



East Dakota Water Development District
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MINUTES
July 17, 2025

The Board of Directors of the East Dakota Water Development District (EDWDD) held a regular meeting on July 17th, 2025, at the EDWDD office in Brookings. Chairman Anderson called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m.. The following persons attended:

Directors Present

Mark Anderson
Jeff Barth
Rick Bonander
Debra Elofson
Troy Larson*
Julie Loveland-Swanstrom
John Moes

Others Present

Dave Bartel, James River water Development District
Weston Blasius, Banner Associates*
Sushant Mehan, South Dakota State University*
Jerrit Pederson, City of Colton*

Directors Absent

Spencer Hawley
Bob Kappel

Staff Present

Jaelynn Dreckman*
Jay Gilbertson
Deb Springman

* - participated via video-conference

Administrative Items

Approval of Agenda - The Manager asked to have two items added under District Updates - a report on the stream gaging activities with SD DANR and a report on the 2024 District fiscal audit.

Motion by Moes, seconded by Bonander to approve the agenda as so amended. Motion carried unanimously.

Minutes - The Board reviewed the Minutes of the June 18th, 2025, meeting.

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

Financial Reports - The Board reviewed the June 2025 financial statements.

Motion by Moes, seconded by Elofson to approve the June 2025 financial statements. Motion carried unanimously. Chairman Anderson directed that the approved financial statements be placed in the District files.

Report of Meetings and Conferences - Directors Bonander and Larson reported on the Lewis & Clark Regional Water System Annual Meeting held on June 26th at Tea.

Director Moes reported on the July 16th meeting of the Lake Pelican Water Project District held in Watertown.

The Manager briefly commented on the following meetings he attended:

1. June 25th - Deadwood. South Dakota Association of Rural Water Systems (SDARWS) Board member training.
2. June 26th - Deadwood. SDARWS Board of Directors.
3. July 1st - video-conference. Record SDSU Extension Agriculture and Natural Resources Connections presentations on 1) groundwater in South Dakota and 2) sources of water resources data.
4. July 1st - Webster. US Army Corps of Engineers presentation of Bitter Lake level modification.
5. July 8th - Brookings. Brookings County CO2 Pipeline Committee.
6. July 9th - Pierre. South Dakota Water Management Board hearing on Dell Rapids Future Use Permit.
7. July 14th - Egan. Rivers & Rangelands podcast interview.
8. July 16th - Sioux Falls. Change Agents group presentation on the SD DANR Biennial Integrated Report.
9. July 16th - Salem. Vermillion Basin WDD Board of Directors meeting.

Upcoming Meetings -

1. **July 22nd - 7:30 a.m.** - Sioux Falls. 2025 Rural Water Open.
2. **July 23rd - 8:30 a.m.** - Sioux Falls. South Dakota Association of Rural Water Systems Manager's Group.
3. **August 4th - 10:00 a.m.** - video-conference. SDSU Extension Agriculture and Natural Resources (ANR) Connections session.
4. **August 7th - 9:00 a.m.** - Brookings. Brookings County CO2 Pipeline Committee.
5. **August 13th - 10:00 a.m.** - Brookings. SD Lakes & Streams Association Board of Directors.
6. **August 21st - 9:00 a.m.** - EDWDD Office, Brookings. August EDWDD Board of Directors meeting.

Payment Requests - The Manager presented three (3) payment/reimbursement requests that required Board action. He noted that the requests were in order, and consistent with conditions established at the time of the awards.

<u>Grant Recipient/Activity</u>	<u>Requested Amount</u>
SDSM&T - Big Sioux River PFAS Survey (Kunza)	\$ 6,634.29
SDSU - Establishment of a Certified PFAS Lab (Islam/Schmit)	\$ 3,668.43
SDSU - SD Water Values Survey Project (Bergstrom)	\$ 10,000.00
Total	\$ 20,302.72

Motion by Larson, seconded by Barth, to authorize payment of \$20,302.72 as requested. Motion carried unanimously.

Schedule Finance & Personnel Committee Meetings - The Manager noted that meetings of both the Finance and Personnel Committees are scheduled for the interim between the July and August meetings, in advance of the development of the budget for the coming year. It was the consensus of the Board to hold both meetings on August 21st, prior to the regularly scheduled Board meeting.

Project Assistance Requests

City of Colton - Weston Blasius, Banner Associates, and Jerrit Pederson, City of Colton, presented a cost-share assistance request from the City of Colton. Banner Associates of Brookings has been engaged to complete a facility plan of the community's wastewater collection and treatment system. The projected cost of the study is \$42,500. The City anticipates a SD DANR Small Community Planning Grant of \$10,000, leaving a local cost balance of \$32,500. Their request of the District is for up to fifty percent (50%) of this amount, which would come to \$16,250.

Motion by Larson, seconded by Loveland-Swanstrom to provide District cost-share assistance for this effort sufficient to cover fifty percent of the local costs, up to a maximum amount of \$16,250.

Substitute Motion by Barth to provide District cost-share assistance for this effort in the amount of \$19,250. Substitute motion failed for lack of a second.

Original motion carried unanimously.

