



East Dakota Water Development District
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MINUTES
April 15, 2021

The Board of Directors of the East Dakota Water Development District (EDWDD) held a regular meeting on April 15th, 2021, by way of video conferencing. Chairman Anderson called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m. The following persons attended:

Directors Present

Mark Anderson
Steve Dick
Gary Duffy
Spencer Hawley
Bob Kappel
Dana Loseke
John Moes
Joedy Poppe

Directors Absent

Jeff Barth

Others Present

Deb Eisenbeisz, Lake Poinsett Association
Jim Finnegan, USDA - Natural Resources Conservation Service
Galen Hoogestraat, USGS Dakota Water Science Center
John McMaine, South Dakota State University
Dan Mullaly, West Dakota Water Development District
Rocco Murano, SD Department of Game, Fish & Parks
Dennis Skadsen, Day Conservation District
Josh Stafford, South Dakota State University
Christine Tarbaux, Clark County
Rebekah Tuchscherer, Gannett Publishing

Staff Present

Barry Berg
Jay Gilbertson
Alexa Kruse

Administrative Items

Approval of Agenda - The Manager requested to have an informational presentation by Dr. John McMaine, SDSU, added the Agenda. Dr. McMaine will report on Stormwater Demonstration Projects which were partially funded by the District.

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

Minutes - The Board reviewed the Minutes of the March 18th, 2021, Board meeting.

Motion by Hawley, seconded by Loseke to approve the Minutes of the March 18th, 2021, Board meeting as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Financial Reports - The Board reviewed the March 2021 financial reports.

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Motion by Loseke, seconded by Moes to accept the March 2021 financial report. Motion carried unanimously. Chairman Anderson then asked that the report be placed in the District files.

Report of Meetings and Conferences - Director Hawley reported on the final meeting of the Brookings County ad hoc Drainage Committee, held on April 6th in Brookings.

Director Loseke reported on the March 22nd meeting of the DENR Riparian Buffer Working Group. He also participated in a webinar sponsored by the Iowa Learning Farms on March 31st entitled, “When, Where and Why Soil Erosion Occurs and When, Where and How Do We Control It.”

The Manager reported on several meetings he attended:

March 22nd - DENR Riparian Buffer Working Group, via video-conference.

March 24th & 25th - 2021 Environmental and Water Quality Virtual Conference, via video-conference.

March 24th - South Dakota Chapter of the American Institute of Professional Geologists, via video-conference.

March 25th - South Dakota Board of Water & Natural Resources, via video-conference.

April 1st - South Dakota Association of Rural Water Systems (SDARWS) Board of Directors, via video-conference.

April 6th - Discussion of proposed dike on the Big Sioux River in southern Brookings County, Brookings.

April 13th - Minnehaha Conservation District Board of Supervisors, via video-conference.

April 14th - SDARWS Quality On Tap Editorial Board Meeting, via video-conference.

Upcoming Meetings -

1. **April 15th - 1:00 p.m.** - Webinar. North Central US Climate and Drought Outlook.
2. **April 15th - 3:30 p.m.** - via video-conference. EPA Region 8 in-house South Dakota group meeting.
3. **April 15th - 7:00 p.m.** - via video-conference. Upper Big Sioux River Watershed Board.
4. **April 20th - 8:00 a.m.** - Milbank. Grant County Commissioners and Planning & Zoning Board Joint Meeting.
5. **April 21st & 22nd** - via Zoom video-conference. 2021 Western South Dakota Hydrology Conference.
6. **April 28th & 29th** - video-conferencing/Deadwood. SDARWS Managers Group Meeting.
7. **May 10th - 3:00 p.m.** - via video-conference. Minnehaha Conservation District Board of Supervisors meeting.
8. **May 20th - 9:00 a.m.** - Brookings City/County Government Center, Brookings. May EDWDD Board of Directors meeting.

Board Room Audio-Visual Upgrades - The Manager proposed upgrades to the audio-visual capabilities of the conference room at the District office to facilitate better remote participation by those with business before the Board and the general public. He had started seeking proposals for the acquisition and installation of the necessary equipment and software. One proposal had been received to-date (~\$4,300), and he expected others in the same range.

