



East Dakota Water Development District
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MINUTES
May 15, 2014

The Board of Directors of the East Dakota Water Development District (EDWDD) held a regular meeting on May 15, 2014, 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
Gary Duffy
Martin Jarrett
Kay Kassube
Jerry Soholt

Directors Absent

John Moes
Roger Schiebe

Others Present

Jeff Barth, Minnehaha County Commission
Jeppe Kjaersgaard, SDSU Water Resources Institute
Dana Loseke, SD Sierra Club
Janelle Weatherly, Flandreau

Staff Present

Kevin Christenson
Jay Gilbertson
Jeremy Hinke
Deb Springman
Kristi Thielen

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Administrative Items

Approval of Agenda

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

Minutes - The Board reviewed the Minutes of the meetings on April 17, 2014.

Motion by Duffy, seconded by Soholt to approve the April 17th, 2014, Minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Financial Reports - The Board reviewed the April 2014 Financial Report.

Motion by Soholt, seconded by Connelly to accept the April 2014 Financial Report. Motion carried unanimously. Chairman Jarrett asked that the report be placed in the District files.

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Report of Meetings and Conferences - Directors Brown and Duffy attended the 22nd Annual Big Sioux Water Festival in Brookings on May 13th. She noted that former Directors John Weidler and Vincent Flemming worked as volunteers at the event.

Director Connelly attended meetings of the Friends of the Big Sioux in Sioux Falls on April 22nd, April 30th, and May 6th.

Chairman Jarrett attended the Lake County Clean Water Committee meeting in Madison on April 24th.

The Manager briefly commented on the following meetings he attended:

1. April 23 - Milbank. Lake Region County Commissioners meeting.
2. May 5 - Watertown. Lake Area Technical Institute Environmental Technology Advisory Board meeting.
3. May 7 - Brookings (teleconference). South Dakota Water Management Board.
4. May 8 - Mitchell. James River Water Development District Board of Directors meeting.
5. May 13 - Brookings. 22nd Annual Big Sioux Water Festival.

Upcoming Meetings -

1. **May 22 - 5:30 p.m.** - Tea Events Hall, Tea. Lewis & Clark Regional Water System 24th Annual Membership Banquet.
2. **June 5 - 9:00 a.m.** - Marshall, MN. Minnesota River Basins - AREA II Board of Directors.
3. **June 16 - 10:00 a.m.** - FOE Club Room, 114 West Main Street, Vermillion. South Dakota Association of Conservation Districts (SDACD) Vermillion-Big Sioux Area Meeting.
4. **June 19 - 9:00 a.m.** - EDWDD Office, Brookings. June EDWDD Board of Directors Meeting.
5. **June 24 - 9:00 a.m.** - Day County Courthouse, Webster. SDACD Coteau Area Meeting.
6. **June 26 & 27** - Matthews Training Center, Foss Building, Pierre. South Dakota Board of Water & Natural Resources.

Payment Requests - *Upper Minnesota River Watershed District* - The Manager presented the Board with a request for payment from the Upper Minnesota River Watershed District UMRWD). At the December 2011 Board meeting, the District pledged up to \$15,000 to UMRWD in support of a reconnaissance study and engineering assessment of a proposed re-diversion of the Whetstone River in northeast Grant County. An initial of \$6,250 was made in January 2014, and Dianne Radermacher, UMRWD Administrator, has submitted a second request, also for \$6,250.

South Dakota State University - The Manager presented the Board with a request for payment from South Dakota State University (SDSU) on behalf of the study entitled, "Demonstration of Nitrogen Removal Effectiveness of Bioreactors for Drainage Water Management." In March 2011, the District agreed to provide \$18,750 in cost-share assistance to SDSU (Jeppe Kjaersgaard and others) for a research project entitled, "Demonstration of Nitrogen Removal Effectiveness of Bioreactors for Drainage Water Management." The current billing, for \$737.64, covers District support obligation incurred between January 1, 2013 and March 31, 2014.

The Manager requested authorization to pay both payment requests, for a total of \$6,987.64.

Motion by Kassube, seconded by Duffy to authorize payments totaling \$6,987.64 to UMRWD and SDSU as requested. Motion carried unanimously.

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Project Assistance Requests

Town of Humboldt - The Manager presented a request for assistance from the Town of Humboldt. The community has engaged an engineering firm to complete a facility plan of their waste water collection and treatment system. The project has an estimated cost of \$8,000. The request is for fifty percent (50%) of the total cost, which would be \$4,000.

