



**East Dakota Water Development District**  
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**MINUTES**  
**November 20, 2025**

The Board of Directors of the East Dakota Water Development District (EDWDD) held a regular meeting on November 20<sup>th</sup>, 2025, at the South Dakota Corn Growers Association Office, 4712 South Technopolis Drive, Sioux Falls. Chairman Anderson called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. The following persons attended:

**Directors Present**

Mark Anderson  
Jeff Barth  
Rick Bonander  
Debra Elofson  
Spencer Hawley  
Bob Kappel  
Troy Larson  
Julie Loveland-Swanstrom

**Directors Absent**

John Moes

**Others Present**

Travis Entenman, Friends of the Big Sioux River  
Bill Even, Governor's Office of Economic Development  
Josh Haiar, South Dakota Searchlight  
Ari Jungemann, Governor's Office of Economic Development  
Ted Lewis, City of Sioux Falls

**Staff Present**

Barry Berg  
Jaelynn Dreckman  
Jay Gilbertson

**Administrative Items**

**Approval of Agenda** - The Manager stated that the scheduled report on 2025 District water quality sampling would take place at the December meeting of the Board. He also noted that technical difficulties were preventing connection with the internet, and therefore no one would be joining the meeting by way of videoconferencing.

**Motion** by Larson, seconded by Barth to approve the agenda as so amended. Motion carried unanimously.

**Minutes** - The Board reviewed the Minutes of the October 16<sup>th</sup>, 2025, meeting.

**Motion** by Larson, seconded by Hawley to approve the Minutes of the October 16<sup>th</sup>, 2025, meeting of the East Dakota Water Development District Board of Directors as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

## Financial Reports - The Board reviewed the October 2025 Financial Reports.

**Motion** by Larson, seconded by Bonander to accept the October 2025 Financial Reports. Motion carried unanimously. Chairman Anderson then asked that the report be placed in the District files.

## Report of Meetings and Conferences - The Manager briefly commented on the following meetings he attended:

- October 20<sup>th</sup> - Webster. South Dakota Association of Conservation Districts Coteau Area Legislative Banquet.
- October 21<sup>st</sup> - videoconference. South Dakota Association of Rural Water Systems Quality On Tap editorial board.
- October 22<sup>nd</sup> - videoconference. Comprehensive Property Tax Legislative Task Force.
- October 23<sup>rd</sup> - Sioux Falls. Well head protection area discussions with Sioux Falls drinking water staff; Lewis & Clark RWS Thanks-for-Giving luncheon; met SDSM&T PFAS samplers at Falls Park.
- October 27<sup>th</sup> - 29<sup>th</sup> - Baton Rouge, LA. US Environmental Protection Agency Nonpoint Source Workshop.
- November 3<sup>rd</sup> - Sioux Falls. South Lincoln RWS and DGR Engineering discussion of Dakota aquifer; Dinner with Thailand Department of Groundwater Resources staff.
- November 4<sup>th</sup> - Sioux Falls & Vermillion. Tour of area water resource activities with Thailand Department of Groundwater Resources staff.
- November 6<sup>th</sup> - videoconference. South Dakota Board of Water & Natural Resources.
- November 12<sup>th</sup> - Madison. Discussion of microplastics sampling of lakes and rivers in eastern South Dakota with Dakota State University faculty.
- November 13<sup>th</sup> - Huron. James River Water Development District Board of Directors meeting.
- November 18<sup>th</sup> - Brooklyn Center, Minnesota. Minnesota Ground Water Association Fall Conference.
- November 19<sup>th</sup> - via videoconference. South Dakota Legislature Executive Board.
- November 19<sup>th</sup> - Howard. Vermillion Basin Water Development District Board of Directors meeting.

