



East Dakota Water Development District
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Brookings, SD 57006
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MINUTES
September 17, 2026

The Board of Directors of the East Dakota Water Development District (EDWDD) held a regular meeting on September 17th, 2026, at the District Office in Brookings. Vice-Chairman Hawley called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. The following persons attended:

Directors Present

Jeff Barth
Rick Bonander
Debra Elofson
Spencer Hawley
Troy Larson
Julie Loveland-Swanstrom
Sheldon Osborn

Directors Absent

Mark Anderson
John Moes

Others Present

Dr. Kristel Bakker, Dakota State University
Hamzah Elsayed, Dakota State University
Jeff Meadows, Lake County Conservation District
Derek Moreno, Dakota State University
Dr. Andrew Sathoff, Dakota State University
Caleb Shaw, Dakota State University
Amelie Steins, Dakota State University

Staff Present

Jay Gilbertson
Deb Springman

Administrative Items

Approval of Agenda - The Manager asked to have the nomination of candidates to the State Conservation Commission added to the Agenda under Administrative Items.

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

Minutes - The Board reviewed the Minutes of the August 27th, 2026, meetings.

Motion by Larson, seconded by Bonander to approve the Minutes of the August 27th, 2026, meeting as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Financial Reports - The Board reviewed the August 2026 Financial Reports.

Motion by Elofson, seconded by Barth, to accept the August 2026 financial reports. Motion carried unanimously. Vice-Chairman Hawley asked that the report be placed in the District files.

Report of Meetings and Conferences - Director Bonander reported on the September 14th meeting of the Minnehaha Conservation District.

The Manager briefly commented on the following meetings he had attended:

1. September 3rd - South Dakota Association of Rural Water Systems (SDARWS) Board of Directors Meeting, Madison; SDARWS Rural Water Center Board of Directors Meeting, Madison.
2. September 10th - James River Water Development District Board of Directors, via video-conference.
3. September 11th - JEO Consulting Engineers - Introductory meeting, via video-conference.
4. September 15th - Bolton & Menk Engineering - Introductory meeting, EDWDD Office, Brookings.
5. September 16th - South Dakota Lakes & Streams Association Board of Directors, EDWDD Office, Brookings.
6. September 16th - Vermillion Basin Water Development District Board of Directors, Centerville.

Upcoming Meetings

1. **September 21st & 22nd** - Ramkota Hotel & Convention Center, Pierre. Upper Missouri Water Association Conference.
2. **September 23rd - 10:00 a.m.** - Water Reclamation Plant, Sioux Falls. Regional Wastewater Planning Group.
3. **September 24th - 9:30 a.m.** - USDA Service Center, Sioux Falls. Big Sioux River Project Steering Committee.
4. **September 24th** - Matthews Training Center, 523 East Capitol Avenue, Pierre. South Dakota Board of Water and Natural Resources.
5. **September 25th - 11:00 a.m.** - Worthington, MN. Dakota Mainstem Regional Water System Board of Directors meeting.
6. **October 1st - 9:00 a.m.** - Owatonna, MN. 2026 Tri-State Drainage Research Forum.
7. **October 7th** - McCrory Gardens Education Center, SDSU, Brookings. 2026 Eastern South Dakota Water Conference.
8. **October 13th - 3:00 p.m. (MST)** - Rapid Valley SD, 4611 Teak Drive, Rapid City. West Dakota Water Development District Board of Directors.
9. **October 14th - 10:00 a.m.** - EDWDD Office, 132B Airport Avenue, Brookings. South Dakota Lakes & Streams Association Board of Directors.
10. **October 15th - 9:00 a.m.** - EDWDD Office, Brookings. October EDWDD Board of Directors. To be followed by a Board training session.

State Conservation Commission Nomination - The Manager presented a request from the South Dakota Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources (DANR) for a nomination to represent water development districts on the State Conservation Commission. Under South Dakota Codified Law 38-7-4 (Composition of commission - Appointment and terms of members - Vacancies), the Governor appoints a commission member from a list of three names recommended by the water development districts. He stated that Tom Glover of Burke (and a South-Central Water Development District director) currently holds this position, but Mr. Glover is not interested in continuing service.

