



East Dakota Water Development District
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MINUTES
February 19, 2026

The Board of Directors of the East Dakota Water Development District (EDWDD) held a regular meeting on February 19th, 2026, 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
Spencer Hawley
Troy Larson
Julie Loveland-Swanstrom*
John Moes

Directors Absent

Director Area 6 vacant

Others Present

Justin Bucher, Banner Associates
Galen Hoogestraat, U.S. Geological Survey*
Logan Kool, City of Castlewood*
Brad Preheim, Vermillion Basin water Development District*
John Schmit, City of Castlewood*

Staff Present

Jay Gilbertson
Jeremy Hinke

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* - participated by way of video-conferencing.

Administrative Items

Approval of Agenda -

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

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

Motion by Hawley, seconded by Moes to approve the December 18th, 2025, Minutes of the Board of Directors meeting as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

The Board reviewed the Minutes of the February 5th, 2026, Special Meeting.

Motion by Barth, seconded by Larson to approve the February 5th, 2026, Special Meeting Minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Financial Reports - The Board reviewed the December 2025 and January 2026 financial reports.

Motion by Moes, seconded by Barth to accept the December 2025 and January 2026 financial reports. Motion carried unanimously. Chairman Anderson then asked that the reports be placed in the District files.

Review of Year-End Fiscal 2025 Income and Expenditures - The Manager reviewed the year-end summary of fiscal year 2025 expenditures and expenses.

Election of Board Officers for 2026 - Chairman Anderson turned the meeting over to the Manager for the election of Board officers for 2026. The Manager called for nominations for Board Chair for 2026.

Motion by Barth to nominate Director Anderson for Board Chair. Motion by Larson to nominate Director Moes for Chair. **Motion** by Hawley, seconded by Bonander, that nominations for Chair cease. The Manager distributed paper ballots to the directors. The ballots were collected and results tallied by Jeremy Hinke. Director Moes prevailed 5-3.

Chairman Moes assumed control of the meeting.

Director Anderson left the meeting.

Chairman Moes called for nominations for Vice-Chair for 2026.

Motion by Larson to nominate Director Hawley for Vice-Chair. **Motion** by Larson, seconded by Elofson, that nominations cease and that the Board cast a unanimous ballot. Motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Moes called for nominations for Secretary for 2026.

Motion by Bonander to nominate Director Barth for Secretary. **Motion** by Bonander, seconded by Elofson, that nominations cease and that the Board cast a unanimous ballot. Motion carried unanimously.

Vacancy for Director Area 6 - Chairman Moes reported that on February 6th, 2026, Bob Kappel had distributed a email announcing his intent to resign from his position as the director from Director Area 6 on February 6th. The message was sent to directors and the District Manager.

The Manager noted that under South Dakota Codified Law 46A-3B-9, the remaining members of the Board are empowered to appoint a replacement from qualified candidates, with the person so appointed to serve out the balance of the vacant term. He noted that under current District By-Laws, formal action at the March meeting would be impractical, but that there would be sufficient time to provide the required public notices in time for either the April 16th or May 21st Board meetings. He asked in either case that statements of interest from persons seeking appointment be filed several days in advance of the date of formal action so that candidate qualifications could be confirmed.

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Motion by Bonander, seconded by Hawley to acknowledge the resignation of Bob Kappel as the director from Director Area 6; to authorize the publication of the appropriate Notices of Vacancy; to require that all applicants for said vacancies submit a statement of interest to the EDWDD office no later than 5:00 p.m. on May 18th, 2026; and to set the May 21st, 2026, Board meeting as the initial time to make an appointment to fill the director vacancy in Director Area 6. Motion carried unanimously.

Report of Meetings and Conferences - Director Larson reported on the South Dakota Association of Rural Water Systems (SDARWS) Manager's Group meeting in Pierre on January 28th and 29th in Pierre. He also met with the Manager on February 10th at the SDARWS Office in Madison.

The Manager briefly summarized the following meetings he attended since the January 2025 Board meeting:

1. January 8th, 2026 - South Dakota Board of Water & Natural Resources, via video-conference.
2. January 13th-15th - South Dakota Association of Rural Water Systems (SDARWS) Annual Technical Conference, Pierre.
3. January 13th - Opening of the 101st Session of the South Dakota Legislature, Pierre.
4. January 14th - South Dakota Lakes & Streams Association Board of Directors, Brookings.
5. January 21st - Vermillion Basin Water Development District Board of Directors, via Zoom.
6. January 28th - SDARWS Source Water Protection Workshop, Pierre
7. January 28th & 29th - SDARWS Manager's Group Meeting, Pierre.
8. January 29th - Central Plains Water Development District Board of Directors, Blunt.
9. February 3rd - Brookings County Drainage Board, Brookings.
10. February 9th - Minnehaha Conservation District Board of Supervisors, Sioux Falls.
11. February 11th - SDLSA Board of Directors, Brookings.
12. February 17th - 2026 Eastern South Dakota Water Conference Planning meeting, Brookings.

