



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

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**MINUTES  
May 16, 2013**

The Board of Directors of the East Dakota Water Development District (EDWDD) held a regular meeting on May 16, 2013 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  
Martin Jarrett  
Roger Schiebe  
Jerry Soholt

**Others Present**

Jesse Johnson, SD Corn  
Greg Jorgenson, Banner Associates  
Jeppe Kjaersgaard, SDSU Water Resources Institute  
Mike Kuck, SD Association of Conservation Districts  
Dana Loseke, SD Sierra Club  
John Maursetter, Lake County

**Directors Absent**

Gary Duffy  
Kay Kassube  
John Moes

**Staff Present**

Kevin Christenson  
Jay Gilbertson

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**Administrative Items**

**Approval of Agenda**

**Motion** by Brown, seconded by Soholt to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

**Minutes** - The Board reviewed the Minutes of the meetings on April 18, 2013.

**Motion** by Schiebe, seconded by Soholt to approve the April 18<sup>th</sup>, 2013, Minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

**Financial Reports** - The Board reviewed the April 2013 Financial Report.

**Motion** by Scheibe, seconded by Connelly to accept the April 2013 Financial Report. Motion carried unanimously. Chairman Jarrett then asked that the report be placed in the District files.

**Report of Meetings and Conferences** - Directors Brown reported that she and Director Moes attended the 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Big Sioux Water Festival in Brookings on May 7<sup>th</sup>. She noted that former Director Vincent Flemming and his wife Shirley served as classroom guides.

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Director Connelly attended the Regional Watershed Advisory Task Force meeting in Mitchell on April 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Chairman Jarrett attended the Lake County Clean Water Committee meeting in Madison on April 25<sup>th</sup>.

The Manager briefly commented on the following meetings he attended:

1. April 22 - Mitchell. Regional Watershed Advisory Task Force.
2. April 24 - Hill City. Spring Creek watershed Project tour.
3. April 24 - Rapid City. Dakota water Watch informational meeting.
4. April 26 - Pierre. 1st Annual South Dakota Envirothon.
5. April 30/May 1 - Watertown. SDARWS Managers Group.
6. May 2 - Pierre. SD Water Management Board.
7. May 4 - Madison. SD Izaak Walton League Annual Meeting.
8. May 7 - Brookings. 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Big Sioux Water Festival.
9. May 15 - Rapid City (via teleconference). West Dakota Water Development District Board of Directors.

Upcoming Meetings -

1. May 20 - 12 noon - Flandreau. Sioux Valley County Commissioners Group.
2. May 23 - 5:45 p.m. - Tea Events Center, Tea. Lewis & Clark Regional Water System Annual Meeting.
3. May 23 - 7:00 p.m. - Madison. Lake County Clean Water Committee.
4. June 5 - Deadwood. South Dakota Association of Rural Water Systems (SDARWS) Board of Directors.
5. June 6 - 1:00 p.m. - Sioux Valley Energy Building, Colman. Central Big Sioux River Watershed Project Steering Committee.
6. June 11 - 9:00 a.m. - Day County Courthouse, Webster. South Dakota Association of Conservation Districts (SDACD) Coteau Annual Area Meeting.
7. June 13/14 - Brookings. Professional Soil Scientists of South Dakota Annual Meeting.
8. June 18 - 10:00 a.m. - USDA Research Farm, Brookings. SDACD Vermillion-Big Sioux Annual Area Meeting.
9. June 20 - 9:00 a.m. - EDWDD Office, Brookings. June EDWDD Board of Directors Meeting.

**Project Assistance Request**

Town of Kranzburg - The Manager presented a request for assistance from the Town of Kranzburg. The community has engaged Banner Associates of Brookings to complete a facility plan of their drinking water distribution system. The project has an estimated cost of \$10,000. They have applied for, and received, a Small Community Planning Grant from SD DENR for \$8,000. The request is for fifty percent (50%) of the balance of the cost, which would be \$1,000. Greg Jorgenson, Banner Associates, explained the project and answered questions from the Board.

**Motion** by Connelly, seconded by Brown to award District project assistance funds to cover ten percent (10%) of the costs of the development of the facility plan, not to exceed \$1,000, as requested. Motion carried unanimously.

