



East Dakota Water Development District
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MINUTES
October 20, 2008

The Board of Directors of the East Dakota Water Development District (EDWDD) held a regular meeting on October 20, 2008 at the Community Visitor Center, 1001 East Fourth Avenue/Highway 12, Milbank. Chairman Eggers called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. The following persons attended:

Directors Present

Curt Eggers
Doug Feten
Martin Jarrett
John Johnson
Kay Kassube
Jerry Siegel
Robert Todd
John Weidler

Others Present

Vincent Flemming, Florence
Trudy Hastad, Lac qui Parle-Yellow Bank Watershed District
Mary Homan, Citizens for Big Stone Lake
Dale Johnson, USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service
Don Marquardt, South Dakota Lakes & Streams Association
Joseph O'Sullivan, Watertown Public Opinion
Dianne Radermacher, Upper Minnesota River Watershed District
Don Sherman, Citizens for Big Stone Lake
Dennis Skadsen, Day County Conservation District

Directors Absent

Lois Brown

Staff Present

Jay Gilbertson
Jeremy Hinke

Administrative Items

Approval of Agenda - **Motion** by Weidler, seconded by Siegel to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Minutes - The Board reviewed the Minutes of the September 18th, 2008 meeting. It was noted that on page 5, the motion to provide support to the Big Sioux Water Festival should be attributed to Director Weidler, rather than Director Johnson. **Motion** by Todd, seconded by Kassube to approve the Minutes as amended. Motion carried unanimously.

Financial Reports - The Board reviewed the September 2008 Financial Report. **Motion** by Feten, seconded by Todd to accept the September 2008 Financial Report. Motion carried unanimously. Chairman Dempsey then asked that the reports be placed in the District files.

Meetings and Conferences - Chairman Eggers attended an open house and tour of the Bly animal feeding operation near Renner on October 15th.

Chairman Eggers and Directors Johnson, Siegel and Todd attended all or portions of the SD Board of Water and Natural Resources meetings on September 25th & 26th in Brookings.

Directors Jarrett and Todd attended the Interlakes Water Quality Committee meeting in Madison on October 9th.

Directors Weidler attended the National Rural Water Association Annual Meeting in Reno, Nevada, on October 5-8.

The Manager briefly commented on the following meetings he attended:

1. **September 20** - Northshore Grille, Lake Preston. Four Lakes Improvement Association.
2. **September 24** - South Dakota State University Dakota Digital Network Site, Brookings. Public information meeting on proposed changes to State water quality standards.
3. **September 25 & 26** - Brookings. South Dakota Board of Water and Natural Resources meeting and field tour.
4. **September 27** - Hendricks, MN. Lake Hendricks Improvement Association.
5. **October 8** - Sisseton. Roberts County Conservation District Board of Supervisors.
6. **October 9** - EDWDD Office, Brookings. SD Lakes and Streams Association.
7. **October 13** - Ortonville, MN. Citizens for Big Stone Lake Board of Directors.
8. **October 14** - Milbank. Grant County Conservation District Board of Supervisors.

Upcoming Meetings -

1. **October 22-23** - Swiftel Center, Brookings. Eastern South Dakota Water Conference.
2. **October 23 - 9:00 a.m.** - Pierre. Underground Pipeline Task Force.
3. **October 29 & 30** - Deadwood. South Dakota Association of Rural Water Systems Managers Group Meeting.
4. **November 6 - 1:00 p.m.** - Matthews Training Center, Pierre. South Dakota Board of Water and Natural Resources.
5. **November 6 - 7:00 p.m.** - Public Library, Madison. Interlakes Water Quality Committee.
6. **November 13 - 1:00 p.m.** - EDWDD Office, Brookings. South Dakota Lakes and Streams Association Board of Directors.
7. **November 20 - 10:00 a.m.** - City Water Reclamation Plant, 4500 North Sycamore, Sioux Falls. November EDWDD Board of Directors Meeting.

