



East Dakota Water Development District
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MINUTES
October 17, 2024

The Board of Directors of the East Dakota Water Development District (EDWDD) held a regular meeting on October 17, 2024. Vice-Chairman Duffy called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m. The following persons attended:

Directors Present

Jeff Barth
Gary Duffy
Bonnie Dybedahl*
Spencer Hawley
Bob Kappel
John Moes*

Others Present

- none -

Staff Present

Barry Berg*
Jay Gilbertson
Deb Springman

Directors Absent

Mark Anderson
Joedy Poppe
Director Area 7 (vacant)

* - participated via video-conferencing.

Administrative Items

Approval of Agenda -

Motion by Hawley, seconded by Barth to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Minutes - The Board reviewed the Minutes of the September 19th, 2024, meeting.

Motion by Hawley, seconded by Barth to approve the Minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Financial Reports - The Board reviewed the September 2024 Financial Reports.

Motion by Moes, seconded by Dybedahl to accept the September 2024 Financial Reports. Motion carried unanimously. Vice-Chairman Duffy then asked that the reports be placed in the District files.

Meetings and Conferences - The Manager briefly commented on the following meetings he attended in the past month:

1. September 19th - Big Sioux River Watershed Project Steering Committee, Sioux Falls.
2. September 21st - 2024 South Dakota Festival of Books - Panel Discussion: Rethinking Our Relationship with Water, Brookings.
3. September 23rd - PFAS sampling on the Big Sioux River w/ SDSM&T staff.
4. September 26th - South Dakota Board of Water & Natural Resources, Pierre; Non-Point Source project discussion with DANR staff, Pierre.
5. October 1st - South Dakota Lakes & Streams Association Board of Directors, EDWDD Office, Brookings.
6. October 3rd - Lake Madison Development Association Board of Directors, Lake Madison.
7. October 16th - Eastern South Dakota Water Conference, SDSU, Brookings.

Upcoming Meetings -

1. **October 21st - 5:30 p.m.** - Webster. Coteau Area Conservation Districts 28th Annual Legislative Banquet.
2. **October 29th & 30th** - Deadwood. South Dakota Association of Rural Water Systems (SDARWS) Manager's Group.
3. **November 7th - 1:00 p.m.** - Matthews Training Center, Pierre. South Dakota Board of Water & Natural Resources.
4. **November 7th - 1:00 p.m.** - Madison, MN. Lac qui Parle River Watershed Kickoff meeting.
5. **November 13th & 14th** - Pierre. South Dakota Association of Rural Water Systems Board Leadership Seminar.
6. **November 14th - 9:00 a.m.** - Huron. James River Water Development District Board meeting.
7. **November 20th - 3:30 p.m.** - Springfield, MN. Area II River Basins Projects/RCRCA Annual Legislative Gathering.
8. **November 20th - 9:30 a.m.** - TBD, Sioux Falls. November EDWDD Board of Directors meeting, followed by tour of the stormwater treatment demonstration project.

Payment Requests - The Manager presented one (1) payment request from a District-sponsored activity that required Board action. He noted that the request was in order and consistent with provisions set by the Board at the time of award. He requested Board authorization to make the following payments:

<u>Grant Recipient/Activity</u>	<u>Requested Amount</u>
SDSU - South Dakota Water Values Survey Project	\$ 10,000.00
	\$ 10,000.00

Motion by Kappel, seconded by Barth to authorize payment of \$10,000.00 to SDSU as requested. Motion carried unanimously.

Vacancies for Director Areas 7 & 8 - Director Donovan moved his primary residence outside of the District in early September, and therefore his director position, representing Director Area 7, is now vacant. With the pending changes to the director areas working through the State Administrative Rules process, it was the Board consensus to defer action on addressing the vacancy until after the rules were finalized. This is expected to take place in mid-November.

He also noted that the term of office for Director Poppe (Area 8) will expire at the end of the year (December 31, 2024). No valid petitions were filed for this position during the nominating period earlier in the year, and as such, the position will be vacant as of January 1, 2025.

SDCL 46A-3B-9 allows for the remaining Board members to appoint a replacement from qualified candidates. The Manager requested authorization to initiate the process of filling the current and pending vacancies. The vacancies would be advertised in the appropriate newspapers for the respective areas in November and December. He proposed setting a deadline of January 9th, 2025, for nominating petitions to be filed at the District office, with Board action to fill the vacancies at the January 23rd, 2025, meeting in Brookings. The term of office for the Director Area 7 appointment would be through December 31st, 2026, while the Director Area 8 appointment would through December 31st, 2028. Finally, he noted that Director Poppe, so long as he continues to qualify, could continue to serve until a replacement has been selected, including into 2025.