Motion by Barth, seconded by Osborn to submit directors Rick Bonander and Julie Loveland-Swanstrom as potential candidates for consideration for appointment to the State Conservation Commission. Motion carried unanimously.

Hearing and Action on the 2027 EDWDD Budget

Vice-Chairman Hawley opened the public hearing on the 2027 EDWDD Budget at 10:00 a.m. The Manager stated that the District had published a copy of the proposed budget and notices of the hearing in all of the official District newspapers, as required by South Dakota Codified Law 46A-3E-10. The Manager stated that no written or verbal comments on the proposed budget were received prior to the meeting/hearing.

Vice-Chairman Hawley invited public comment on the budget as advertised and presented. No public comments were made. Vice-Chairman Hawley declared the public hearing closed, and called for Board comment and/or action on the proposed budget. The Manager noted that the budget (income and expenditures) was unchanged from that reviewed by the Board at their August meeting. The Board made no adjustments to the budget.

The Manager requested Board authorization for the Vice-Chairman and Treasurer to sign District Resolution 26-1, Resolution providing that a tax be assessed and levied on all taxable property in the East Dakota Water Development District. The resolution covers District property tax collections for fiscal year 2026, payable in 2027, as identified in the property tax income portion of the budget under consideration. The resolution is part of the package of material sent to all county auditors and treasurers in the District, as well as the South Dakota Department of Revenue, in accordance with SDCL 46A-3E-12.

Motion by Barth, seconded by Elofson to adopt the 2027 EDWDD Budget as amended, and to authorize the Vice-Chairman and Treasurer to sign Resolution 26-1. Motion carried unanimously.

FY 2027 BUDGET

MEANS OF FINANCE

100	Tax Revenue	\$	1,050,000
200	Grant Revenue	\$	300,000
300	Capitol Reserves	\$	250,000
400	Miscellaneous Revenue	\$	<u>125,000</u>
TOTAL FY 2027 MEANS OF FINANCE		\$	1,725,000

APPROPRIATIONS

GENERAL FUND

01	Board of Directors	\$	41,391
02	Administration	\$	216,063
03	Technical Assistance	\$	335,268
04	Operational Expenses	\$	148,750
05	Professional Services	\$	51,000
06	Capitol Outlay	\$	13,500
07	Grant Expenditures	\$	300,000

DRAFT		08	Project Assistance	\$	469,028
		09	Contingency	\$	<u>150,000</u>
TOTAL FY 2027 APPROPRIATIONS				\$	1,725,000

DSU Survey of Microplastics in Area Water Resources

The Manager noted that at the December 2025 Board meeting, the District provided a grant to Dakota State University (DSU) to conduct a base line survey of microplastics in a range of lakes and wetlands within the District. The study would involve sampling a number of lakes and streams within the District, standard particle analyses (fibers, fragments, films or beads), quantification by particles, and chemical identification of the plastics detected. The Board provided a project assistance grant of \$54,956 to DSU for the effort.

Drs. Kristel Bakker and Andrew Sathoff, along with DSU students Caleb Shaw, Derek Moreno, Amelie Steins and Hamzah Elsayed, provided the Board with a progress report on their efforts. They reviewed the sampling and collection procedures, analytical protocols, and some preliminary results. To-date they have sampled roughly 35 different water bodies within the District, and have completed sample analyses on about 20.

