



**East Dakota Water Development District**  
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**MINUTES**  
**April 13, 2017**

The Board of Directors of the East Dakota Water Development District (EDWDD) held a regular meeting on April 13, 2017, at the Miner County Courthouse, 401 North Main Street, Howard. Chairman Jarrett called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m. The following persons attended:

**Directors Present**

Mark Anderson  
Lois Brown  
Mary Ellen Connelly  
Gary Duffy  
Martin Jarrett  
Kay Kassube  
Dana Loseke  
Janelle Weatherly

**Directors Absent**

John Moes

**Others Present**

Roger Hageman, Lake County Commission  
Stephanie Pauli, Grant County Conservation District

**Staff Present**

Jay Gilbertson

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**Administrative Items**

Approval of Agenda - The Manager requested that a project assistance request from the Town of Oldham be added to the Agenda.

**Motion** by Duffy, seconded by Loseke to approve the Agenda as so amended. Motion carried unanimously.

Minutes - The Board reviewed the Minutes of the March 16, 2017, meeting. It was noted that under the Report of Meetings and Conferences it was Director Connelly rather than Director Weatherly who attended the Friends of the Big Sioux River meeting on February 28.

**Motion** by Loseke, seconded by Connelly to approve the Minutes as so amended. Motion carried unanimously.

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Financial Reports - The Board reviewed the March 2017 Financial Reports.

**Motion** by Connelly, seconded by Anderson to accept the March 2017 Financial Reports. Motion carried unanimously. Chairman Jarrett then asked that the reports be placed in the District files.

The Manager reported options for placing some of the District's cash reserves into other financial institutions in order to provide greater coverage under the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) protections.

**Motion** by Weatherly, seconded by Duffy to authorize the Manager, acting as the Treasurer, to move up to \$500,000 in District cash reserves into certificates of deposit at alternate financial institutions to improve FDIC coverage, provided the decision is approved by the Director Kassube, acting as the Finance Committee Chair. Motion carried unanimously.

Report of Meetings and Conferences - Directors Brown and Loseke attended the March 22 meeting of the Big Sioux River Watershed Project Steering Committee in Sioux Falls.

Director Connelly attended the Friends of the Big Sioux River meeting in Sioux Falls on April 3.

Director Duffy attended the KingBrook Rural Water System Annual Meeting in Madison on April 3, and hearing on Kingsbury County Ditch #4 in DeSmet on April 4.

Director Kassube attended the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual US Drought Monitor Forum in Keystone on April 3 and 4.

Director Loseke attended the Missouri River Institute Forum in Vermillion on March 29 and the Minnehaha County Conservation District meeting on April 10.

Director Weatherly attended the Big Sioux Community Water System Annual Meeting in Flandreau on April 4.

Chairman Jarrett attended the Lake Madison Development Association meeting on April 11.

The Manager briefly commented on the following meetings he attended:

1. March 22 - Ortonville, MN. Minnesota River Headwaters Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategy (WRAPS) meeting.
2. March 22 - Watertown. Lake Pelican Water Project District Annual Meeting.
3. March 29 - Vermillion. Missouri River Institute Forum.
4. March 30 & 31 - Pierre. South Dakota Board of Water and Natural Resources.
5. April 4 - teleconference. SD DENR/USEPA/NRCS Watershed Protection Strategy.
6. April 6 & 7 - Rapid City. Western South Dakota Hydrology Conference.
7. April 10 - Madison. South Dakota Association of Rural Water Systems Quality On Tap Editorial Board.

Upcoming Meetings -

1. **April 18-20** - Polson, MT. US Environmental Protection Agency Region 8 Tribal Nonpoint Source Workshop.
2. **April 19 & 20** - Pierre. South Dakota Water & Wastewater Association 2017 Annual Wastewater Seminar.
3. **April 20** - Pierre. South Dakota Board of Minerals and Environment.
4. **April 26 & 27** - Rapid City. South Dakota association of Rural Water Systems (SDARWS) Manager's Group Meeting.
5. **April 26 & 27** - Rapid City. SDARWS 2017 Water Technology Expo.
6. **May 9 - 9:30 a.m.** - South Dakota State University, Brookings. 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Big Sioux Water Festival.
7. **May 10** - Pierre. South Dakota Water Management Board.
8. **May 18 - 9:00 a.m.** - EDWDD Office, Brookings. EDWDD May Board of Directors Meeting.

