



East Dakota Water Development District
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MINUTES
November 21, 2024

The Board of Directors of the East Dakota Water Development District (EDWDD) held a regular meeting on November 21st, 2024, 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
Gary Duffy
Bonnie Dybedahl
Spencer Hawley
Bob Kappel
John Moes
Joedy Poppe

Directors Absent

Director 7 (vacant)

Staff Present

Jay Gilbertson
Deb Springman*

Others Present

Rick Bonander (Director 4-elect), Valley Springs
Scott Buss, Minnehaha Community Water Corporation*
Kevin Christenson, SD Association of Rural Water Systems
Tim Cowman, South Dakota Geological Survey
Tanner Davis, South Dakota Game, Fish & Parks Department
Amanda Engel, City of Sioux Falls
Makenzie Huber, South Dakota Searchlight
Patrick Kozak, SD School of Mines & Technology*
Lisa Kunza, SD School of Mines & Technology*
Troy Larson, Lewis & Clark Regional Water System
Edward Lewis, City of Sioux Falls
Mark McIntire, SD DANR Drinking Water Program*
Kerry Netzke, Minnesota River Basins Area II*
Mark Robey, South Dakota Lakes & Streams Association*
Tim Stefanich, AE2S*
Joshua Strobel, SD DANR Watershed Protection Program*
Eric Witt, Brookings Municipal Utilities*
Alan Wittmuss, SD DANR Watershed Protection Program*

* - participated via video-conference

Administrative Items

Approval of Agenda - Director Barth asked to have a discussion about authorizing the Manager to purchase a holiday gift of District staff.

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

Minutes - The Board reviewed the Minutes of the October 17th, 2024, meeting. The Manager noted that on the second page, under the section entitled Vacancies for Director Areas 7 & 8, the word “differ” should have been “defer.”

Motion by Barth, seconded by Dybedahl to approve the Minutes of the October 17th, 2024, meeting of the East Dakota Water Development District Board of Directors as so amended. Motion carried unanimously.

Financial Reports - The Board reviewed the October 2024 Financial Reports.

Motion by Moes, seconded by Barth to accept the October 2024 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:

1. October 21st - Webster. South Dakota Association of Conservation Districts Coteau Area Legislative Banquet.
2. October 29th & 30th - South Dakota Association of Rural Water Systems (SDARWS) Manager’s Group Meeting, Deadwood.
3. November 7th - South Dakota Board of Water & Natural Resources (video-conference).
4. November 13th & 14th - Pierre. SDARWS Leadership Seminar.
5. November 18th & 19th - Region 8 USEPA & States Nonpoint Source Meeting (video-conference).
6. November 20th - AREA II Minnesota River Basin Projects/Redwood-Cottonwood Rivers Control Area Legislative Meeting, Springfield, Minnesota.

Upcoming Meetings -

1. **December 4th - 5:00 p.m.** - Ramkota Hotel & Convention Center, Sioux Falls. SD Soybean Association Uniting Agriculture Social.
2. **December 5th - 9:00 a.m.** - Hilton Garden Inn South, Sioux Falls. SDARWS Board of Directors.
3. **December 7th - 9:00 a.m.** - Augustana University, Sioux Falls. Friends of the Big Sioux River State of Our Waters Forum.
4. **December 10th - 8:00 a.m.** - Sanford Event Barn, Sioux Falls. Sioux Metro Growth Alliance H2O Growth Summit.
5. **December 12th - 10:00 a.m.** - Mathews Training Center, Pierre. SD Non-Point Source Task Force.
6. **December 19th - 1:00 p.m.** - EDWDD Office, Brookings. December EDWDD Board of Directors meeting.
7. **January 14th, 2025** - State Capitol Building, Pierre. Opening of the 100th Session of the South Dakota Legislature.
8. **January 14th - 16th** - Ramkota Convention Center, Pierre. SDARWS Annual Technical Conference.
9. **January 23rd - 9:00 a.m.** - EDWDD Office, Brookings. January EDWDD Board of Directors meeting.

DRAFT

Motion by Duffy, seconded by Kappel to hold the January 2025 Board of Directors meeting on January 23rd, 2025 (the fourth Thursday). Motion carried unanimously.

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>
SD GF&P Big Sioux River CREP Support	\$ 29,231.06
SD GF&P Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Signage	\$ 6,000.00
	\$ 35,231.06

The Manager noted that the AIS Signage payment would complete the District obligation to the project.

Motion by Barth, seconded by Duffy to authorize payment of \$29,231.06 to the South Dakota Department of Game, Fish & Parks (SD GF&P) for the Big Sioux River CREP Support as requested. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Hawley, seconded by Duffy to authorize payment of \$6,000.00 to SD GF&P) for the Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Signage as requested. Motion carried with Anderson, Barth, Duffy, Dybedahl, Hawley, Kappel and Moes supporting, and Poppe opposed.

Following the funding decision on the AIS signage support, Tanner Davis, AIS Coordinator for SDGF&P, reviewed how the signs were being used and gave an overview of the AIS efforts statewide.

Organizational Membership - The Manager presented the Board with a request to increase the District's membership level in the Upper Missouri Water Association (UMWA) for 2025 from "Tributary" (\$450/year) to "Mainstem" (\$1,500/year). He and Troy Larson, on of the South Dakota representatives on the UMWA Board of Directors, discussed the merits of membership and the increase in support.

Motion by Moes, seconded by Barth to increase the District's level of support for UMWA for 2025, participating at the "Mainstem" membership level for 2025, and to authorize payment of the \$1,500.00 in dues. Motion carried unanimously.

