on the Big Sioux River near Sioux Falls Total Maximum Daily Load Project added to the Agenda. **Motion** by Weidler, seconded by Jarrett to approve the agenda as amended. Motion carried unanimously.

Minutes - The Board reviewed the Minutes of the meetings on April 16, 2009. **Motion** by Feten, seconded by Todd to approve the April 16th Minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Financial Reports - The Board reviewed the April 2009 Financial Report. **Motion** by Jarrett, seconded by Feten to accept the April 2009 Financial Report. Motion carried unanimously. Chairman Eggers then asked that the report be placed in the District files.

Report of Meetings and Conferences - Director Todd attended the Sioux Empire Water Festival at the University of Sioux Falls in Sioux Falls on March 27th.

Director Todd attended the Annual Meeting of the Kingbrook Rural Water System in Madison on April 13th.

Director Johnson attended the Upper Big Sioux River Watershed Advisory Board in Watertown on April 16th.

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Director Todd attended the Interlakes Water Quality Committee meeting in Madison on May 7th.

Directors Brown, Flemming and Todd attended the 17th Annual Big Sioux Water Festival at South Dakota State University in Brookings on May 12th.

Director Flemming attended the Lake Pelican Water Project District meeting in Watertown on May 20th.

Chairman Eggers attended a meeting on the Minnehaha County Farm Bureau Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) Project in Sioux Falls on May 20th.

The Manager briefly commented on the following meetings he attended:

1. **April 20** - Brookings. Central Big Sioux River Watershed Project riparian easement signing.
2. **April 21** - Flandreau. Moody County Conservation District Board of Supervisors.
3. **April 23** - Sioux Falls. Lewis and Clark Regional Water System Board of Directors.
4. **May 5** - Huron. James River Water Festival.
5. **May 6-8** - Rochester, MN. Minnesota Waters 2009 Lakes and Rivers Conference.
6. **May 11** - Milbank. Grant County Conservation District Board of Supervisors.
7. **May 12** - Brookings. 17th Annual Big Sioux Water Festival.
8. **May 13** - Ortonville, MN. Big Stone City/Ortonville Joint Water Board.
9. **May 13** - Sisseton. Roberts County Conservation District Board of Supervisors.
10. **May 16** - Waubay. South Dakota Lakes and Streams Association Annual Meeting.
11. **May 18** - Sioux Falls area. Tour of storm water retention and riparian restoration projects.

Upcoming Meetings -

1. **May 21 - 7:00 p.m.** - City Hall, Watertown. Upper Big Sioux River Watershed Advisory Board.
2. **May 27 - 1:00 p.m.** - Various DDN sites. SD Board of Water and Natural Resources.
3. **May 28 - 5:45 p.m.** - Holiday Inn City Center, Sioux Falls. Lewis & Clark RWS Annual Meeting.
4. **June 4 - 7:00 p.m.** - Dakota State University Science Center, Madison. Interlakes Water Quality Committee.
5. **June 11 - 1:00 p.m.** - EDWDD Office, Brookings. South Dakota Lakes & Streams Association Executive Committee.
6. **June 12 - 9:00 a.m.** - Sioux Falls. Lewis & Clark RWS Field Tour.
7. **June 18 - 9:00 a.m.** - EDWDD Office, Brookings. June EDWDD Board of Directors Meeting.

Committee Meeting Schedules - In preparation for development of the 2010 District budget, the Manager presented the Board with a tentative meeting schedule for the Personnel and Finance Committees. The Personnel Committee needs to meet to go over evaluations of the Manager and District staff, and to develop recommendations for 2010 compensation. The Finance Committee then needs to meet to develop a DRAFT budget for consideration by the full Board at the July meeting. The Manager suggested that both Committees could accomplish their missions with meetings on the morning of July 16th, the day of the full Board meeting. He proposed to schedule the Personnel Committee meeting for 8:30 a.m., the Finance Committee for 9:00 a.m., and then start the full Board meeting at 10:00 a.m. He indicated that no formal action was needed at this time.

The Manager also suggested that the District's Planning Committee meet in the coming month to review current District programs and activities, and to consider future involvement in new efforts. An early meeting would allow time for discussion of any changes at the June Board meeting, and afford time to make budget

adjustments as a result of these discussion. Director Brown, Chair of the Planning Committee, set the meeting for June 1st at 9:30 a.m. at the office of the Big Sioux Community Water System in Egan. She directed the Manager to send a notice to the members of the Planning Committee (Directors Brown, Feten, Jarrett, Kassube and Todd). She also requested that any members of the Board who had ideas for topics of discussion to pass this information along to her or the Manager in advance of the meeting.