The Board asked numerous questions about the effort. Dr. Bakker indicated that the field work was expected to be completed this fall, with the final analyses and report wrapped up during the spring 2027 semester. She also indicated that the work involved was requiring additional time and resources beyond what had originally been planned,

The Manager noted that the effort was the focus of a South Dakota Public Broadcasting (SDPB) report in late July. The effort was the subject of the July 28th edition of SDPBs “In The Moment” radio show, the link to which is below:

<https://www.sdpb.org/podcast/in-the-moment/2026-07-28/scientists-are-finding-microplastics-in-south-dakotas-lakes-rivers-and-streams-what-happens-next>

Project Assistance Requests

Dakota State University - As noted previously by Dr. Bakker, the amount of time and effort required for the DSU microplastics survey was proving to be more than had been anticipated. As a consequence, she requested Board consideration of supplemental funding request in the amount of \$7,260. This would be applied toward additional travel and supplies (\$600) and support for the students (\$6,660).

Motion by Bonander, seconded by Larson, to approve an additional \$7,260 in District project assistance funding as requested. Motion carried unanimously.

SDARWS Apprenticeship Program - The Manager presented the Board with a proposal to provide District cost-share assistance to participants in the South Dakota Association of Rural Water Systems (SDARWS) Apprenticeship Program (Program). As Kindra Weise, SDARWS, explained at the July meeting, the effort is intended to address a looming shortage of trained workers in the public water and waste-water sector. The first cohort of participants began earlier this year in February, with a second

group starting in April. There are about a dozen participants, all coming from drinking water field. A final 2026 cohort will start the Program in October.

The Manager proposed that the District create a pool of funds that could be used to support this important activity. The support would be available to any public water or waste water utility, located within the East Dakota Water Development District, that enrolls someone in the Program. He suggested providing assistance to the sponsoring utility to offset costs incurred in Program involvement. One option would be to under-write costs related to participant attendance at required training and instructional meetings. SDARWS estimates this will come to about \$2,500 per participant. A second option would be to help off-set the compensation for the in-house mentor, also a Program requirement. The Board discussed these and other approaches.

Motion by Bonander, seconded by Osborn to allocate \$18,000 in District project assistance funds to support the South Dakota Association of Rural Water Systems Apprenticeship Program (Program). Participating water and wastewater utilities located within the District can apply for up to \$3,000 per Program participant to offset costs incurred for Program activities. Motion carried unanimously.

Technical & Financial Assistance to Water Studies and Projects

The Manager distributed for future consideration a general policy on technical and financial assistance to water projects and studies. The policy was initially adopted by the District Board of Directors in May of 1985, but had largely fallen out of use. Recent questions about the types and level of support the District might provide various activities has renewed interest in the issue. The Manager proposed the Board review the document in the coming months.

Big Sioux River Project Agreement with Minnehaha Conservation District

The Manager requested Board authorization for an agreement between the District and the Minnehaha Conservation District (MCD). Under the agreement, the District would provide day-to-day staff and logistical support for the Big Sioux River Project (Project) Segment 5, which is the primary sponsor. Comparable agreements had previously been used to support Project Segments 3 and 4. Primary support for the effort comes by way of grants from SD DANR utilizing US EPA Section 319 Non-Point Source funds. The Project work plan and funding are broken up into five year segments, as have been the agreements with MCD.

Motion by Barth, seconded by Elofson to authorize the Chair to sign the working agreement with the Minnehaha Conservation District in support of the Big Sioux River Project Segment 5. Motion carried unanimously, with Director Bonander abstaining.

Adjournment

There being no further District business, Vice-Chairman Hawley declared the meeting adjourned at 11:07 a.m.

Spencer Hawley, Secretary

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RESOLUTION 26-1

**RESOLUTION PROVIDING THAT A TAX BE ASSESSED AND LEVIED ON ALL
TAXABLE PROPERTY IN THE
EAST DAKOTA WATER DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT**

WHEREAS, Section 46A-3E-1 of the South Dakota Codified Laws provides, “A water development district board of directors may levy taxes, not to exceed thirty cents per thousand dollars of taxable valuation in the district, for the purposes of chapters 46A-1, 46A-2, and 46A-3A to 46A-3E, inclusive. If an area is included in more than one district, the tax levy payable to each of the water development districts is determined by multiplying the greater of the overlapping water development districts' levies by each water development district's taxing fraction. Each district's taxing fraction is determined by dividing that district's proposed tax levy for the overlapped area by the sum of all water development districts' levies for the overlapped area”; and

