



East Dakota Water Development District
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MINUTES
July 19, 2018

The Board of Directors of the East Dakota Water Development District (EDWDD) held a regular meeting on July 19, 2018, at the District Office in Brookings. Chairman Jarrett called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m. The following persons attended:

Directors Present

Lois Brown
Mary Ellen Connelly
Gary Duffy
Martin Jarrett
Kay Kassube
Dana Loseke
John Moes
Janelle Weatherly

Directors Absent

Mark Anderson

Others Present

Grant Groos, City of Colman
Jason Kontz, SD Soil Health Coalition
Lisa Kunza, SD School of Mines & Technology
Fred Prah, Lake Poinsett Water Project District
Brad Schroeder, City of Colman
Tim Spade, Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribe
Linda Stensland, Sioux Falls
Cindy Zenk, SD Soil Health Coalition

Staff Present

Jay Gilbertson
Jeremy Hinke
Deb Springman

Administrative Items

Approval of Agenda

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

Minutes - The Board reviewed the Minutes of the June 21st, 2018 meeting. The Manager noted that on page 2 of the DRAFT Minutes he had identified Director Loseke as the President of the Friends of the Big Sioux River organization. The correct title is Chairperson.

Motion by Weatherly, seconded by Loseke to approve the Minutes of the June 21st, 2018, meeting as so amended. Motion carried unanimously.

Financial Reports - The Board reviewed the June 2018 Financial Reports.

Motion by Loseke, seconded by Moes to accept the June 2018 Financial Reports. Motion carried unanimously. Chairman Jarrett asked that the report be placed in the District files.

Report of Meetings and Conferences - Directors Brown, Loseke and Weatherly attended the Big Sioux River Watershed Project Steering Committee meeting in Sioux Falls on June 28th.

Director Connelly reported on the Friends of the Big Sioux River meeting on July 12th in Sioux Falls.

Director Loseke reported on the efforts of the Nutrient Research Education Council, which met on July 17th in Brookings. He also attended water quality sampling training sponsored by the South Dakota Izaak Walton League at Good Earth State Park on June 23rd.

Director Moes reported on the July 18th meeting of the Lake Pelican Water Project District held in Watertown.

The Manager briefly commented on the following meetings and activities:

1. **June 26** - Hendricks, MN. Discussion of border drainage issues.
2. **June 27** - Philip. South Dakota Association of Conservation Districts Prairie Area meeting.
3. **June 28** - Sioux Falls. Big Sioux River Watershed Project Steering Committee.
4. **June 28** - Brookings DDN site. South Dakota Board of Water and Natural Resources.
5. **July 5** - Grant County. Geology field tour planning.
6. **July 10** - NE South Dakota. 2018 North Central Regional Cooperative Soil Survey Conference field trip.
7. **July 11** - Madison. South Dakota Association of Rural Water Systems (SDARWS) Quality On Tap magazine editorial board.
8. **July 12** - SE South Dakota. 2018 North Central Regional Cooperative Soil Survey Conference field trip.
9. **July 12** - Flandreau. Moody Conservation District Board of Supervisors meeting.
10. **July 18** - Larchwood, Iowa. SDARWS Manager's Group meeting.

Upcoming Meetings -

1. **July 25th - 7:00 p.m.** - Centerville. Vermillion Basin Water Development District Board of Directors meeting.
2. **August 14th - 9:00 a.m.** - Big Sioux Community Water System, Egan. Personnel Committee meeting.
3. **August 15th & 16th** - Swiftel Center, Brookings. North American Manure Expo.
4. **August 15th - 4:00 p.m.** - South Dakota State University, Brookings. Winter manure study group.
5. **August 16th - 8:30 a.m.** - EDWDD Office, Brookings. Finance Committee meeting on DRAFT 2019 District budget.
6. **August 16th - 10:00 a.m.** - EDWDD Office, Brookings. August EDWDD Board of Directors meeting.

