



East Dakota Water Development District
132B Airport Drive
Brookings, SD 57006

605-688-6741

605-688-6744 Fax

MINUTES
May 20, 2010

The Board of Directors of the East Dakota Water Development District (EDWDD) held a regular meeting on May 20, 2010 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

Directors Absent

none

Others Present

Tom Brandner, SD Dept. Environment & Natural Resources
Mark Cotter, City of Sioux Falls
Kristianna Gehant, Dakota Rural Action
Jim Housiaux, Banner Associates
Derric Iles, SD Geological Survey
Mark Perry, City of Sioux Falls
Jerry Soholt, Sioux Falls

Staff Present

Jay Gilbertson
Deb Springman
Roger Strom
Kristie Theilen

Administrative Items

Approval of Agenda - The Manager asked to have a report on the South Dakota Association of Rural Water System Source Water protection Program dropped from the Agenda. **Motion** by Weidler, seconded by Flemming to approve the agenda as amended. Motion carried unanimously.

Minutes - The Board reviewed the Minutes of the meetings on April 15, 2010. **Motion** by Todd, seconded by Flemming to approve the April 16th Minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Financial Reports - The Board reviewed the April 2010 Financial Report. **Motion** by Brown, seconded by Todd to accept the April 2010 Financial Report. Motion carried unanimously. Chairman Eggers then asked that the report be placed in the District files.

Report of Meetings and Conferences - Directors Flemming, Todd and Weidler attended the Big Sioux water Festival in Brookings on May 11th.

Director Jarrett attended the Lake County Water Quality Committee in Madison on April 27th.

Director Flemming attended the April 15th meeting of the Upper Big Sioux River Advisory Board and the

May 18th meeting of the Codington Conservation District.

The Manager briefly commented on the following meetings he attended:

1. **April 17** - Lake Poinsett. Lake Poinsett Water Project District Annual Meeting.
2. **April 17** - Brookings. Dakota Rural Action Earth Day Celebration.
3. **April 20** - Pierre. SD Non-Point Source Task Force.
4. **April 22** - DeSmet. County Drainage Board contested case hearing.
5. **April 27** - Brookings. Brookings County Commission - drainage hearing.
6. **April 27** - Brookings. Brookings City Commission - storm water drainage issues.
7. **April 28** - Hankinson, ND. Red River Basin Commission.
8. **April 29** - Ortonville, MN. Whetstone River diversion discussion.
9. **May 5** - teleconference. SD Water Management Board.
10. **May 11** - Brookings. Big Sioux Water Festival.
11. **May 13** - Sioux Falls. Sioux Falls Regional Wastewater Project informational meeting.
12. **May 13** - Brookings, SD Lakes & Streams Association Board of Directors.

Upcoming Meetings -

1. **May 21 - 10:00 a.m.** - Various DDN Sites. South Dakota Board of Water and Natural Resources.
2. **May 27 - 7:00 p.m.** - SDARWS Building, Madison. Lake County Clean Water Committee.
3. **May 27 - 5:45 p.m.** - Holiday Inn City Centre, Sioux Falls. Lewis & Clark Regional Water System Annual Meeting.
4. **June 2 - 6:00 p.m.** - Public Library, Watertown. Watertown flood mitigation meeting.
5. **June 17 - 9:00 a.m.** - EDWDD Office, Brookings. June EDWDD Board of Directors Meeting.
6. **June 24-25** - Matthews Training Center, Pierre. South Dakota Board of Water and Natural Resources.

Payment Requests

Town of LaBolt - At the June 2009 meeting, the Board agreed to provide District cost-share assistance of fifty percent (50%) of the local costs, up to a maximum of \$750, for the development of a engineering facility plan for the Town of LaBolt waste water collection and treatment facilities. The facility plan has been completed, and the community is expected to submit a request for the District's portion of the costs. The Manager noted that the final local costs for the facility plan were \$1,500, so the District share would be \$750. Total project costs were \$7,500, with the balance provided by a State Small Community Planning Grant. **Motion** by Kassube, seconded by Jarrett to authorize payment of \$750 to the Town of LaBolt, pending receipt of a final billing request. The Manager noted that this would complete the District's obligation to this activity. Motion carried unanimously.

Town of Sinai - At the March 2009 meeting, the Board agreed to provide District cost-share assistance of fifty percent (50%) of the local costs, up to a maximum of \$3,000, for the development of a engineering facility plan for the Town of Sinai waste water collection and treatment facilities. The facility plan has been completed, and the community is expected to submit a request for the District's portion of the costs. The Manager noted that the final local costs for the facility plan were \$6,000, so the District share would be \$3,000. **Motion** by Brown, seconded by Kassube to authorize payment of \$3,000 to the Town of Sinai, pending receipt of a final billing request. The Manager noted that this would complete the District's obligation to this activity. Motion carried unanimously.