## Upcoming Meetings -

1. **December 3<sup>rd</sup> - 10:00 a.m.** - Lake Norden. Informational meeting on Agropur NPDES permit.
2. **December 3<sup>rd</sup> - 4:00 p.m.** - Sioux Falls. SDARWS Rural Water Center Executive Committee.
3. **December 3<sup>rd</sup> - 7:00 p.m.** - Ramkota Hotel & Convention Center, Sioux Falls. SD Soybean Association Uniting Agriculture Social.
4. **December 4<sup>th</sup> - 9:00 a.m.** - Hilton Garden Inn South, Sioux Falls. South Dakota Association of Rural Water Systems (SDARWS) Board of Directors.
5. **December 8<sup>th</sup> - 10:00 a.m.** - Mathews Training Center, Pierre. South Dakota Nonpoint Source Task Force.
6. **December 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup>** - Bismarck, North Dakota. Upper Missouri Water Association Annual Meeting.
7. **December 18<sup>th</sup> - 1:00 p.m.** - EDWDD Office, Brookings. December EDWDD Board of Directors meeting.
8. **January 13<sup>th</sup>, 2026** - State Capitol Building, Pierre. Opening of the 101<sup>st</sup> Session of the South Dakota Legislature.
9. **January 13<sup>th</sup> - 15<sup>th</sup>** - Ramkota Convention Center, Pierre. SDARWS Annual Technical Conference.

10. **January 22<sup>nd</sup> - 9:00 a.m.** - EDWDD Office, Brookings. January 2026 EDWDD Board of Directors meeting.

The Manager noted that the normal date for the January 2026 Board meeting would fall on January 15<sup>th</sup>, which is during the SDARWS Annual Technical Conference in Pierre. He suggested that the January meeting be moved to January 22<sup>nd</sup>. Director Larson asked the business items normally covered at the January meeting could be dealt with at either the December 2025 or February 2026 meetings? The Manager indicated that they could.

**Motion** by Larson, seconded by Elofson to cancel the January 2026 Board of Directors meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Payment Requests - The Manager presented the Board with five payment requests from District-sponsored activities that required Board action. He noted that the requests were in order and consistent with the conditions established by the Board at the time of the awards.

<u>Grant Recipient/Activity</u>	<u>Requested Amount</u>
SD GF&P - Big Sioux River CREP Support	\$ 216,293.52
Dakota Mainstem 2025 Developmental Assistance	\$ 17,387.29
SDSM&T - Big Sioux River PFAS Survey (Kunza)	\$ 12,016.26
SDSU - Establishing Certified PFAS Testing Facility (Islam)	\$ 6,110.44
SDSU - Environmental & Economic Assessment of SRAM (Mehan)	\$ 11,241.94
	<b>\$ 263,049.45</b>

The Manager noted that the payment to SD GF&P for the Big Sioux River CREP Support would complete the District obligation to the project.

**Motion** by Larson, seconded by Loveland-Swanstrom to authorize payments totaling \$263,049.45 as requested. Motion carried unanimously.

Organizational Membership - The Manager presented the Board with the 2026 Upper Missouri Water Association membership invoice, in the amount of \$1,500.00 (Mainstem membership).

**Motion** by Bonander, seconded by Hawley to authorize payment of the 2026 UMWA dues in the amount of \$1,500. Motion carried without dissent, with Director Larson abstaining.

### **GOED Statewide Economic Development Infrastructure Plan**

Bill Even, Commissioner of the Governor's Office of Economic Development (GOED), provided an overview of the Infrastructure First Project, which is intended to create a statewide economic development plan focused on identifying infrastructure constraints and prospective improvements to facilitate strategic growth. With input from key project stakeholders, themes were identified that guided the process, with the primary goal of advancing economic development while building resource independence, cultivating more resilient communities, and improving quality of life through creating dynamic environments.