Payment Requests - The Manager presented three (3) payments requests on behalf of District-sponsored activities that required Board action. He noted that each request was in order and consistent with provisions set by the Board at the time of award. He requested authority to make payments on behalf of the following:

<u>Grant Recipient/Activity</u>	<u>Requested Amount</u>
Friends of the Big Sioux River outreach & education	\$ 1,569.20
City of Crooks/Storm water facility plan	\$ 1,250.00
USGS MN Science Center/FFY 2018 stream gage support	\$ 3,042.00
Total	\$ 5,861.20

Motion by Moes, seconded by Kassube to authorize payments totaling \$5,861.20 as requested. Motion carried unanimously, with Directors Connelly and Loseke abstaining.

Project Assistance Request(s)

City of Colman - Grant Groos and Brad Schroeder presented the Board with a request for District cost-share assistance from the City of Colman. Over the years, the City has experienced problems with stormwater drainage, particularly north of State Highway 34. With the pending reconstruction of SD Highway 34, they have engaged Clark Engineering to complete a drainage facility plan so that these issue might be addressed. The projected cost for the study is \$30,004.76.

The community has requested, and is expected to receive, a Small Community Planning Grant from the South Dakota Department of Environment and Natural Resources (SD DENR) in the amount of \$10,000. Consequently, the request is for \$10,000 from the District, which would amount to essentially fifty percent (50%) of the remaining local costs.

Motion by Loseke, seconded by Weatherly to award a District cost-share assistance grant to the City of Colman for fifty percent (50%) of the local project costs, up to a maximum amount of \$10,000. Motion carried unanimously.

South Dakota School of Mines & Technology - The Manager noted that the District has been collecting surface water (rivers, lakes & streams) quality data from a number of locations throughout the Big Sioux River basin since 1999. The effort was initiated as part of several watershed assessment projects, but has continued in an effort to both monitor the condition of this critical water resource and to assess the impact of various watershed restoration activities. SD DENR maintains a network of water quality monitoring stations in the basin as well. The primary application of this information has been to augment the data set used by SD DENR for the biennial Integrated Report for Surface Water Quality Assessment (IR). As SD DENR would be the first to acknowledge, the District's data provides a substantially better picture of the condition of our area resources than is available anywhere else in the state.

However, the Manager noted that the IR tends to focus solely on a specific portion (5-year range) of the data, and makes a determination on the status of the waters within that window. Further, the support/non-support status determination is based on a very black-and-white assessment of the data. The water either meets the standard(s) or it does not. As such, there are likely instances where there have

been significant reductions in the pollutant load, but because the initial levels were exceptionally high, the water body remains ‘impaired.’ Conversely, pollutant concentrations on an unimpaired water body may be rising over time, but because the standard has yet to be violated, no problem is recognized.

At the request of the Manager, Dr. Lisa Kunza, South Dakota School of Mines & Technology (SDSM&T), has submitted a proposal, entitled Examining Trends in Water Quality Data in the Big Sioux River Basin, to begin conducting trend analyses of the water quality data available within the Big Sioux River basin. Under this proposal, she and her team would: gather surface water quality data from multiple sources (EDWDD, SD DENR, City of Sioux Falls), summarize the data for each of the WQ parameters examined, compare data among locations and examine temporal trends, create GIS maps to display the data, and provide a final report and presentation to EDWDD. The projected cost of the effort is \$30,567.00, and the work would be completed within 12 to 15 months.

Motion by Connelly, seconded by Moes to provide \$30,567 in District project assistance to Dr. Kunza and SDSM&T in support of the proposed project, Examining Trends in Water Quality Data in the Big Sioux River Basin. Motion carried unanimously.

South Dakota Soil Health Coalition

Cindy Zenk, Coordinator, and Jason Kontz, Board member, presented an overview of the mission and goals of the South Dakota Soil Health Coalition. They noted that the organization had a simple mission, “To promote improved soil health.” They noted that momentum for the soil health movement in the state of South Dakota has been increasing at an extremely encouraging rate this year. Over sixteen different events have already been held throughout the state with the sole purpose of providing farmers and ranchers continued education and resources in the area of soil health. Numerous other events centered around topics such as grazing, wildlife conservation as well as crop and weed management have also included soil health speakers.