Out-of-State Travel Authorization - The Manager requested Board authorization for out-of-state travel. He asked to attend the Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts (MAWD) 38th Annual Meeting to be held on December 4-6 at the Arrowhead Conference Center in Alexandria, Minnesota. **Motion** by Siegel, seconded by Todd to authorize the Manager's attendance at the MAWD 38th Annual Meeting as requested.. Motion carried unanimously.

South Dakota Lakes & Streams Association Assistance Request

Don Marquardt, Executive Director of the South Dakota Lakes & Streams Association (SDLSA), presented the Board with a request for cost-share assistance. The SDLSA request is part of an effort to upgrade their website, with an emphasis on improving its utility to members and others interested its programs. A key component of the effort is to provide member lake associations with the opportunity to have individual web pages under the SDLSA site. Mr. Marquardt noted that web pages are something that most lake associations want to have. However, for new and/or small lake groups, start up and maintenance costs can be problematic. The SDLSA proposal would provide such groups with a page, or pages, of their own at minimal cost. The project would establish a standard format for such pages that would allow each group

to highlight their efforts, while also providing basic and consistent information about each. SDLSA is requesting \$550, which would be applied to the cost of obtaining the necessary software, and training for system operators. **Motion** by Siegel, seconded by Kassube to award \$550 in District cost-share assistance to SDLSA for the improvements to their web site as requested. Motion carried unanimously.

Whetstone River Watershed Assessment

The Manager briefed the Board on a proposal he had developed to evaluate the water quality in the Whetstone River watershed. The Whetstone River is a tributary to the Minnesota River, and drains a portion of the northeast flank of the Coteau des Prairies upland in northeastern South Dakota. It is one of two major tributaries to Big Stone Lake. Local groups and agencies have long been concerned about perceived water quality impairments in this river system. However, obtaining cost-share assistance from state or federal programs has been difficult because no water quality impairments have been formally identified. He noted that this might well be a function of a limited number of samples collected, as well as the timing of these events. In support of the local interest, he has put together a fairly modest proposal to conduct a watershed assessment of the area. The proposal has been submitted to DENR for possible funding through the 319 grant program.

The Manager noted that over the past few weeks he had met with both the Roberts County and Grant County Conservation Districts, and they support the effort. He has also met with Citizens for Big Stone Lake, the local lake association (see below).

The Manager briefed the Board on the basic elements of the proposal. Project cost is projected at just over \$67,000, of which \$39,819 is being sought through 319 grant funds. District in-kind match, consisting of staff time, would amount to \$15,425. A balance of \$11,826 in local cash support would need to be secured to complete the funding package. The Board concurred that given the strong local support for this activity, pursuit of the grant funds was a worthwhile endeavor.

Northeast Glacial Lakes Watershed Project

Dennis Skadsen, Coordinator for the Northeast Glacial Lakes Watershed Project, reviewed the project goals and activities. The Project involves numerous lakes (and corresponding watersheds) in the northeast part of the state, covering the headwaters of three major watersheds (James River, Big Sioux River and the Red River of the North). By combining several efforts that might otherwise be conducted separately, the Project can realize economies of scale. The Day Conservation District is the primary project sponsor, with cooperation from the Marshall and Roberts County CDs, the James River Water Development District, and a variety of other local entities. A somewhat unique feature of the Project is that some of the water bodies involved are not defined as impaired, and activities are designed to protect water quality, as opposed to the conventional efforts to restore water quality. He noted that in future portions of the project, they intend to implement riparian area improvements of the type first developed as part of the Central Big Sioux Watershed Project (riparian area management (RAM)).

Citizens for Big Stone Lake

Mary Homan and Don Sherman, Board members of the Citizens for Big Stone Lake (C4BSL), discussed the interest and activities of this lake group. With over 500 members, C4BSL is one of the largest lake groups in the state, and one of only two that straddle the South Dakota/Minnesota border (Lake Hendricks

Improvement Association is the other). The C4BSL Board has members from both states, and they are working to foster cooperation for the benefit of the lake. They are currently working with the City of Ortonville, MN, on reducing sediments emanating from storm water outlets, and promoting rain gardens for residential and municipal developments. They expressed an keen interest in the proposed Whetstone River assessment, as the river is one of the two major tributaries to the lake, along with the Little Minnesota River. At present, students from the Ortonville High School are collecting limited water quality samples on the river, which are tested for nitrates, phosphorus and turbidity.

