



**East Dakota Water Development District**  
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Brookings, SD 57006  
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**MINUTES**  
**December 18, 2025**

The Board of Directors of the East Dakota Water Development District (District) held a regular meeting on December 18<sup>th</sup>, 2025, at the District Office in Brookings, SD. Chairman Anderson called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. The following persons attended:

**Directors Present**

Mark Anderson  
Rick Bonander  
Deb Elofson  
Spencer Hawley  
Bob Kappel\*  
Julie Loveland-Swanstrom\*  
John Moes

**Directors Absent**

Jeff Barth  
Troy Larson

**Staff Present**

Barry Berg  
Jaelynn Dreckman  
Jay Gilbertson  
Jeremy Hinke  
Deb Springman

**Others Present**

Kristel Bakker, Dakota State University\*  
Kevin Christenson, SD Assoc Rural Water Systems  
Joshua Haiar, South Dakota Searchlight\*  
Brent Hanson, US Geological Survey\*  
Galen Hoogestraat, US Geological Survey\*  
Guanghai Hua, South Dakota State University  
Ted Lewis, City of Sioux Falls\*  
Chris Myers, City of Sioux Falls\*  
Ashlee Nilson, KLJ Engineering\*  
Chris Schmidt, South Dakota State University  
Tim Stefanich, AE<sub>2</sub>S\*  
Ryan Thompson, US Geological Survey\*  
Elizabeth Wakeman, Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribe\*

\* - participated via video-conference.

**Administrative Items**

**Approval of Agenda -**

**Motion** by Bonander, seconded by Elofson to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

**Minutes** - The Board reviewed the Minutes of the November 20<sup>th</sup>, 2025, meeting.

**Motion** by Hawley, seconded by Bonander to approve the November 20<sup>th</sup>, 2025, Board Meeting Minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

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Financial Reports - The Board reviewed the November 2025 Financial Reports.

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

Report of Meetings and Conferences - Director Bonander reported on a meeting with State Senator Joy Hohn on Missouri River issues on November 20<sup>th</sup> and the December 3<sup>rd</sup> SD Soybean Association Annual Meeting. Both events were in Sioux Falls.

Director Hawley reported on the ribbon cutting for the new water treatment plant for the City of Brookings on December 10<sup>th</sup>.

The Manager commented briefly on the following meetings he attended:

1. December 3<sup>rd</sup> - Agropur NPDES Permit Review Discussion, Lake Norden.
2. December 3<sup>rd</sup> - SD Soybean Association Uniting Agriculture Social, Sioux Falls.
3. December 4<sup>th</sup> - South Dakota Association of Rural Water Systems (SDARWS) Board of Directors, Sioux Falls.
4. December 4<sup>th</sup> - SDARWS Rural Water Center Board of Directors, Sioux Falls.
5. December 8<sup>th</sup> - South Dakota NonPoint Source Task Force meeting, Pierre.
6. December 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> - Upper Missouri Water Association Annual Meeting, Bismarck, ND.
7. December 16<sup>th</sup> - Big Sioux River Project Steering Committee, Dell Rapids.

Upcoming Meetings -

1. **January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2026** - Pierre and Teams video-conferencing. South Dakota Board of Water & Natural Resources.
2. **January 13<sup>th</sup> - 15<sup>th</sup>** - Ramkota Hotel & Convention Center, Pierre. South Dakota Association of Rural Water Systems (SDARWS) Annual Technical Conference.
3. **January 13<sup>th</sup> - 12 noon** - State Capitol, Pierre. Opening of the 100th South Dakota Legislative Session.
4. **January 13<sup>th</sup> - 3:00 pm (MST)** - Rapid City. West Dakota water Development District Board of Directors.
5. **January 15<sup>th</sup> -9:00 a.m.** - JRWDD Office, Huron. James River Water Development District Board of Directors.
6. **January 17<sup>th</sup> - 8:00 a.m.** - Sioux Falls Convention Center, Sioux Falls. South Dakota Corn Growers Association Annual Meeting.
7. **January 28<sup>th</sup>** - Clubhouse Inn & Suites, Pierre. SDARWS Source Water Protection Workshop.
8. **January 28<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup>** - Clubhouse Inn & Suites, Pierre. SDARWS Manager's Group.
9. **February 12<sup>th</sup> - 7:30 a.m.** - State Capitol Building, Pierre. SDARWS Legislative Breakfast.
10. **February 19<sup>th</sup> - 9:00 a.m.** - EDWDD Office, Brookings. February EDWDD Board of Directors.