Soil health can be described as when the physical, chemical, and biological properties within the soil are in good balance and able to support sustainable agricultural production. According to the South Dakota Department of Agriculture, farmers and ranchers operate the state’s number one industry and it has a \$25.6 billion impact on the economy each year. Increasing the soil health of the more than 19 million acres of cropland and 23 million acres of pastureland, that create this impact, is an important part of protecting the state’s economy.

They reviewed various educational and outreach efforts they have undertaken, utilizing broadcast media (radio and television) as well as social media. They invited the Board/District to consider opportunities for cooperation and collaboration in the future.

FFY 2018 Section 604(b) Project Proposals

The Manager stated that under Section 604(b) of the federal Clean Water Act (CWA), the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) is required to reserve each year for each State 1% or \$100,000, whichever is greater, of its share of Title II funds for statewide water quality management planning. In the case of South Dakota, the amount reserved in FFY18 is anticipated to be \$100,000. The CWA further provides that at least 40% of these funds be allotted to external entities for water

quality management planning activities that will contribute to the State water quality management program.

The District has been approached by staff of the SD DENR Watershed Protection Program about the potential of the District participating in two possible 604(b)-funded activities to be conducted during the 2019 and 2020 field seasons. Final action on the allocation of the funds will not take place until later in the year, but the Manager reviewed to potential projects with the Board.

Big Sioux Water Quality Monitoring - At present, the District is collecting samples for water quality analysis at about 40 locations across the Big Sioux River watershed in South Dakota. We receive reimbursement from the Big Sioux River Watershed Implementation Project for the sampling conducted outside of the District (downstream of Brandon), along with support for sampling at the four (4) NWQI sties on Skunk Creek. The balance of the analytical costs are covered by the District.

The proposed Big Sioux Water Quality Monitoring Project would provide 604(b) funds to help underwrite the analytical costs for samples collected within the boundaries of the Big Sioux River Watershed Implementation Project. The net impact on the District would be a reduction of its analytical costs by \$15,000 per year for two years (\$30,000 total).

User Perception for Lakes in Eastern South Dakota - Most lakes in South Dakota are assigned various designated beneficial uses. In order to determine the extent to which these beneficial uses are being met, SD DENR has established a number of numeric water quality standards for a given beneficial use. A particular lake is considered supporting of the beneficial use(s) if testing of water samples does not find significant violation of the standards.

At present, South Dakota does not have any numeric standards for the nutrients (nitrogen and/or phosphorus) in lakes. There is a narrative standard that considers the presence and concentration of algae, measured as chlorophyll-a. However, there is some debate as to how effectively this measure actually translates into determining support/non-support of recreational uses. Under the best of circumstances, most lakes in South Dakota are likely to have elevated nutrient loads, and the attendant algal blooms.

The proposed activity would implement a lake user survey to determine the extent to which the public's perception of recreational use is impacted by algae production. Conceptually, a very good day on Lake Thompson, during which locals would gladly make full use of the water might be viewed with extreme scepticism by someone for whom Lake Pactola is the frame of reference. The survey would serve as one line of evidence for developing and refining a chlorophyll standard for use in lake assessments and TMDL development.

The effort will involve development of a survey questionnaire, District staff (most likely summer seasonal employees) engaging lake users at a number of eastern South Dakota lakes, and concurrent sampling of chlorophyll-a levels in the lakes. Grant funds (\$30,000) would cover travel expenses and salaries for District staff in the 2019 and 2020 field seasons.

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District Program Update(s)

Agropur Surface Water Discharge Permit - There have no changes in status since the June meeting. The formal comment period ended in May, although EPA had until mid-June to submit their comments. DENR is working on developing responses to the various comments, but they have not yet been released.

Adjournment

There being no additional District business, Chairman Jarrett declared the meeting adjourned at 11:55 a.m.

John Moes, Secretary

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