Motion by Moes, seconded by Dybedahl to authorize the publication of the appropriate Notices of Vacancy; to require that all applicants for said vacancies submit their petitions to the EDWDD office no later than 5:00 p.m. on January 9th, 2025; and to set the January 23rd, 2025, Board meeting as the initial time to consider all valid petitions and to make appointments to fill the director vacancies in Areas 7 & 8. Motion carried unanimously.

Project Assistance Requests

Big Sioux & Sioux Empire Water Festivals - Deb Springman, District education and outreach coordinator, requested District cost-share assistance for the printing of additional copies of the publication entitled, **WaterWise: A Magazine about the Big Sioux River Basin**. The publication contains a range of information about the river, which supplements material area students receive in class and at the Big Sioux (Brookings) and Sioux Empire (Sioux Falls) Water Festivals. Every student and teacher who attends either event gets a copy. In January 2021, the Board agreed to fund the printing costs of the document, providing \$4,000. Additional funds were provided in October 2022 and November 2023, which were applied to printing of an updated version for the 2023 and 2024 events, respectively. Ms. Springman requested \$5,000 to print sufficient copies for the 2025 and 2026 water festivals.

Motion by Kappel, seconded by Hawley to allocate \$5,000 in District project assistance to be applied toward the printing of the document, **WaterWise: A Magazine about the Big Sioux River Basin**, and to authorize expenditure as needed. Motion carried unanimously.

United States Geological Survey Gaging Station Agreement - The Manager presented a proposed joint funding agreement (JFA) between the District and the United States Geological Survey (USGS) for support of stream gaging activity for Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2025 (October 2024 - September 2025).

During FFY 2024, the District provided cost-share assistance through the USGS Dakota Water Science Center for one gage, on the Big Sioux River near Bruce, at a cost of \$9,370. The proposed FFY 2025 JFA would be for a continuation of support for this gage, at a cost of \$9,550. No new gage sites have

been proposed. The Manager requested Board approval of the FFY 2025 JFA for the Bruce gaging station.

Motion by Barth, seconded by Hawley to approve the FFY 2025 JFA with the USGS Dakota Water Science Center for \$9,550, in support of the Big Sioux River near Bruce gage, and to authorize the Manager to execute the JFA. Motion carried unanimously.

District Updates

PFAS Survey of the Big Sioux River - Faculty and students from the SD School of Mines & Technology completed the lone 2024 sampling run on September 23rd, assisted by staff from the District and the SD Association of Rural Water Systems. Eleven (11) sites were sampled along the river from near the headwaters to below Brandon. Results are anticipated to be available in November.

2024 Nitrate Trends in the Big Sioux River - The Manager reported that nitrate samples collected from along the full course of the Big Sioux River this year generally follow the trends first noted in more intense sampling by the District in the mid-2010s. Concentrations are generally relatively low above the City of Sioux Falls, after which there is a modest rise. Concentrations again jump below Brandon, where the eastern tributary streams originating in Minnesota and Iowa enter the system. Overall, there is a rising trend in nitrate concentration in the river across the watershed.

2025 Session of the SD Legislature - The Manager noted that beyond the annual omnibus water funding bill, he is unaware of any specific water resource legislation in development. A style-and-form clean up bill is being developed for the water development district code (SDCL Chapter 46a-3a thru -3E, inclusive). He is reviewing a DRAFT of proposed changes.

New hire in support of the Big Sioux River Project - Jaelynn Dreckman has been hired to work on the Big Sioux River Project, and will begin her employment on November 4th.

US Army Corps of Engineers - Flood control activities for the City of Watertown - The Corps has developed options for limited flood control/prevent within the City of Watertown. The options were presented at a public meeting in September and are currently under review.

US Army Corps of Engineers - Lowering of Bitter Lake in SE Day County - The Corps is assessing options for the lowering of Bitter Lake in southeastern Day County. The target is a water-level reduction of 10 feet, and options include excavating water by gravity-flow (ditches) or pumping. Storage of water within the watershed (expanded wetlands) is also being considered. Recommendation are expected to be presented to the Day County Commission in the spring of 2025.

Adjournment

There being no further District business, Vice-Chairman Duffy declared the meeting adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

Spencer Hawley, Secretary