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## South Dakota Association of Conservation Districts 303(d) Project

Mike Kuck, Special Projects Coordinator for the South Dakota Association of Conservation Districts (SDACD), briefed the Board on the SDACD's 303(d) Project, which provides technical assistance to a range of watershed projects across the state. He also will speak to the Board about a National Fish and Wildlife Foundation grant application they are pursuing for work in the Upper Minnesota River watershed, which would include portions of Codington, Deuel and Grant Counties in EDWDD.

## South Dakota State University Agricultural Drainage Projects

Dr. Jeppe Kjaersgaard, South Dakota State University (SDSU) Water Resources Institute (WRI), provided a summary of efforts to-date on the District-supported Demonstration of Nitrogen Removal Effectiveness of Bioreactors for Drainage Water Management Project, and described a new proposal being developed to minimize drainage impacts.

In March of 2011, the District agreed to provide cost-share assistance to Dr. Jeppe Kjaersgaard, South Dakota State University Water Resources Institute (WRI), in support of a project to assess the ability of bioreactors to lower the nitrate concentrations in water discharged from subsurface agricultural drains. The investigation has established several demonstration sites in eastern South Dakota where the bioreactors have been installed. Water quality above and below the sites will be monitored, and the overall suitability for use in the area is being assessed. Primary funding comes from a United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) grant of \$75,000, which is matched 1:1. WRI will provide \$37,500 in project match, with the District providing \$18,750 (25% of project match).

Dr. Kjaersgaard and colleagues at SDSU are developing a new research proposal to continue their efforts to evaluate methods of reducing potential nitrate loading from agricultural tiling drainage. The purpose of this project is to demonstrate and evaluate drainage water management and saturated buffers at the edge of fields to reduce nitrate loads from subsurface drainage systems to receiving waters in eastern South Dakota and disseminate this information to stakeholders. As with the bioreactor project, primary grant support is being sought from USDA through their Conservation Innovation Grant (CIG) program. The CIG request is for \$75,000, to be matched 1:1. SDSU will provide \$37,500, and the South Dakota Soybean Association and the South Dakota Farm Bureau have each pledged \$15,000. Dr. Kjaersgaard asked if the District would consider pledging the final \$7,500 to complete the matching funds.

**Motion** by Soholt, seconded by Schiebe to award District project assistance funds to cover ten percent (10%) of the matching funds for the project, not to exceed \$7,500, as requested. Motion carried unanimously.

## District Updates

Lake Thompson Outlet Elevation - The Manager noted that last fall, Kingsbury County submitted a request to the State Water Management Board (WMB) to have the outlet elevation for Lake Thompson formally established. At a WMB hearing in early March, the DENR Water Rights Program recommended an elevation of 1687.5 feet above mean sea level. Their recommendation was based on what they concluded would be an "effective" outlet, one that could efficiently evacuate water for a lake of this size. After considering this recommendation, along with other comments for both higher and lower levels, the WMB selected an elevation of 1686.3 feet, the elevation at which water could/would begin to leave the lake. At

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the May 2<sup>nd</sup> WMB meeting, a consortium of downstream counties, the SD Department of Game, Fish and Parks, and private land owners petitioned the WMB to reopen the decision. The WMB agreed to do so and this issue will be revisited later in the year.

Regional Watershed Advisory Task Force - The Manager summarized the April 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2013, meeting of the Regional Watershed Advisory Task Force held in Mitchell. Formal presentations and comments were made by Dr. Dennis Todey, State Climatologist, South Dakota State University (SDSU); Dr. Chris Hay, SDSU Agriculture and Biosystems Engineering; Clark Moeckly, Upper Crow Creek Watershed District; Gary Vetter, Brown County Director of Planning & Zoning; Roger Lee, Kingsbury County Commissioner; Bill Smith, McCook County Commissioner; and Garry Moore, Yankton County Commissioner. The Manager presented a memorandum outlining possible changes to existing drainage laws during Public Testimony.

The Manager reported that he, along with the managers of the Vermillion Basin and James River Water Development Districts, were discussing options for water resource management at the watershed level. This approach is clearly noted in the enabling legislation for the Task Force, but it has received little discussion to date. The three managers were looking to develop some discussion points for presentation to the Task Force at its next meeting.

### **Adjournment**

There being no further District business or issues for consideration, Chairman Jarrett declared the meeting adjourned at 11:50 a.m.

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Roger Scheibe, Secretary

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