The Manager noted that he would also be acting in his capacity as the Legislative lobbyist for the District during this time.

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Payment Requests - The Manager presented the Board with two 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>
SDSU - Establishing Certified PFAS Testing Facility (Islam)	\$ 527.63
SDSM&T - Big Sioux River PFAS Survey (Kunza)	<u>\$ 12,453.72</u>
	<b>\$ 12,981.35</b>

**Motion** by Kappel, seconded by Moes to authorize payments totaling \$12,981.35 as requested. Motion carried unanimously.

Project Assistance Review - The Manager reviewed the status of several projects that had previously received District cost-share assistance. Each project has been completed and will not be requesting further funds, or it has been determined that the project will not proceed. The Manager asked that the Board rescind the balance of District funds (\$11,543 in total) previously committed to the following effort:

<u>Project</u>	<u>Award</u>	<u>Grant</u>	<u>Payments</u>	<u>Balance</u>
FBSR RO Unit Mobilization	May 2023	\$ 8,000	\$ 5,451	\$ 2,549

**Motion** by Bonander, seconded by Hawley to rescind the unused balance of the District cost-share assistance grant (\$2,549) as requested. Motion carried unanimously.

Pending Director Vacancies - The Manager reviewed the upcoming general election cycle, during which District director areas 1, 3, 5, 7 and 9 will be filled. He will prepare packets of information on circulating nominating petitions, which will be available after January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026. The filing deadline for the petitions is March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2026.

2026 Board Meeting Schedule - The Manager presented the Board with a DRAFT meeting schedule for calendar year 2026. He noted that it was consistent with District By-Laws, which call for the default monthly meeting to be held on the third Thursday. As approved last month, there will be no meeting January 2026.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Start</u>	<u>Meeting Site</u>
January	<i>(cancelled by Board action on November 20<sup>th</sup>, 2025)</i>		
February 19	Brookings	9:00 a.m.	EDWDD Office
March 19	Brookings	9:00 a.m.	EDWDD Office
April 16	Brookings	9:00 a.m.	EDWDD Office
May 21*	Sioux Falls	<b>TBD</b>	<b>TBD</b>
June 18	Brookings	9:00 a.m.	EDWDD Office
July 16	Brookings	9:00 a.m.	EDWDD Office
August 20	Brookings	9:00 a.m.	EDWDD Office
September 17	Brookings	9:00 a.m.	EDWDD Office
October 15	Brookings	9:00 a.m.	EDWDD Office

November 19	Sioux Falls	9:30 a.m.	SD Corn Office
December 17	Brookings	1:00 p.m.	EDWDD Office

\* - This will be a joint meeting with the Board of the Vermillion Basin Water Development District.

**Motion** by Moes, seconded by Elofson to adopt the proposed meeting schedule for 2026. Motion carried unanimously.

Designation of Official Newspapers - The Manager noted that under SDCL 46A-3D-11, the District must annually designate official newspapers in which official legal notices are published. He proposed a list of newspapers to be considered official newspapers of the District in 2026.

**Motion** by Bonander, seconded by Loveland-Swanstrom, to designate the following newspapers as the official newspapers for District notices in 2026 - Arlington Sun, Brandon Valley Journal (Brandon), Brookings Register, Clear Lake Courier, The Dakota Scout (Sioux Falls), Dells City Journal (Dell Rapids), Elkton Record, Estelline Journal, Garretson Gazette, Grant County Review (Milbank), Hamlin County Herald Enterprise (Hayti), Hamlin County Republican (Castlewood), Madison Daily Leader, Minnehaha Messenger (Hartford), Moody County Enterprise (Flandreau), Sioux Falls Argus Leader, South Shore Gazette, Tri-City Star (Toronto), Volga Tribune, Watertown Current and Watertown Public Opinion. Motion carried unanimously.

District Organizational Memberships -

**Motion** by Moes, seconded by Elofson, to retain District membership in the South Dakota Association of Rural Water Systems for 2026 at a cost of \$550. Motion carried unanimously.

### Project Assistance Requests

United States Geological Survey Joint Funding Agreement - The Manager presented a proposed joint funding agreement (JFA) between the District and the United States Geological Survey (USGS) Dakota Water Science Center for support of stream gaging and water quality monitoring activities for Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2026 (October 2025 - September 2026).

During FFY 2025, the District provided cost-share assistance for a stream gage on the Big Sioux River near Bruce, at a cost of \$9,550. It also supported a real-time nitrate monitoring station, in collaboration with the City of Sioux Falls, at a cost of \$4,450. The proposed FFY 2026 JFA would be for a continuation of support both monitoring sites, at a combined cost of \$14,230. The Manager indicated that he would be requesting Board approval of the FFY 2026 JFA, but asked the Board to defer final action pending consideration of the request from the Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribe.

Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribe - Elizabeth Wakeman, with the Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribe (FSST), presented the Board with a request for assistance. She noted that like the District, FSST has historically worked with the (USGS) to support several water monitoring stations within their area. They have one stream gage on Flandreau Creek, crest-stage gages on the Big Sioux River at Egan and on Spring Creek, and a real-time ground water level station in the shallow aquifer adjacent to their stream gage.

Unfortunately, the funding to support these efforts during FFY 2026 did not come through. In order to keep the monitoring stations operational during FFY 2026, FSST is seeking District assistance, in the amount of \$29,080, while they pursue funding for FFY 2027.

The Manager stated that after reviewing the request, he had identified cost-saving measures that would allow the continued collection and availability of the data during FFY 2026.

First, the two crest-stage gages could be eliminated. The South Dakota Department of Agriculture & Natural Resources (DANR) currently operates its own stream gage within a short distance of the FSST station on the Big Sioux River near Egan. This gage provides comparable information to a full-time USGS station, which is considerably more than what is currently provided by the crest-stage gage. As this is part of the existing DANR gaging network, there is no additional cost. Further, this coming spring, DANR is installing a similar stream gage on Spring Creek (using equipment purchased by the District). Again, the current FSST-supported crest-stage gage on Spring Creek could be eliminated without harm.

Second, most USGS monitoring stations are operated in conjunction with a local cooperator or partner, with the costs shared between the parties. The actual cost-share rate varies depending on various factors. At present, the cost-share rate provided by the USGS to the District is more favorable than that for FSST. He noted that if the District were to become the local cooperator for the Flandreau Creek stream gage and the adjacent observation well, the FFY 2026 costs are much more reasonable.

For FFY 2026, total operational and support costs for the Flandreau Creek stream gage come to \$16,590; \$9,780 comes from the local sponsor, and \$6,810 from USGS. The observation well set up is \$5,930, with \$4,150 from the local cooperator, and \$1,780 from USGS. Total cost to the District to respond to the FSST request to keep the network operational during FFY 2026 would amount to \$13,930.

The Manager recommended that if the Board was inclined to assist the FSST, then it would be best to have the District take over as the formal sponsor of the Flandreau Creek gage and the adjacent observation well for FFY 2026, and enter into a JFA with USGS to that effect for a total of \$13,930. Ms. Wakeman agreed that the Manager's proposal would address the FSST request.

**Motion** by Hawley, seconded by Moes to approve a single FFY 2026 JFA with the USGS Dakota Water Science Center, in support of the real-time nitrate monitoring station on the Big Sioux River near Brookings and the gaging station on the Big Sioux River near Bruce (EDWDD); along with the gaging station on Flandreau Creek above Flandreau and the adjoining observation well monitoring site (FSST), at a combined cost of \$28,160, and to authorize the Manager to execute the JFA upon receipt. Motion carried unanimously.

Dakota State University - Dr. Kristel Bakker, Dakota State University, presented a proposal to conduct a base line survey of microplastics in a range of lakes and wetlands within the District. The Manager reported growing interest in the presence of microplastics in South Dakota waters. A quick survey of work in South Dakota found that very little work has been done in this field. One example was recent work completed by several Dakota State University (DSU) undergraduates, who sampled four lakes in the Lake and Kingsbury Counties. The Manager reached out to Dakota State University to the faculty

who oversaw the DSU effort, with an eye toward a more extensive assessment of water bodies within the District.

Dr. Bakker explained that water and sediment samples to test for the presence of microplastics will be taken from shores and water of 30-50 wetlands and lakes within the District. Sediment and water samples will be taken in 2 locations on the northern to eastern shores of each wetland, where access and shore constitution allows. These areas would be likely to have microplastic accumulation due to prevailing southwest winds in eastern South Dakota. Identified microplastics will be categorized as fibers, fragments, film, or beads. Fourier transform infrared spectroscopy (FTIR) will be used to both detect and characterize microplastics from 5 mm to ~300  $\mu\text{m}$  in size. FTIR chemically identifies microplastic particles based on their vibrational spectrum, which provides a unique spectral fingerprint for every type of plastic polymer particle. Each microplastic particle physically identified will be chemically identified with FTIR. Abundance of each particle will be determined within each sample allowing for quantification. Projected costs come to \$54,956.

Dr. Bakker answered several questions from the Board and audience.

