East Dakota Water Development District
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MINUTES
May 21, 2026

The Board of Directors of the East Dakota Water Development District (EDWDD) held a regular meeting on May 21st, 2026, at the Lewis & Clark Regional Water System Office, 1800 Monty Street, Tea. Chairman Moes called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m. The following persons attended:

Directors Present	**Others Present**
Mark Anderson	Fred Butzke, Vermillion Basin Water Development District
Jeff Barth	Sarah Chadima, Vermillion Basin Water Development District*
Rick Bonander	Michael Crist, Vermillion Basin Water Development District
Debra Elofson	Fred Butzke, Vermillion Basin Water Development District
Spencer Hawley	Wayne Davey, Vermillion Basin Water Development District
Troy Larson	Robin Dykstra, Vermillion Basin Water Development District
Julie Loveland-Swanstrom	Anthony Halverson, Vermillion Basin Water Development District
John Moes	Darren Johnson, SD DANR Geological Survey Program
Sheldon Osborn	Bob Iverson, Vermillion Basin Water Development District
	Ted Lewis, City of Sioux Falls
Staff Present	Kurt Pfeifle, Dakota Mainstem Regional Water System
Tanner Clausen	Brad Preheim, Vermillion Basin Water Development District
Jaelynn Dreckman	
Jay Gilbertson	

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* - remote participation via video-conference

Administrative Items

Approval of Agenda -

> **Motion** by Barth, seconded by Hawley to approve the meeting agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Minutes - The Board reviewed the Minutes of the April 9th, 2026, meeting.

> **Motion** by Barth, seconded by Larson to approve the Minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

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

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Motion by Hawley, seconded by Barth to accept the April 2026 Financial Reports. Motion carried unanimously. Chairman Moes asked that the report be placed in the District files.

Report of Meetings and Conferences - Directors Anderson and Loveland-Swanstrom reported on a South Dakota Lakes & Streams Association gathering on April 28th in Sioux Falls.

Director Bonander reported on the Annual Meeting of the Lewis & Clark Regional Water System held on May 14th in Sioux Falls.

Director Elofson reported on a May 14th video-conference presentation by The Nature Conservancy on water issues in northeast Iowa.

Director Hawley reported on a Missouri River Energy Services meeting held on May 6th in ??.

The Manager briefly commented on the following meetings he attended:

1. April 9th - p.m. - Brookings. RESPEC Company Brookings Office Open House.
2. April 14th - White. Brookings-Deuel Rural Water System Annual Meeting.
3. April 15th - Pierre - South Dakota Water & Wastewater Association Spring Seminar.
4. April 15th - video-conference. SDARWS Quality On Tap Editorial Board.
5. April 16th - Rapid City - 2026 Western South Dakota Hydrology Conference.
6. April 23rd - Brooklyn Center, MN. Minnesota Groundwater Association Spring Seminar.
7. April 25th - Lake Poinsett. Lake Poinsett Water Project District BOD.
8. April 26th - Lake Campbell. Lake Campbell Improvement Association Annual Meeting.
9. April 28th - Luverne, MN. Luverne Rotary Club.
10. May 12th - South Dakota State University, Brookings. 2026 Big Sioux Water Festival.
11. May 12th - Rapid City. West Dakota Water Development District
12. May 13th - Rapid City. US Geological Survey.
13. May 13th - EDWDD Office, Brookings. South Dakota Lakes & Streams Association Board of Directors meeting.
14. May 14th - 9:00 a.m. - Huron. James River WDD Board of Directors (via video-conference).

Upcoming Meetings -

1. **June 8th - 3:00 p.m.** - Sioux Falls. Minnehaha Conservation District Board of Supervisors.
2. **June 10th - 9:00 a.m.** - EDWDD Office, Brookings. South Dakota Lakes & Streams Association Board of Directors.
3. **June 11th - 12:00 p.m.** - Watertown. Watertown Rotary Club water issues presentation.
4. **June 13th** - Lake Poinsett. Lake Poinsett Association water issues presentation.
5. **June 17th - 9:30 a.m.** - Brookings County Outdoor Center, Brookings. South Dakota Association of Conservation Districts (SDACD) Vermillion-Big Sioux Area meeting.
6. **June 18th - 9:00 a.m.** - EDWDD Office, Brookings. June EDWDD Board of Directors meeting.
7. **June 18th - 9:00 a.m.** - Fort Sisseton State Park, Lake City. SDACD Coteau Area meeting.
8. **June 24th & 25th** - Deadwood. South Dakota Association of Rural Water Systems (SDARWS) Board of Directors.
9. **June 25th** - Pierre. South Dakota Board of Water and Natural Resources.

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Payment Requests - The Manager presented the Board with three 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.

Grant Recipient/Activity	Requested Amount
SDSU - Environmental & Economic Assessment of SRAM (Mehan)	$ 14,833.18
SDSU - Environmental & Economic Assessment of SRAM (Mehan)	$ 12,411.07
SDSU - Establishing Certified PFAS Testing Facility (Islam)	$ 7,749.39
	$ 34,993.64

Motion by Bonander, seconded by Elofson to authorize payments totaling $ 34,993.64 as requested. Motion carried unanimously.

Selection of Area 6 Director - The Manager reviewed the process for making vacancy appointments to fill the current vacancy in Director Area 6. At the February 19th, 2026, meeting, the Board acknowledged the vacancy in Director Area 6, due to the resignation of the now former director. SDCL 46A-3B-9 allows for the remaining Board members to appoint a replacement director from qualified candidates from the director area. Public notices of the vacancy were sent to the official newspaper for the areas in March 2026, with a deadline of May 18th, 2026, for submitting letters of interest in serving. The notice included a statement that the vacancy would be addressed, if possible, at that May 21st meeting.