**Project Assistance Request(s)**

Grant Conservation District - Stephanie Pauli, Manager for the Grant Conservation District (GCD), presented a request for \$5,000 in District cost-share assistance to be applied toward a recent purchase of a grass drill used to plant native grasses by landowners within Grant County. GCD purchased a new drill in 2015, financed in part by a loan through the South Dakota Conservation Commission. The funds would be used to pay down a portion of the loan amount. Ms. Pauli stated that through discussions with Director Moes she had learned of the District's program supporting such purchases. The Manager stated that the request is similar to those previously considered by the Board, and recommended approval of the request. Comparable awards had previously been made to the conservation districts in Miner, Moody, Brookings, Deuel, Hamlin and Codington Counties.

**Motion** by Brown, seconded by Kassube to provide \$5,000 in District cost-share assistance to the Grant Conservation District as requested to support the purchase of a grass drill, and to authorize payment of said amount. Motion carried unanimously.

Town of Oldham Drinking Water Facility Plan - The Manager presented a request from the Town of Oldham for District cost-share assistance to complete a facility plan of their drinking water distribution system. The focus of the effort will be to investigate options for the KingBrook Rural Water System to provide individual connections to the residents of community and to discontinue services from their existing water utility. The plan will specifically address the technical, financial and managerial feasibility of different alternatives for the residents, and will identify and recommend specific improvements to the existing distribution system. The Town has entered into an agreement with DGR Engineering to complete the work, at a projected total cost of \$10,000. A Small Communities Planning Grant from the South Dakota Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has been requested for \$8,000. Their request is for fifty percent (50%) of the balance of the costs (\$2,000), which would amount to a grant of up to \$1,000 from the District.

**Motion** by Duffy, seconded by Loseke to provide District cost-share assistance to the Town of Oldham covering 50% of the local costs of the proposed study, up to a maximum of \$1,000. Motion carried unanimously.

Agricultural Water Testing Project - The Manager reviewed an effort he has been engaged in with representatives of SD Corn, the South Dakota State University (SDSU) Cooperative Extension Service and the United States Department of Agriculture Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), along with the James River and Vermillion Basin Water Development Districts, to develop a water quality testing program to provide agricultural producers, and South Dakota residents in general, with an opportunity to have water samples analyzed for nutrients, primarily nitrate. In years past, the District has held comparable events where people brought in samples collected from private wells to have them tested for nitrates, and has conducted a variety of water sampling programs targeting this critical contaminant.

He noted that the proposed effort will involve three (3) events to be held this summer in conjunction with existing activities at the SDSU Southeast Research Farm near Beresford, the SDSU Volga Research Farm and a site to be determined in the Huron area. Participants can bring water samples in for nitrate testing, the results of which will remain confidential. Sample testing will be conducted by East Dakota staff using District equipment. Extension and NRCS staff will be present to provide information on potential economic and environmental implications of elevated results, along with options (best management practices) available to address problems.

The bulk of the effort will be provided by the various partners as in-kind match of staff time, but a budget of \$5,000 has been proposed to cover costs associated with the acquisition of the necessary chemical testing reagents and materials, along with educational documents. Funding is to be split evenly between SD Corn (\$2,500) and the water development districts (\$2,500 collectively).

The Manager requested that the Board set aside \$2,500 to be applied toward the acquisition of the necessary chemical reagents and educational materials. If, as expected, both the James River and Vermillion Basin WDDs also contribute funds, the final cost to the District will be much less.

**Motion** by Duffy, seconded by Weatherly to allocate up to \$2,500 in District cost-share assistance funds toward the Agricultural Water Testing Project as requested. Motion carried unanimously.

### **Big Sioux River Basin Stream Gauge Project**

The Manager reviewed the final version of an agreement with the South Dakota Department of Environment and Natural Resources (SD DENR) to provide support for the effort to develop new hydrologic and hydraulic models to improve flood prediction within the Big Sioux River basin. Entitled, "Big Sioux River Basin Stream Gauge Project," the agreement will provide for the addition of up to twenty (20) real-time stream gauging stations along the Big Sioux River and selected tributaries. Under the agreement, the District will acquire the necessary equipment to upgrade existing stage recording stations, or establish wholly new stations, using funds provided by the District (\$100,000) and SD DENR (\$25,000). District and SD DENR staff will make the necessary installations, and then gather stream flow data to calibrate the sites.

**Motion** by Kassube, seconded by Anderson to authorize the Chair to sign the Big Sioux River Basin Stream Gauge Project agreement with SD DENR, to allocate up to \$100,000 in District

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project assistance funds in support of the effort and to authorize expenditure of the funds as necessary. Motion carried unanimously.

**Adjournment**

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

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John Moes, Secretary

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