[Director Larson left the meeting.]

United States Geological Survey - The Manager reviewed a proposed joint funding agreement (JFA) between the District and the United States Geological Survey (USGS) Upper Midwest Water Science Center (UMWSC) for support of stream gaging stations for Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2025 (October 2024 - September 2025).

During FFY 2023 and 2024, the District provided cost-share assistance through the Upper Midwest Water Science Center for two gages, one on the Whetstone River near Big Stone City and the other on the Yellow Bank River near Odessa, MN, at a cost of \$6,652. The proposed FFY 2025 JFA would be for a continuation of support for these gages at a one-year cost of \$2,973. Support for these gages is also provided by the Upper Minnesota River Watershed District, the Lac qui Parle/Yellow Bank Watershed District, and the US Army Corps of Engineers.

Motion by Barth, seconded by Moes to approve the FFY 2025 JFA with the USGS UMWSC for \$2,973, and to authorize the Manager to execute the agreement. Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion of Expanding District Future-Use Water Permits

The Manager reviewed the District's Future Use Water Right (#3754-3, which currently reserves up to 91,500 acre-feet per year (ac-ft/yr) of water from the Missouri River. In that the District is not a public water supplier (PWS), the water held in reserve is intended to ultimately be used by the residents of the District. He noted that under Administrative Rule of South Dakota 74:02:04:24.01, the South Dakota Water Management Board can issue future use permits for up to twice the 'current' water usage by a given PWS. In our case, this would involve all of the PWSs providing service within District boundaries. In 2003, after a survey of water usage by the PWSs within the District, along with a guess as to what Lewis & Clark Regional Water System (LCRWS) would need, the projected use was roughly 72,000 ac-ft/yr. Twice that is 144,000, and that is the amount we held under 3574-3 until the 2022 transfer of 52,500 ac-ft/yr to LCRWS.

The Manager has reviewed current water use within the District. At this time, the combined use by the major public water suppliers is roughly 52 million gallons per day, which translates into about 58,300 ac-ft/yr. Double this number would be 116,600 ac-ft/yr. With regard to water from the Missouri River, the current District holdings ((91,500 ac-ft/yr), along with those of the City of Sioux Falls (28,236 ac-ft/yr under permit 2042-3), are adequate to fully cover the "twice the current usage" provisions of ARSD 74:02:04:24.01. As such, no additional future use permits for the Missouri River are necessary.

The Manager is exploring two additional options, likely targeting requests from specific aquifers. These future use permits would not be intended to provide District-wide support, but would be predicated on backstopping PWSs in the northern part of the District. He is exploring needs and water availability in the Revillo and Big Sioux:Brookings aquifers.

District Updates

SD DANR Wetlands Policy - The Manager distributed copies of a memorandum issued by Hunter Roberts, Secretary of the South Dakota Department of Agriculture & Natural Resources (SD DANR) addressing current State regulations on wetlands protection. Under Administrative Rule of South Dakota (ARSD) 74:51:01:11, the destruction or impairment of wetlands is expressly forbidden, unless a federal permit has been obtained for the action. Recent court rulings have limited the number of wetlands eligible for federal permits, and as such, a significant number of wetlands are solely subject to ARSD 74:51:01:11, and may not be altered in any fashion. Secretary Roberts' memorandum spells out the efforts that SD DANR is taking to develop formal procedures for dealing with such wetlands. The memorandum suggests that while wetland preservation is preferable, mitigation would likely be acceptable in certain circumstances. The Manager will monitor development on this issue.

Bitter Lake Water Level Study - The Manager reported that at the request of the Day County Commission, the US Army Corps of Engineers has been examining options for the management of water levels in the Bitter Lake watershed. Lakes in the watershed, all located in eastern Day County, have risen dramatically in the past several decades, resulting in the loss of considerable public infrastructure and damage to private and public properties. This effort is of import to the District

because any likely effort to export water from this basin would directed toward the Big Sioux River.

On July 1st, Corps representatives gave a briefing in Webster on their efforts to date. The meeting was attended by representatives of Day County, area communities, state agencies and local media, along with the Manager. The presentation primarily focused on what data the Corps had collected, along with model projections of area lake levels under certain climatic assumptions. The presentation did not offer any suggestions as to how the lake levels might be managed. This information will presumably be part of the final report.

2024 District Fiscal Audit - The Manager distributed DRAFT copies of the 2024 District fiscal audit report, prepared by ELO CPAs and Advisors of Huron, for the Board to review. Formal consideration of the report will be taken up at the August Board meeting.

DANR Stream Gages - The Manager noted that at their May 2025 meeting, the Board had agreed to provide cost-share assistance funds in support of an expansion of the South Dakota Department of Agriculture & Natural Resources (DANR) stream gaging network. District funds would be used to acquire equipment and materials. Comparable support has been pledged by the Vermillion Basin Water Development District and the Belle Fourche Watershed Project. He reported that SD DANR had asked if the District would act as the purchasing agent for the effort on behalf of the three entities. The Manager reported that he had agreed to the request.

Adjournment

There being no further District business, Chairman Anderson declared the meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

Spencer Hawley, Secretary