



**East Dakota Water Development District**  
132B Airport Drive  
Brookings, SD 57006

605-688-6741

605-688-6744 Fax

**MINUTES**  
**April 18, 2019**

The Board of Directors of the East Dakota Water Development District (EDWDD) held a regular meeting on April 18, 2019, at the South Dakota Association of Rural Water Systems Office, 203 Center Street West, Madison. Chairman Jarrett called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. The following persons attended:

**Directors Present**

Mark Anderson  
Jeff Barth  
Mary Ellen Connelly  
Gary Duffy  
Spencer Hawley  
Martin Jarrett  
Kay Kassube  
Dana Loseke  
John Moes

**Others Present**

Jeremiah Corbin, SD Association of Rural Water Systems  
Roger Hageman, Lake County Commission  
Kurt Pfeifle, SD Association of Rural Water Systems  
Dennis Skadsen, NE Glacial Lakes Watershed Project

**Staff Present**

Jay Gilbertson  
Jeremy Hinke

DRAFT

**Directors Absent**

- none -

**Administrative Items**

Approval of Agenda - The Manager asked to have two items added to the Agenda. Under Section II. Administrative Items, a new item (G.) Travel Authorization, and under Section VI. District Updates, a new item (C.) District On-Line Water Quality Portal.

**Motion** by Moes, seconded by Loseke to approve the agenda as so amended. Motion carried unanimously.

Minutes - The Board reviewed the Minutes of the March 21<sup>st</sup>, 2019, meeting.

**Motion** by Loseke, seconded by Duffy to approve the March 21<sup>st</sup>, 2019, meeting Minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

**DRAFT**  
Financial Reports - The Board reviewed the March 2019 Financial Reports.

**Motion** by Duffy, seconded by Connelly to accept the March 2019 Financial Reports. Motion carried unanimously. Chairman Jarrett then asked that the report be placed in the District files.

Report of Meetings and Conferences - Director Anderson attended the March 21<sup>st</sup> presentation by Dr. Catherine Zeman, Northern Iowa University, on nitrate contamination, sponsored by the Friends of the Big Sioux River in Sioux Falls.

Director Duffy attended the KingBrook Rural Water System Annual Meeting in Arlington on April 8<sup>th</sup>.

Director Moes attended the April 17<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Lake Pelican Water Project District in Watertown.

The Manager briefly commented on the following meetings he attended:

1. **April 1** - Brookings. SDSU School of Design storm water strategies project meeting.
2. **April 1** - Brookings. 2019 International Legislators Forum planning call.
3. **April 2** - Clear Lake. Brookings-Deuel Rural water System Annual Meeting.
4. **April 3** - Brookings. 2019 Eastern South Dakota Water Conference Steering Committee.
5. **April 8** - Madison. South Dakota Association of Rural Water Systems (SDARWS) Quality On Tap editorial board.
6. **April 9** - Colman. Big Sioux Community Water System Annual Meeting.
7. **April 11** - Brookings. 2019 International Legislators Forum planning call.
8. **April 17** - Centerville. Vermillion Basin Water Development District Board of Directors.

Upcoming Meetings -

1. **April 24<sup>th</sup> - 10:00 a.m.** - Public Library, Ortonville, MN. Upper Minnesota River Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategies (WRAPS) meeting.
2. **April 24<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup>** - Rapid City. South Dakota Association of Rural Water Systems (SDARWS) Managers Group meeting.
3. **April 25<sup>th</sup> - 11:00 a.m.** - Lewis & Clark Regional Water System Office, Tea. Long-range planning discussions.
4. **April 25<sup>th</sup> - 12 noon** - Webster. Lake Region County Commissioners meeting.
5. **April 30<sup>th</sup> - 1:00 p.m.** - Madison, MN. Lac qui Parle River Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategies (WRAPS) meeting.
6. **May 2<sup>nd</sup>** - Harrisburg. Lincoln County Master Drainage Plan discussions.
7. **May 7<sup>th</sup> - 9:45 a.m.** - South Dakota State University, Brookings. 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Big Sioux Water Festival.
8. **May 8<sup>th</sup> - 9:00 a.m.** - Matthews Training Center, Pierre. SD Water Management Board.
9. **May 9<sup>th</sup> - 9:00 a.m.** - Mitchell. James River Water Development District Board of Directors.
10. **May 16<sup>th</sup> - 9:00 a.m.** - EDWDD Office, Brookings. May EDWDD Board of Directors meeting.

Travel Authorization - The Manager requested Board authorization for Deb Springman, District education specialist, to attend the Gathering Partners of Natural Resources conference in Willmar, Minnesota, on May 17<sup>th</sup> - 19<sup>th</sup>. The conference is hosted by several University of Minnesota Extension program teams dealing with forestry, aquatic invasive species, Minnesota Master Naturalists and citizen science.

DRAFT

**Motion** by Connelly, seconded by Barth to authorize Ms. Springman’s participation in the conference as requested. Motion carried unanimously.

### **Project Assistance Requests**

Northeast Glacial Lakes Watershed Improvement and Restoration Project - Dennis Skadsen, Coordinator for the Northeast Glacial Lakes Watershed Improvement and Restoration Project (Project), presented the Board with a request for assistance to complete a two- to three-year study of aquatic insects in Day, Deuel, Grant, Marshall, and Roberts Counties. The study would 1) add to the known and predicted distributions of targeted aquatic invertebrates and provide further information on the current biodiversity and species richness of rivers, streams, and lakes in northeast South Dakota; 2) identify critical habitat in stream and river reaches, lake shorelines, and wetlands, that may lead to protection and preservation through conservation easements on privately owned riparian areas along these water bodies; 3) collect data on water quality and land stewardship along streams, rivers, and lakes surveyed to aid resource personnel in planning and implementing future conservation programs aimed at improving water quality and land-use thus preserving the bio-diversity of these water bodies; and 4) photograph specimens collected to be utilized for a field guide to aquatic invertebrates found in the state of South Dakota.