Project Assistance Requests

City of Big Stone City - Robert Athey, Utility Manager for the City of Big Stone City, presented the Board with a request for cost-share assistance on behalf of the community. The City currently receives its drinking water from Ortonville, Minnesota. Several years ago, the two communities were each faced with replacing/upgrading their existing water treatment plants. The decision was made, with the technical and financial support of both states, to construct a single facility capable of meeting both their needs. However, the raw water source, a buried aquifer, contains very high iron concentrations, and the treatment plants filtration equipment is quickly overloaded. This requires frequent filter back washing, with the subsequent degradation of the filter media. The extra water load is also taxing their wastewater treatment facilities. Working with Dr. Delvin DeBoer, South Dakota State University, and Ultieg Engineers, Inc., they have identified a possible pre-treatment option to improve iron removal.

The City's request is for support of a pilot water treatment project to assess viability of the treatment process. The cost of the pilot study is \$5,150. The Manager recommended that the District provide 25% of the costs, with a cap at \$1,280. If the costs are split evenly between each community, the District would in effect be 50% of the South Dakota partners costs, consistent with past practices. **Motion** by Kassube, seconded by Brown to provide District cost-share assistance to Big Stone City in the amount of twenty-five percent (25%) of the costs of the pilot study, up to a maximum amount of \$1,280. Motion carried unanimously.

2009 Big Sioux Water Festival

Deb Springman, Big Sioux Water Festival Project Coordinator, gave a summary of the recently completed (May 12th) event. The event theme was wetlands. 1,015 fourth graders from 54 classes at 31 different schools attended. They learned about water from 36 presenters (32 indoor, 4 outdoor) and over 20 interactive displays in the exhibit hall. 13 classes participated in the quiz bowl. Over 250 volunteers help stage the event, with Directors Flemming and Todd, along with their wives, acting as guides for classes from Madison and Florence. The teachers resource room contained information a variety of sources, including, SD Ag in the Classroom, Project WET, Project WILD, The Outdoor Campus, and the Water Resource Centers Limnology Workshop, along with the District's traveling trunks. Media reports on the event occurred in local newspapers and radio stations, and as well as sites around the region. The District has received Thank You notes from classes at several schools and a number of presenters. Ms. Springman noted that the 2010 event will be held on May 11th.

Lake Campbell Post-Implementation Assessment

Deb Springman gave the Board a summary of the recently completed re-assessment of Lake Campbell and the Battle Creek watershed. The study was undertaken to evaluate the condition of the lake following various watershed protection and restoration efforts undertaken in the late 1990s, and to chart trends over a 30 year period of testing. Water quality samples were collected from three in-lake sites, and the inlet and outlet during the 2007 and 2008 field seasons.

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In general, the water quality in the lake has remained fairly constant over the period, although ammonia levels have dropped since the 1980s. Nutrients are generally being retained within the lake, with phosphorus levels averaging 0.302 milligrams per liter (mg/L) and total nitrogen at 2.86 mg/L. In both cases, these numbers remain about three times the Environmental Protection Agency recommended levels. During the recent study period, the lake had an average Carlson trophic state index of 82, which places it solidly in the hyper-eutrophic range. Samples from the inlet and outlet show general improvements in dissolved oxygen, nutrient levels and ammonia. However, bacteria loadings from the watershed are on the rise.

Surveys of owners of septic systems in place around the lake were conducted in 1991, and again for this investigation. In 1991, approximately 10% of the systems were out of compliance with standard construction requirements. By 2008, this percentage had risen to 33%. In 1991, 29% of systems had been in place for 15 years or longer. In 2008, this percentage had risen to 53%.

Ms. Springman noted that according to current State standards, the lake is fully supporting of its assigned beneficial uses. However, the trophic level of the lake is high, and algae blooms remain a likely regular occurrence. The hyper-eutrophic state of the lake may have a long-term negative impact on the warmwater marginal fishery, as well as detract from public perception of the water body.

Project Updates/Status Reports

Central Big Sioux River Implementation - Roger Strom reviewed activities on this project. Riparian easement applications are under review in Hamlin, Moody and Minnehaha Counties. 44 acres were placed under an easement agreement on April 20th, with the signing to take place at the District office in Brookings. Two riparian area management (RAM) contracts are being developed in Moody County, covering a total of 55.2 acres. Work continues to apply a portion of the Project funds toward bank stabilization activities along the river between Baltic and Sioux Falls. The funds involved are part of a Clean Water State Revolving Fund (SRF) loan obtained earlier by the City of Sioux Falls to support watershed protection activities. The City has indicated an intent to apply any easement funds not formally committed to riparian easements uncommitted easement dollars, as of May 28, toward this activity.

Adjournment

There being no further District business or issues for consideration, Chairman Eggers declared the meeting adjourned at 11:40 a.m.

Doug Feten, Secretary

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