**Motion** by Hawley, seconded by Moes to award up to \$54,956 in District cost-share assistance to Dakota State University for the proposed microplastics assessment study, entitled “*Presence and Quantification of Microplastics in Water Bodies of the East Dakota Water Development District.*” Motion carried unanimously.

South Dakota State University - Dr. Guanghui Hua and Dr. Christopher Schmit, with the SDSU Department of Civil & Environmental Engineering, presented the Board with a proposal entitled, “*Evaluation of Filter Materials for the Removal of Per- and Polyfluorinated Substances from Stormwater.*” They noted that per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are a group of manufactured chemicals widely used in industries and consumer products. Studies have shown that stormwater from urban and transportation areas contains PFAS, serving as a significant pathway for these persistent chemicals to enter waterways. Major sources of PFAS in urban stormwater include industrial sites, firefighting aqueous film-forming foams, landfills, wastewater discharges, traffic infrastructure, and consumer products. PFAS carried by stormwater runoff pose serious risks to both the natural environment and public health.

In the study, they propose the development of a media filtration system for PFAS removal. Specifically, they will evaluate various filtration materials for their ability to adsorb PFAS from stormwater. Selection of these materials will be based on removal capacity, cost, and practical applicability in filtration systems. Laboratory experiments will be conducted to assess adsorption capacities and influencing factors of the selected materials. The goal of this project is to identify suitable filtration materials for PFAS removal in stormwater treatment systems.

The two-year project is projected to cost \$130,000, and would begin in September 2026. They are seeking matching funds of \$60,000 from the Center for Transformative Infrastructure Preservation and Sustainability, which is supported by the US Department of Transportation. They are seeking the balance of the funds from the District.

The Manager stated that in general, the effort is similar in many ways to previous work by Dr. Hua on storm water remediation. His prior efforts, supported by the District, looked into the removal of *E. coli*

bacteria from stormwater runoff using filtration with recycled steel byproduct media. That effort took place over three phases - a laboratory/bench studies, a small scale pilot project in Brookings, followed by a full-blown field test in Sioux Falls. The current request would be analogous to the initial laboratory/bench studies.

**Motion** by Hawley, seconded by Moes to award up to \$70,000 in District cost-share assistance to South Dakota State University for the proposed PFAS remediation study, entitled “*Evaluation of Filter Materials for the Removal of Per- and Polyfluorinated Substances from Stormwater*” as requested. Motion carried unanimously.

### **Water Values Survey Report**

At the February 2024 meeting, the Board awarded \$50,000 in funding to South Dakota State University (SDSU) for an effort entitled, “Implementing Community Water Values Survey for Eastern South Dakota.” The lead on the effort was/is Jeremiah Bergstrom with the School of Design. The effort was a follow up to an earlier, District-supported effort (“Assessing Capacity for Community-based Watershed Planning in South Dakota”).

Mr. Bergstrom gave a preliminary report on their efforts back in May during the Vermillion Basin WDD portion of the joint meeting at the Lewis & Clark RWS facility near Vermillion. The effort is about wrapped up, and he will provide the Board with a report on the results.

### **District Updates**

Legislation for the 2026 Legislative Session - The Manager reviewed anticipated legislation that will be considered by the 101<sup>st</sup> Session of the South Dakota Legislature, which begins on January 13<sup>th</sup>, 2026.

1. The annual Water Omnibus Funding bill. This is the vehicle by which much of the formal state support for water development activities is funded.
2. There has been discussion of a bill to amend SDCL 46-6-3.1. The intent would be to eliminate the exception to the State’s prohibition on the ground water mining (extraction of ground water in excess of recharge). It was the consensus of the Board that the District supports prudent and sustainable ground water management, and therefore would be supportive of uniform and statewide application of the ground water mining prohibition.
3. The Manager has fielded questions from State Senator Hohn, who has concerns about the future availability of Missouri River water for South Dakota. He has provided suggestions as to how her concerns might be addressed, and she has started development of legislation.

The Manager will keep the Board apprized of developments once session starts.

2025 District Water Quality Sampling Results - Jeremy Hinke presented a summary of the water quality sampling conducted by the District during 2025 on area lakes and streams. At the suggestion of Director Kappel, the District will add analyses for orthophosphorus to it’s lake sampling protocol next year.

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District Staff Reports - Jeremy Hinke and Debra Springman, District-staff based in Brookings, spoke about their professional background and their roles and responsibilities with the District.

**Adjournment**

There being no further District business, Chairman Anderson declared the meeting adjourned at 4:20 p.m.

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Spencer Hawley, Secretary

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