Motion by Connelly, seconded by Kassube to award District project assistance funds to the Town of Humboldt to cover fifty percent (50%) of the costs of the development of the facility plan, not to exceed \$4,000, as requested. The Manager indicated that he would request that representatives of Humboldt provide a briefing on the results of the investigation upon completion. Motion carried unanimously.

Sioux Falls Public Works - Water Division - The Manager presented a request from Greg Anderson, Water Superintendent for the Water Division of the Sioux Falls Public Works Department. His office is partnering with the United State Geological Survey South Dakota Water Science Center to evaluate the function and utility of real-time monitoring for nitrates in the Big Sioux River. The pilot project would involve the installation of a nitrate monitoring probe near the drinking water intake on the river north of the airport. The probe will be in operation from June 1 through August 31st this year. The data will be accessed remotely. Installation and operational costs for the study will come to \$21,000. The USGS is providing one-third of the costs, and the City has asked if East Dakota would be willing to split the balance/local costs (\$14,000 = \$7,000 City of Sioux Falls + \$7,000 East Dakota).

The Manager noted that this technology is fairly new, but he could envision a number of interesting applications. For a community like Sioux Falls, which depends heavily on river water, knowing what the nitrate levels are in the river could be very useful. Such a study would also allow for a better understanding of short- and medium-term variation in nitrate levels.

Motion by Connelly, seconded by Kassube to allocate up to \$7,000 in District cost-share support to the Sioux Falls Public Works - Water Division in support of the pilot study of real-time nitrate monitoring as requested. Specifically, District support would be limited to no more than one-third of total project costs. The Board directed the Manager to determine the accessibility of the data/readings, and to see if they could be remotely accessed by District staff. Motion carried unanimously.

District Updates

Assessment of Climatic Effects on Streamflow Characteristics in Eastern South Dakota - Phase 2 - The Manager reported that the James River Water Development District has agreed to provide the balance of the costs required to initiate the Assessment of Climatic Effects on Streamflow Characteristics in Eastern South Dakota - Phase 2. The Board had agreed to provide one-third of the projected costs (up to \$20,000) at the April 2014 meeting, with the restriction that the remainder of the costs come from elsewhere. The USGS had previously committed to providing one-third of the costs, and the action by the JRWDD Board means the project can go forward. The Manager anticipates having a joint funding agreement available for signature by Chairman Jarrett by the end of May.

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22nd Annual Big Sioux Water Festival - Deb Springman reported on the 22nd Annual Big Sioux Water Festival. She noted that it was by all accounts a great success, due in no small part to the efforts of 208 volunteers. 56 fourth grade classes from 31 schools across the District attended. The theme of the event this year was "Reduce, Reuse, Recycle - the 3 R's of Water Conservation." Three students from Camelot Elementary in Brookings won the Festival poetry contest. New this year was a sculpture contest, in which students were required to build their displays out of recycled materials. Oldham-Ramona's fourth grade class won first place, with Arlington finishing second. First time activities included presenters from McCrory Gardens, Upper Big Sioux Watershed Project, SDSU Ecology Club, the SD Discovery Center, and the Sierra Club. Ms. Springman noted that next year's event would be held on May 12, 2015.

9th National Monitoring Conference - Jeremy Hinke spoke briefly on attending the 9th National Monitoring Conference in Cincinnati, Ohio. While at the conference, he was able to hear several speakers during the concurrent sessions and participate in two workshops specific to developing and sustaining volunteer water quality monitoring networks. He was also able to network with a number of coordinators of similar programs from across the country, and plans to use these ideas to enhance the Dakota Water Watch program. Mr. Hinke was awarded a \$900 grant that from the YSI Corporation that helped pay for travel and conference registration fees.

Hydro-Geologic Road Signs - The Manager distributed a picture of a road side sign recently installed along US Highway 16 near Rockerville in the Black Hills. The sign presents information of the geology of the area and is intended to provide information on local conditions to visitors to the area. The sign is co-located with a similar sign installed by the U.S. Forest Service at an established parking area. The initial idea came from Dr. Perry Rahn (retired) from SD School of Mines & Technology, but ended up being a collaborative effort with the SD Section of the American Institute of Professional Geologists (SDAIPG) and others. The final material cost for the sign and supports was about \$1,000, with the content development donated by various SDAIPG members.

The Manager indicated that he has spoken with SDAIPG representatives about the possibility of developing similar informational signs to explain aspects of the geology/hydrology of the District, to be placed at Interstate highway rest areas or other public spaces. It was the consensus of the Board that this idea should be pursued, in cooperation with SDAIPG and other stakeholders.

Adjournment

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

Roger Scheibe, Secretary

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