Upper Minnesota River Watershed District

Dianne Radermacher, Administrator of the Upper Minnesota River Watershed District, reviewed current activities. They are currently working with the town of Browns Valley, along with federal and state agencies in South Dakota and Minnesota to divert a segment of the Little Minnesota River around the community. The community is frequent subject to flooding, most recently in the spring of 2007, during spring snow melt and following major precipitation events. The plan is to route a majority of flood flows directly into the north end of Big Stone Lake, while allowing low to medium flows to follow the historical channel. They are also exploring the possibility of a similar effort for the Whetstone River at Big Stone City. Flood control/prevention would be part of the end product, but they are also looking to keep what is perceived as poor quality water out of the lake. Ms. Radermacher noted that she too hoped that the proposed assessment project would be completed, and speculated that perhaps her organization might contribute to the effort if undertaken.

Lac qui Parle-Yellow Bank Watershed District

Trudy Hastad, Administrator of the Lac qui Parle-Yellow Bank Watershed District, reviewed current activities. A major effort currently involves working with land owners to address water quality impairments in both the Lac qui Parle and Yellow Bank River systems in Minnesota. She noted that their efforts are very similar to the implementation projects underway in South Dakota. Funding for these activities is provided from various state and federal sources, under the general heading of a Clean Water Partnership (CWP) grant from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency. Ms. Homan indicated that the Manager was a part of their project technical advisory committee, acting primarily as a go between with South Dakota entities. Director Siegel recalled that in the 1980s, the watershed district was part of a group (including East Dakota) that helped underwrite the costs of upgrading a 1930s vintage dam in the town of LaBolt in southern Grant County. The dam, on a tributary to the Yellow bank River, provides a local recreational resource, as well as flood control for lower watershed farmers and landowners. The Watershed District, through the CWP grant, has worked for several years to build a network of volunteer water quality monitors for the numerous tributary streams which start along the flank of the Coteau des Prairies. As volunteers become available in South Dakota, the Manager noted that these efforts would form the basis for Dakota Water Watch activities in this area.

Project Updates

Public Outreach & Water Quality Monitoring - Jeremy Hinke gave the updates on the Districts watershed assessment activities, water festival support and Dakota Water Watch. Work on the Lake Campbell Reassessment Project has mostly involved computer modeling, using the FLUX and BATHTUB programs to examine nutrient and sediment budgets. The Lake Association is helping re-distribute and promote a survey of property owners with septic systems. Invitations have gone out to all eligible District schools for

the 2009 Big Sioux Water Festival, including several schools not previously involved (Webster, Waubay, Roslyn, Summit and Lincoln HI (Hendricks, MN). 17 school have replied so far. Traveling teacher resource trunks are now in circulation. These are picked up and delivered from participating schools by District staff each month. A Project Update was recently distributed to all Dakota Water Watch participants, along with past members and those who have expressed interest in the program. The update is also available on the District website. Information on the program was presented at the South Dakota Lakes and Streams Association Annual Meeting, the South Dakota Board of Water and Natural Resources field tour, and at meetings of the Four Lakes Improvement Association and the Lake Hendricks Improvement Association.

Central Big Sioux River Watershed Project - The Manager presented a report on the activities of the Central Big Sioux River Watershed Project. Project Manager Roger Strom was in Mitchell attending the bid opening for the Ed Friske animal waste management system (AWMS). On October 17, the Project Steering Committee met to make funding decisions for various RAM and AWMS applications. They selected 5 RAM projects and 1 AWMS projects. Project progress reports have been presented to various groups. Reimbursement requests have been filed for the period from January through September to both the City of Sioux Falls (SRF funding) and DENR (319 grant). The Manager noted that these requests will reconcile the reimbursement delays experienced earlier in the year. He continues to respond to queries regarding both RAM and AWMS cost-share.

Adjournment

There being no further District business, Chairman Eggers declared the meeting adjourned at 12:15 p.m.

Doug Feten, Secretary