Primary funding for the effort is being sought through the SD Department of Game, Fish & Parks (\$18,572), with local match funds being requested from the District (\$5,000), the James River water Development District (\$2,500) and the Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate (\$2,500).

**Motion** by Moes, seconded by Kassube to provide up to \$5,000 in District cost-share assistance to the Project as requested. Motion carried unanimously.

International Legislator's Forum - The Manager presented a sponsorship request on behalf of the International Legislator's Forum (ILF). The ILF is an annual meeting of legislators from Manitoba, Minnesota, and North and South Dakota, which provides an opportunity for delegates to share information, understand problems, build relationships, and develop collaborative agreements on a wide variety of issues relevant to the participating jurisdictions. The 2019 ILF will be held in Sioux Falls from June 17<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup>.

The Manager noted that the ILF typically focuses on three topics at each event. In 2019, one of the target topics will be water quality, with an emphasis on the Big Sioux River. He noted that he has been involved in planning for this part of the event, which will include talks and field tours. It is expected that both he and Barry Berg, Coordinator for the Big Sioux River watershed Project, will be presenters.

**Motion** by Barth, seconded by Moes to provide \$500 in District cost-share assistance to sponsor the 2019 ILF, and to authorize the expenditure. Motion carried unanimously.

### **South Dakota Association of Rural Water Systems**

Kurt Pfeifle, Executive Director of the South Dakota Association of Rural Water Systems (SDARWS), provided a summary of his organization’s role, function and activities. Jeremiah Corbin, SDARWS Source Water Protection Specialist, spoke about his efforts working with public water suppliers.

# DRAFT

## District Inclement Weather Policy

The Manager presented a DRAFT policy (below in *italics*) as to when or how District offices might be closed during periods of inclement weather. He explained the policy, but requested the Board defer action until the May Board meeting. He noted that there is currently no formal policy, but that recent bouts of severe weather and the attendant bad travel conditions prompted this proposal.

### *DRAFT - EDWDD Inclement Weather Closure Policy*

*The East Dakota Water Development District (District) will follow the operating status of the State of South Dakota government during inclement weather.*

*Prior to the normal starting time, when it is announced that state government offices will be closed due to inclement weather, the District offices will be closed. If state government office closures are limited to selected geographic areas, typically counties, the same shall apply to District offices.*

*On days when weather conditions worsen as the day progresses, the District may decide to close the office early. Employees will be expected to remain at work until the appointed closing time, unless their flextime day ends prior to that time, or unless they receive permission from the District Manager to do otherwise.*

*In circumstances where District staff are stationed at offices that are not under the direct control of the District, the status of the office (open/closed/closing) shall be determined by the controlling authority.*

*All full-time employees will be paid for such time off. Part-time employees will be paid if normally scheduled to work that day and only for those hours which the employee would normally work.*

*Time absent from work due to inclement weather is not counted as hours worked when computing weekly overtime.*

## District Updates

2019 SD DENR Rotating Basins Water Quality Assessment - The Manager presented the Board with a formal cooperative agreement with the South Dakota Department of Environment and Natural Resources (SD DENR) for the 2019 SD DENR Rotating Basins Water Quality Assessment. The details of the proposed activities were reviewed at the March 2019 Board meeting. The Manager noted that as was discussed, the agreement stipulates that SD DENR will provide funding (\$115,610) to cover the costs of sample analyses for the samples collected at 42 river and stream sites and 22 lakes, along with supplies and materials. The District contribution (\$87,987) will cover staff and travel expenses, along with the acquisition of certain sampling equipment.

**Motion** by Duffy, seconded by Loseke to enter into an agreement with SD DENR to undertake the 2019 SD DENR Rotating Basins Water Quality Assessment and to authorize Chairman Jarrett to sign such an agreement. Motion carried unanimously

DRAFT

Statewide Ground Water Quality Monitoring Network - The Manager reported that the SD DENR Geological Survey Program (Survey) had recently assembled the necessary funding to repair all of the non-functioning/poorly functioning monitoring wells that are part of the Statewide Ground Water Quality Monitoring Network (Network). The District had provided support for the rehabilitation of the four (4) problematic Network wells within its boundary at the February 2019 Board meeting. Subsequently, the four remaining water development districts (James River, South-Central, Central Plains and Vermillion Basin) with similar wells had also provided support. On March 29<sup>th</sup>, the South Dakota Board of Water and Natural Resources provided the Survey with a grant of \$90,150 to be applied to non-functioning Network wells outside of the water development districts.

District On-Line Water Quality Portal - Jeremy Hinke previewed the District's efforts at developing an on-line portal by which people could access water quality data that has been collected by the District over the past two decades. He presented a DRAFT version of the portal, currently hosted on the developers website, but which he hoped would be available to the general public in early June. The site provided a map with all sites marked. Historical water quality data for the major impaired parameters (*Escherichia coli* bacteria, nitrate, pH, total suspended solids and dissolved oxygen). Data can be viewed in tabular form, or as a graph. He asked the Board members to review the current format and directions, and to forward any comments or suggestions.

### **Adjournment**

There being no further District business, Chairman Jarrett declared the meeting adjourned at 12:50 p.m.

DRAFT

\_\_\_\_\_  
John Moes, Secretary