WHEREAS, Section 46A-3E-13 of the South Dakota Codified Laws provides, “The tax collecting officials shall extend the levy or special assessments upon the tax list of the county, municipality, or other appropriate tax paying entity for the tax year against each description of taxable property or, in the case of special assessments, against each description of taxable property to be specially assessed within the water development district, in the same manner and with the same effect as other taxes and assessments are extended, including the authority, requirements, and procedures contained in chapter 9-43”; and

WHEREAS, Section 46A-3E-14 of the South Dakota Codified Laws provides, “The tax collecting officials shall collect all water development district taxes and assessments, together with any interest and penalties, in the same manner as the general taxes and assessments are collected and shall on a monthly basis, forward the amounts collected during the preceding month to the district treasurer. The district treasurer shall deposit the amounts in the institutional account designated by the board”; and

WHEREAS, the East Dakota Water Development district boundary includes all of the lands within Brookings, Codington, Deuel, Grant, Hamlin, Lincoln (Sioux Falls only), Minnehaha, and Moody Counties, Badger Township in Kingsbury County, all of Lake County except Clarno, Concord, Orland, Wayne and Winfred Townships, and all municipalities that are wholly or partially within the included area or that are contiguous to the included area; and

WHEREAS, the East Dakota Water Development District Board of Directors, at a meeting in Brookings, South Dakota, on September 17th, 2026, adopted a budget of \$1,725,000 for the calendar year 2027 and which is hereby attached and incorporated by reference; and

WHEREAS, an estimated \$985,000 of said budget is to be raised by a tax on taxable valuation in the East Dakota Water Development District;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that pursuant to Chapter 46A-3A to 46A-3E, inclusive, of the South Dakota Codified Laws, the county auditor in each of the following counties

of Brookings, Codington, Deuel, Grant, Hamlin, Kingsbury, Lake, Lincoln (Sioux Falls only), Minnehaha, and Moody within East Dakota Water Development District, be instructed to extend the following tax levy in dollars, not to exceed the limits established in Chapter 46A-3E of the South Dakota Codified Laws for collection in 2027 to wit:

COUNTIES	REAL PROPERTY TAX LEVY
Brookings	\$81,998
Codington	\$80,600
Deuel	\$22,435
Grant	\$30,648
Hamlin	\$32,197
Kingsbury	\$2,482
Lake	\$38,956
Lincoln (Sioux Falls only)	\$130,552
Minnehaha	\$503,052
Moody	\$25,780

Said tax levy is to be extended against all taxable property in the county, including municipalities, within:

1. Brookings, Codington, Deuel, Grant, Hamlin, Minnehaha and Moody Counties;
2. Badger township in Kingsbury County;
3. All of Lake County, with the exception of Clarno, Concord, Orland, Wayne and Winfred townships;
4. That portion of the City of Sioux Falls that is within Lincoln County; and
5. All municipalities that are wholly or partially within the included area or that are contiguous to the included area; in the same manner and with the same effect as other taxes are extended; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, pursuant to Section 46A-3E-14 of the South Dakota Codified Laws, the county treasurer in each of the counties within the said East Dakota Water Development District be instructed to collect said real property taxes and pay over such collection of money to the East Dakota Water Development District each month for deposit in the First National Bank of Brookings, the local depository for the District; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, pursuant to Section 46A-3E-12 of the South Dakota Codified Laws, the secretary of the East Dakota Water Development District is hereby instructed to send a certified copy of this resolution adopting this annual tax levy to be made against 2026 taxable property valuation, and a certified copy of the budget for 2027 as approved by the Board of Directors, to each county auditor and each county treasurer within the East Dakota Water Development District and to the State Secretary of Revenue.

Dated this 17th day of September, 2026, with the approval of the East Dakota Water Development District Board of Directors.

Spencer Hawley, Vice-Chairman
East Dakota Water Development District

Jay P. Gilbertson, Treasurer
East Dakota Water Development District

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