A key part of the process was creation of the Statewide Economic Development Infrastructure Plan, intended to summarize the status of major, essential infrastructure assets across South Dakota. The plan identifies current and future infrastructure constraints and opportunities as they relate to the State's strategic economic development growth initiatives. Essential statewide infrastructure systems to be assessed were identified as those serving major networks, including water, natural gas, wastewater, electricity, broadband, roads, and rail. Three sections of the report address water resource topics, covering Water Rights, Drinking Water and Water Quality. Commissioner discussed this material with the Board. The Manager noted that some of the identified objectives/critical water resource topics might provide opportunities for collaborative efforts. Commissioner Even encouraged the Board to reach out if they saw and opportunity to work together.

### **Water Resource Reporting in the Media**

Joshua Haiar, with the South Dakota Searchlight news organization, spoke about how water resource issues are covered in the media. He discussed how he and/or his employer select what topics and issues to cover, along with any challenges that exist in such reporting. He also addressed how news reporting in general works in a time when even the largest traditional media entities have limited 'local' staff.

### **Project Assistance Request(s)**

The Manager presented the annual requests for financial assistance from the Big Sioux (Brookings-based) and Sioux Empire (Sioux Falls-based) Water Festivals. He noted that the District has provided financial and technical assistance for these two activities since their inception in 1993 and 1994, respectively, providing every fourth, or fifth, grader within the District an opportunity to attend.

Big Sioux Water Festival - The 34<sup>th</sup> Annual Big Sioux Water Festival will be held on May 12<sup>th</sup>, 2026, on the campus of South Dakota State University. The District has provided annual support of \$9,000 over the past several years, and the Manager recommended a similar level of support for the 2026 event.

Sioux Empire Water Festival - The 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Sioux Empire Water Festival will be held on March 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>, 2026, on the campus of the University of Sioux Falls. The District has provided annual support of \$10,000 over the past several years, and the Manager recommended a similar level of support for the 2026 event.

**Motion** by Kappel, seconded by Barth to award District cost-share assistance funding of \$9,000 and \$10,000, respectively, in support of the 2026 Big Sioux and Sioux Empire Water Festivals as requested, and to authorize expenditure of the funds. Motion carried unanimously.

City of Castlewood - The Manager presented a request from the City of Castlewood for District cost-share assistance to be applied to a preliminary engineering report on proposed improvements to the community's storm water system. The study would be conducted by Banner Associates. Specifically, they are requesting District support of up to fifty percent (50%) of the anticipated project costs of \$ 64,900. This would amount to up to \$32,450. The Manager noted that representatives of the city and Banner had intended to participate in the request, but were unable to do so because of the problems with the video-conferencing.

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**Motion** by Larson, seconded by Barth to award District cost-share assistance funding to the City of Castlewood to cover fifty percent (50%) of the proposed storm water system study costs, up to a maximum amount of \$32,450, as requested. Motion carried unanimously.

South Dakota Chapters of the Wildlife Society & American Fisheries Society - The Manager presented the Board with a request from the South Dakota Chapters of the Wildlife Society & American Fisheries Society seeking District cost-share assistance as a sponsor of their upcoming joint annual meeting. The meeting is scheduled for February 24<sup>th</sup> - 26<sup>th</sup>, 2026, and will be held on the campus of South Dakota State University in Brookings. He noted that support of such an event, with it's primary emphasis on fish and wildlife topics, was atypical, but not necessarily unwarranted. He recommended that the District provide \$250 in support of the effort, which is a Bronze-level sponsorship.

**Motion** by Elofson, seconded by Bonander to provide one-time District cost-share assistance funding for the upcoming joint annual meeting of the South Dakota Chapters of the Wildlife Society & the American Fisheries Society in the amount of \$250, and to authorize payment of the funds. Motion carried unanimously.

### **District Updates**

District Staff Reports - Barry Berg and Jaelynn Dreckman. District-staff based in Sioux Falls in support of the Big Sioux River Project (BSRP), spoke about their professional background and their roles and responsibilities with the BSRP.

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### **Adjournment**

There being no further District business, Chairman Anderson declared the meeting adjourned at 12:42 p.m.

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Spencer Hawley, Secretary