As of the filing deadline, the District had received only one letter of interest concerning the vacant position, from Sheldon Osborn of Sioux Falls. The Manager noted that he met the qualifications to serve as the Board member from director area 6. At the invitation of Chairman Moes, Mr. Osborn introduced himself and spoke about his interests in serving as a director on the Board.

Motion by Bonander, seconded by Hawley to appoint Sheldon Osborn of Sioux Falls as the Director Area 6 representative through the end of December 2028. Motion carried unanimously. Mr. Osborn joined the Board.

Project Assistance Request(s)

Dakota Mainstem Regional Water System - Kurt Pfeifle, Executive Director of the Dakota Mainstem Regional Water System (DMRWS), provided the Board with an update on system progress and activities. He noted that currently has 56 members, including communities and regional water suppliers in South Dakota, Minnesota, Iowa and Nebraska. An appraisal study was completed earlier this year. The study summarized the existing infrastructure and projected needs of the member systems. He said that short-term needs (by 2030) were in the range of an additional 7 million gallons per day (MGD), but that by 2070, this volume rose to 195 MGD. The study also considered potential water sources and distribution routing. Very preliminary projected costs are in the range of $8 to $10.5 billion dollars.

Work is underway to gain federal authorization for a more detailed feasibility study. It is anticipated that support would come through the US Bureau of Reclamation. He noted that this would not constitute a formal approval of the project, but rather allow federal cost-share (fifty percent) for what is expected to be a $4 to $6 million dollar effort. The balance of the costs would come from member

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contributions and state and local sources. Mr. Pfiefle answered numerous questions about the effort from the Board and members of the audience.

The Manager noted that to date, the District has pledged/provided support for this effort totaling $150,000. Support has come in the form of three (3) awards of $50,000 each, made in March 2023, August 2024 and June 2025. He noted that while the majority of the most recent pledge had yet to be requested, he expected (and Mr. Pfiefle confirmed) a request for these funds in the near future.

Mr. Pfiefle requested cost-share assistance for 2026 in the amount of $50,000. He noted that this critical support would facilitate ongoing developmental efforts, and help leverage state loan dollars.

> **Motion** by Hawley, seconded by Barth to award $50,000 in District cost-share assistance to the Dakota Mainstem Regional Water System in support of it's developmental efforts, and to authorize distribution as requested. Motion carried unanimously, with Director Larson abstaining.

South Dakota WARN - SDWARN is a statewide water/wastewater agency response network of public utilities that cooperate in response to prepare for and respond to natural and human-caused emergencies. Robin Dykstra, Chairman of SDWARN, provided an overview of their role and activities. He noted that SDWARN was formed a number of years ago in response to a recognized need for mutual aid among water and wastewater utilities across the state. It has a steering committee composed of representatives of several utilities, along with various state agencies and organizations involved in water efforts. He noted that most of the equipment that is shared among the members is owned by individual members, but that SDWARN has acquired some items that are available for use as needed. The South Dakota Association of Rural Water Systems Rural Water Center manages the finances of SDWARN, and facilitates material distributions.

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Mr. Dykstra noted that many of the communities within East Dakota are formal members of SDWARN, and make resources available to the collective group. However, he stated that resources and assistance is provided in response to any request, be it from a member or not.

Mr. Dykstra requested a one-time contribution from the District in support of SDWARN activities. He specifically requested $15,125, which represents $275 per community times the 55 communities located within the District. The funds would be applied toward the acquisition of materials and equipment as needed by the program.

> **Motion** by Anderson, seconded by Barth to award $15,125 in District cost-share assistance to SDWARN as requested, and to authorize distribution as requested. Motion carried unanimously.

District Updates

Aquifer Distribution and Characterization Investigation - The Manager briefed the Board on a proposal to update the reports and maps used to characterize aquifers within the District/eastern South Dakota. He noted that with a few exceptions, much of the information on which water management decisions are made rely on reports developed over forty years ago. He has submitted a preliminary query to the Geological Survey Program within the South Dakota Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources

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(DANR) regarding updates to the appropriate reference materials. He noted that he would schedule a more detailed discussion at the June Board meeting.

Smithfield Waste Water Discharge - In response to questions about how waste water treatment would be handled at the proposed new Smithfield facility in Sioux Falls, the Manager relayed that no official announcements have been made on this matter. The current facility operates under the constraints of a waste water discharge permit issued by the DANR Water Quality Program, and a comparable permit would be required for the new facility. In the interim, the District would be collecting water samples in the area around the proposed new facility to establish baseline water quality conditions.

Nitrate in the Big Sioux River - The Manager reviewed the preliminary results of the District's first round of water quality sampling, noting that in general nitrate concentrations were low compared to assessments in prior years. He noted that the District would collecting samples for nitrate analyses twice each moth through the field season (May thru October).

International Rotary "Unite for Water" Program - The Manager noted that the regional chapters of the service groups, International Rotary, were focusing on water under an initiative entitled, "Unite for Water: Take Action Today for Water Tomorrow." He has been contacted by several local Rotary clubs, and will be working with them to identify potential projects and activities that would address local water priorities.

Adjournment

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There being no further District business or issues for consideration, Chairman Moes declared the meeting adjourned at 12:05 p.m.

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Jeff Barth, Secretary

DRAFT document prepared by Jay Gilbertson, EDWDD Manager.