Policies & Procedures Manual Updates

The Manager reviewed proposed amendments to the District Policy & Procedures Manual.

Under the section on Travel Expense Reimbursement, he proposed increases to the reimbursement rates for meals and lodging expenses. He noted that it had been a number of years since these were adjusted, and that changes seemed appropriate. He proposed increasing the individual meal reimbursements by \$2.00 per meal (\$9.00 to \$11.00 for breakfast, \$13.00 to \$15.00 for lunch and \$25.00 to \$27.00 for dinner), increasing the in-state lodging limit by \$25.00 (\$125.0 to \$150.00/night) and the out-of-state lodging limit by \$50.00 (\$200.00 to \$250.00/night).

Under the section on Sick Leave, he proposed allowing the year-end buy down of accumulated sick leave (if necessary) to be deposited in a retirement savings plan of the employees choosing, rather than limiting it to South Dakota Retirement System Supplemental Retirement Account. The language changes to this section are shown below, with changes underlined:

It is possible to accumulate in excess of 520 hours sick leave during a given calendar year. However, at the end of each calendar year, the cash value of 60% of any accumulated sick leave time, over the 520 maximum hours, will be deposited by the District into a South Dakota Supplemental Retirement Account, or comparable retirement savings plan, for said employee. The balance of available sick leave time shall be reset to 520 hours for the employee. This compensation is only available to persons employed by the District at the end of the calendar year.

Motion by Moes, seconded by Hawley to adopt the changes to the District Policies & Procedures Manual as proposed. Motion carried unanimously, with Director Kappel abstaining.

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 33rd Annual Big Sioux Water Festival will be held on May 13th, 2025, 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 2025 event. Deb Springman, Project Coordinator, was present (via Zoom) to answer any questions.

Sioux Empire Water Festival - The 32nd Annual Sioux Empire Water Festival will be held on March 4th and 5th, 2025, 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 2025 event. Kevin Christenson, Project Fund-raising Chair, was present to answer any questions.

Motion by Poppe, seconded by Duffy to award District cost-share assistance funding of \$9,000 and \$10,000, respectively, in support of the 2025 Big Sioux and Sioux Empire Water Festivals as requested, and to authorize expenditure of the funds. Motion carried unanimously.

SDSM&T Big Sioux River PFAS Compounds Survey

Dr. Lisa Kunza presented the results of the first round of testing for will join the meeting remotely at 10:00 a.m. to provide a summary of the first round of tests for per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, commonly referred to as PFAS, in the waters of the Big Sioux River. At the August 2024 meeting, the Board agreed to support a proposal from the South Dakota School of Mines & Technology (SDSM&T) to conduct a survey of PFAS compounds in the river, as to-date, there have been no systematic, baseline studies of such compounds in either the surface waters (rivers, lakes, streams or wetlands) or ground waters in South Dakota. She noted that the sites were selected to provide a broad overview of the basin, rather than to assess the potential impact of any specific possible source(s).

The sampling event took place on September 23rd, with samples collected at 11 locations between the watershed headwaters near Summit to just below Brandon. Samples were submitted for analyses under the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) Method 1633, which covers 40 separate PFAS compounds.

Dr. Kunza reported that a total of 14 different PFAS compounds were detected across the watershed, with one or more compounds detected at every sampling site. A composite of all detected compounds ranged from around 5 parts per trillion (ppt) in the upper basin to over 80 ppt at a lower basin site. She noted that the USEPA has recently established maximum contaminant levels (MCLs) for certain PFAS compounds, including some that were found in this study. However, the standards only apply to drinking water systems. There are currently no formal limits (state or federal) on PFAS compounds in surface waters or ground water.

The Manager stressed three points about this initial sampling effort. First, the data presented is from a single sample run, and while one sample is better than no data, more testing is needed to draw real conclusions. Second, there are no established state or federal limits on PFAS compounds in river water. That the compounds are present at various locations is problematic, but not technically a "problem." Third, the source(s) of the PFAS compounds cannot be identified with the data that we have now.

The Manager and Dr. Kunza noted that four sampling events are scheduled for 2025, tentatively set for April, June, August and October. They will also be discussing possible adjustments to the sampling sites based on the initial sample run. They would report back to the Board later in early 2025.

June 2024 Flood Event in Southeastern South Dakota

Tim Cowman, State Geologist, briefed the Board on the heavy precipitation event, and subsequent flooding, that hit southeastern South Dakota in June. Rainfall totals approached 15 inches along and south of a line from Mitchell to Worthington, MN. The rapid and concentrated rainfall resulted in significant flooding in the lower portions of the James, Vermillion and Big Sioux River basins. The area around McCook Lake in southern Union County was heavily impacted, with numerous homes and businesses, along with public infrastructure, suffering serious damage. Mr. Cowman noted that while there was significant damage, additional damage was mitigated courtesy of the State's flood prediction model, which the District helped augment several years ago.

District Updates

Potential WDD Legislation for the 2025 Legislative Session - The Manager reviewed potential legislative efforts being considered for the 2025 Legislative Session. The only water development district specific legislation is a 'form and style' review of the governing statutes. A DRAFT of the changes has been completed (25 pages), and is expected to be filed prior to the start of the session, which begins on January 14th, 2025.

Adjournment

There being no further District business, Chairman Anderson declared the meeting adjourned at 11:35 a.m.

Spencer Hawley, Secretary