Town of Ramona - At the July 2009 meeting, the Board agreed to provide District cost-share assistance of fifty percent (50%) of the local costs, up to a maximum of \$750, for the development of a engineering facility plan for the Town of Ramona drinking water facilities. The facility plan has been completed, and the community has submitted a request for the District's portion of the costs. The Manager noted that the final local costs for the facility plan were \$1,500, so the District share would be \$750. Total project costs were \$7,500, with the balance provided by a State Small Community Planning Grant. **Motion** by Jarrett, seconded by Johnson to authorize payment of \$750 to the Town of Ramona. The Manager noted that this would complete the District's obligation to this activity. Motion carried unanimously.

Project Assistance Requests

City of Sioux Falls - Mark Cotter and Mark Perry, with the City of Sioux Falls Public Works Department, described the City's efforts to identify the wastewater treatment and collection system needs for Sioux Falls and the surrounding area for a 25-year growth period. The City currently has four wastewater treatment agreements with neighboring communities (Brandon, Renner, and Harrisburg, along with the Prairie Meadows Sanitary Sewer District). The City is examining the feasibility of developing a regional collection system to better utilize its existing facility, and provide assistance to neighboring communities. The effort is being funded through user fees and available grant funding. The Board of Water and Natural Resources and South Dakota Department of Environment and Natural Resources recently provided the City with a project grant of \$75,000. The cost of the study is currently estimated at \$286,544, and will be conducted by engineering consultants HDR. Mr. Cotter requested District cost-share assistance for this effort.

The Manager recommended a grant of \$50,000. The District has long championed regionalization of drinking water systems, and this effort appears to follow the same basic model. **Motion** by Brown, seconded by Kassube to provide a District cost-share assistance grant to City of Sioux Falls in the amount of fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) for the completion of the regional waste water study. Motion carried unanimously.

Dakota Rural Action - Kristianna Gehant, Dakota Rural Action (DRA), presented a request for support of their 2010 Farm Beginnings Program. She explained that Farm Beginnings is a farmer-led training and support program offered by DRA that provides participants an opportunity to learn first-hand about low-cost, sustainable methods of farming and gives them the tools to successfully launch their farm enterprise. The program focuses on families without connections and/or experience with traditional family farms, and is in part intended to address the overwhelming shortage of "young" farmers (under the age of 65). The Manager noted that while water is a not a large part of the curriculum, they do have a very good section on the need to protect and preserve water resources.

Motion by Jarrett, seconded by Todd to provide \$5,000 in District cost-share assistance to the DRA 2010 Farm Beginnings Program, with \$3,000 to be applied to general program support and \$2,000 to be used as scholarships for participating District residents. Director Jarrett noted that as DRA has maintained an active political lobbying effort, care would need to be taken to insure that District support was applied only toward the Farm Beginnings Program. It was suggested that District legal counsel be consulted as to the wording of the support. Motion carried unanimously. The Manager indicated that the funds for this effort would come from previously committed Small Education Program Grants (\$2,368) and \$2,632 in "new" project assistance funds. This would deplete the Small Education Program Grant fund.

DRAFT

DRAFT

2010 Big Sioux Water Festival

Deb Springman, Big Sioux Water Festival Project Coordinator, gave a summary of the recently completed (May 11th) event. 1,095 fourth graders from 55 classes attended. They learned about water from 36 presenters (31 indoor, 5 outdoor) and over 20 interactive displays in the exhibit hall. 13 classes participated in the quiz bowl. Over 250 volunteers helped stage the event, with Directors Flemming and Todd, along with their wives, acting as guides. 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. The District has received Thank You notes from classes at several schools and a number of presenters. Ms. Springman noted that the 2011 event will be held on Thursday, May 12th, on the South Dakota State University campus.

SD DENR Ground Water Quality Program

Tom Brandner, South Dakota Department of Environment and Natural Resources Ground Water Quality Program (GWQP), presented a review of agency's effort at well head and source water protection. GWQP staff provide technical assistance to public water supplies state-wide in the development and implementation of source water protection plans. In the late 1990s, GWQP conducted source water assessments for over 700 public water supplies (PWSs) in South Dakota. This effort entailed 1) delineating the source water protection area (that part of the watershed and/or aquifer that supplied water to the PWSs); 2) an inventory of potential contaminant sources within the source water protection area; and 3) completing a susceptibility analysis (risk assessment) of the system. He noted that for the public water supplies within East Dakota, the previously defined well head protection areas were used, as they represented a greater level of detail the what GWQP could complete at the time.