Upcoming Meetings -

1. **March 10th - 3:00 p.m. (MST)** - Rapid City. West Dakota WDD Board of Directors.
2. **March 12th** - Pierre. Last regular day of the 2026 Legislative Session.
3. **March 12th - 9:00 a.m.** - JRWDD Office, Huron. James River WDD Board of Directors.
4. **March 18th - 6:00 p.m.** - Centerville. Vermillion Basin WDD Board of Directors.
5. **March 19th - 9:00 a.m.** - EDWDD Office, Brookings. March EDWDD Board of Directors.
6. **March 26th & 27th** - Pierre. South Dakota Board of Water & Natural Resources.
7. **March 30th** - Final day of the 2026 Legislative Session (Veto Day).

Pending Director Vacancies - The Manager reviewed the upcoming 2026 general election cycle, during which District director areas 1, 3, 5, 7 and 9 will be filled. He has prepared packets of information on circulating nominating petitions, which are available and have been shared with the respective county auditors. The filing deadline for the petitions is March 31st, 2026.

Payment Request(s) - The Manager reported having received four (4) payment requests that require Board action (listed below). The requests are in order and consistent with the conditions established by the Board at the time of the award. He requested authorization to make the requested payments.

<u>Grant Recipient/Activity</u>	<u>Requested Amount</u>
SDSM&T - Big Sioux River PFAS Assessment (Kunza)	\$ 19,201.67
USGS FFY 2025 Real-Time Nitrate Monitor	\$ 4,450.00
SDSM&T - Big Sioux River PFAS Assessment (Kunza)	\$ 12,842.31
SDSU - Environmental & Economic Assessment of SRAM (Mehan)	<u>\$ 3,953.53</u>
Total	\$ 40,447.51

Motion by Larson, seconded by Bonander to authorize payments totaling \$40,447.51 as requested. Motion carried unanimously.

Project Assistance Request(s)

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 Years (FFY) 2026, 2027 & 2028 (October 2025 - September 2028). During FFY 2025, the District provided cost-share assistance through the UMWSC for two stream gages in the Upper Minnesota River watershed, one on the Whetstone River near Big Stone City and the other on the Yellow Bank River near Odessa, MN, at a cost of \$3,426. The proposed FFY 2026/2027/2028 JFA would be for a continuation of support for these gages at a total cost of \$10,696 (\$3,495, \$3,565 & \$3,636, respectively). The Manager noted that 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.

The Manager requested Board approval of the JFA to support stream gaging activities during FFY 2026/2027/2028.

Motion by Bonander, seconded by Elofson to approve the proposed FFY 2026/2027/2028 JFA with the USGS UMWSC, for a total cost of \$10,696, and to authorize the Manager to execute the agreement. Motion carried unanimously.

City of Castlewood - Logan Kool, Finance Officer for the City of Castlewood, and Justin Bucher, Banner Associates, presented the Board with a request for District cost-share assistance to be applied to a preliminary engineering report/facility plan on proposed improvements to the community's wastewater collection and treatment system. The study would be conducted by Banner Associates, at a projected total cost of \$59,700. Specifically, they are requesting District support of up to fifty percent (50%) of the anticipated local project costs of \$49,700, which would amount to up to \$24,850. The community has received a SD DANR Small Communities Planning Grant of \$10,000.

Motion by Hawley, seconded by Loveland-Swanstrom to award District cost-share assistance funding to the City of Castlewood to cover fifty percent (50%) of the proposed wastewater system study costs, up to a maximum amount of \$24,850, as requested. Motion carried unanimously.

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2026 Legislative Session Review

The Manager reviewed the status of bills that remain active that he is tracking as the District lobbyist during the 101st Session of the South Dakota Legislature:

Senate Bill (SB) 37, An Act to make appropriations for water and environmental purposes and to declare an emergency.

SB 75, An Act to amend the type of entities eligible to participate in the cybersecurity services initiative.

SB 222, An Act to make an appropriation for eligible water, wastewater, storm water, and nonpoint source projects and to declare an emergency.

SB 231, An Act to create the water infrastructure development fund, to provide an appropriation, to provide for the awarding of grants and loans from the fund for certain rural water projects and to declare an emergency.

Senate Concurrent Resolution (SCR) 606, A Concurrent Resolution encouraging the review and approval of water rights applications and future use reservations from the Missouri River.

SCR 607, A Concurrent Resolution supporting congressional authorization for, and federal participation in, major rural water supply projects identified by the South Dakota Association of Rural Water Systems.

He requested authorization to lobby in support of Senate Bills 37 and 222, along with Senate Concurrent Resolutions 606 and 607.

Motion by Bonander, seconded by Larson to authorize the Manager, acting as the District Lobbyist, to support Senate Bills 37 and 222, along with Senate Concurrent Resolutions 606 and 607, as requested. Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion of New District Policies

The Manager reviewed with the Board several subjects that have been raised by directors, with an eye toward developing a specific policy statement(s) at some point in the future. The topics included public dissemination of contact information, additional considerations during Board meetings involving remote participation and legislative positions policy. Discussions will continue on these matters at future meetings.

Adjournment

There being no further District business or other matters, Chairman Moes declared the meeting adjourned at 11:55 a.m.

Jeff Barth, Secretary

DRAFT document prepared by Jay Gilbertson, EDWDD Manager.