2010 EDWDD Well Head Protection Area Assistance Program

The District Board of Directors tentatively set aside \$250,000 in Project Assistance grant funds in its Fiscal Year 2010 operating budget to provide direct support to public water suppliers (PWSs) within its coverage area for the purpose of advancing source water protection efforts. The 2010 Well Head Protection Area Protection Program (Program) will provide cost-share assistance to PWSs in support of specific best management practices within, or directly impacting, recognized well head protection areas (WHPAs). By facilitating expanded protection of the shallow aquifers on which nearly every PWSs depends, the District will be providing a critical service to a vast majority of its residents.

The Manager reviewed the details of the proposed Program, developed in late April by Directors Jarrett, Feten and Weidler:

1. The funds to be dedicated to the Program come from a one-time tax levy (2009 payable in 2010) as part of the District's 2010 budget. Funds will be available to support eligible activities until they are depleted.
2. Funds may be used to support five (5) specific WHPA best management practices (BMPs). However, Program assistance grants will be limited in the following manner:
 - A. Individual PWSs can receive Program assistance grants for no more than one (1) activity per BMP category per calendar year, accept as noted in 3.A. below;

DRAFT

- B. Program assistance grants require a minimum of fifty percent (50%) match from the PWS, accept as noted in 3.E. below; and
 - C. BMPs must be applied wholly, or substantially, within a delineated WHPA for an active well field, or have a clear and demonstrable impact on such an area. The decision as to whether or not the area to which the funds are to be applied is eligible for Program assistance will be made by the District Manager.
3. The following categories of WHPA BMPs are eligible for Program grant assistance, subject to the limitations noted:
- A. Land Purchase(s) - The Program can provide a grant of up to \$25,000 to be applied toward the purchase of land by the PWS. A PWS may only receive Program funding a single time for this type of BMP.
 - B. USDA Conservation Reserve Program Incentive Payments - The United States Department of Agriculture Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) specifically targets the protection of WHPAs. To encourage landowners to enroll in this program, the Program can provide a one-time sign-up incentive payment of up to fifty dollars (\$50) per acre, with a cap of \$5,000.
 - C. Modified Cropping Practices - Certain land uses present a lesser degree of risk when put into practice within WHPAs. If the landowner wishes to continue to crop production within a WHPA, the Program can provide an sign-up incentive payment of up to twenty dollars (\$20) per acre, with a cap of \$2,000, to support the production of alternative crops.
 - D. Landscape Modification/Restoration - The Program can provide a grant of up to \$5,000 toward the development of any water resource protection practice requiring significant alteration of the landscape.
 - E. Soil Testing - Program funds of up to \$500 can be provided for the completion of soil tests to determine the actual nutrient levels (nitrogen in particular) of the soils overlying the shallow aquifers in the WHPA(s). No match is required for this practice.

The Manager indicated that he would develop a Program grant assistance request process, which he hoped to have available by July 1. A formal letter requesting the assistance, along with sufficient background information to substantiate that the applicant has met Program requirements, would likely suffice for the application. Under the current proposal, Program assistance would be available in mid-July.

Motion by Jarrett, seconded by Flemming to adopt the 2010 Well Head Protection Area Protection Program as presented and to commit \$250,000 in District project assistance funds toward the effort. The Manager noted that this action would not authorize expenditure of the funds, but would allow him to finalize the application and review process. Motion carried unanimously.

Project Updates/Status Reports

Education and Outreach - Deb Springman reported that the District had been invited to participate in the Second Annual South Dakota Outdoor Expo. The event is organized by the South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks (SDGF&P), and held at the State Fairgrounds in Huron on June 12 and 13. She and Summer Technician Lindsey Thielen will be present a modified version of the Wacky Water Hats presentation developed for the Big Sioux Water Festival. The Manager noted that SDGF&P has requested that the governing bodies of all participating entities formally endorse participation in the event. **Motion** by Johnson, seconded by Todd to authorize District participation in the 2010 (and subsequent) South Dakota Outdoor Expo and to authorize the manager to handle logistical details. Motion carried unanimously.

DRAFT

Central Big Sioux River Implementation - Roger Strom reviewed activities on this project. A riparian easement application is under review in northern Hamlin County. It encompasses just over 36 acres, and covers 1 mile of Big Sioux River bank. Although the final details have yet to be worked out, if an agreement can be reached, this will be the final, project-supported easement. Mr. Strom also noted that he was completing the first draft of the Final Report for the project, which will be reviewed internally and by the DENR Project Officer Jeremy Schelhaas.

Adjournment

There being no further District business or issues for consideration, Chairman Eggers declared the meeting adjourned at 12:40 p.m.

Doug Feten, Secretary

DRAFT

DRAFT