Motion by Kappel, seconded by Hawley to authorize the Manager to expend up to \$5,000 for the purpose of upgrading the audio-visual capabilities in the District conference room as requested. Motion carried unanimously.

Project Assistance Request(s)

SD Department of Game, Fish & Parks - Rocco Murano, Senior Waterfowl Biologist for the South Dakota Department of Game, Fish & Parks (GF&P), presented a proposal for a project aimed at identifying and categorizing drained wetlands in the glaciated areas of South Dakota. The project, entitled, "Quantifying Restorable Wetlands in the Prairie Pothole Portion of South Dakota," is a collaborative effort initiated and partly funded by the Prairie Pothole Joint Venture (PPJV) and GF&P. PPJV is a collaboration of many partners including state, federal and non-governmental partners interested in wetland and grassland conservation in the glaciated areas of North Dakota, South Dakota, Minnesota and Iowa.

Mr. Murano stated that the intent of the effort had several objectives: 1) quantify, spatially delineate, and classify drained wetland basins in eastern South Dakota and compile them in a format useable by constituents; 2) quantify spatio-temporal trends of loss by wetland class; 3) use these data to model ecosystem services based on mitigation modeling, such as flood and nutrient reduction and retention with respect to precipitation events or wetland loss and restoration scenarios; 4) model waterfowl breeding pair density with respect to variation in wetland abundance and contributions to meeting PPJV conservation objectives, and; 5) use these data (if feasible) to understand impacts on infrastructure, particularly roads, given various wetland loss or gain scenarios which will have value to county and municipal governments.

The effort as currently envisioned will last 4-5 years, and while the sponsors have support arranged for the first year, they are looking to cooperators to raise future funds. Mr. Murano noted that they were seeking support and/or funding from a broad group of partners to increase diversity of needs, perspectives, and in the end make a better final product. The request to the Board was for a one-time grant in the amount of \$25,000, which would be applied toward the support of a graduate student at South Dakota State University working on the effort.

The Board had a number of questions about the proposed activity, which were addressed by Mr. Murano and Dr. Josh Stafford, South Dakota State University.

Motion by Loseke, seconded by Duffy to table consideration of the request until the May Board meeting. It was noted that questions remained about just what the final end-product of the project would be, and how it might be used. The Manager indicated that he would work to clarify the issues in the interim. Motion carried unanimously.

Day County Conservation District - The Manager noted that at its April 2019 meeting, the Board agreed to provide support in the amount of \$5,000 to be applied toward the completion of a survey of the aquatic invertebrates found throughout a number of streams in the Minnesota River headwaters in northeastern South Dakota. Many of the streams targeted are within Grant and Deuel Counties, so the results would provide a direct assessment of the conditions of District water resources.

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Dennis Skadsen, with the Day County Conservation District, provided the Board with an update on their efforts to-date. He noted the project's main goal was/is to collect and identify five orders of aquatic insects to the species level where possible; mayflies (Ephemeroptera), caddisflies (Trichoptera), stoneflies (Plecoptera), alderflies/fishflies (Megaloptera), and dragonflies/damselflies (Odonata). The presence and distribution of each species provides an indication of the water quality and overall condition of the streams assessed. Specimens identified from 2019 surveys include eleven species of mayflies, four species of caddisflies, and fourteen species of dragonflies and damselflies. Taxa identification from 2020 surveys include fourteen species of mayflies, fourteen species of caddisflies, one species of fishfly, four stoneflies identified to the genus level, and twenty-six species of dragonflies/damselflies. Many of these specimens represent new state and county records. The Manager noted that as time allowed, District staff have assisted Mr. Skadsen with his field surveys.

Another goal of the project is to identify any aquatic invasive species, threatened and endangered aquatic species, or species considered rare or of special concern by the South Dakota Department of Game, Fish, and Parks. Unfortunately during a survey on July 10, 2020, project personnel found zebra mussels in Pickerel Lake, the first confirmed observation of this invasive species for a northeast South Dakota glacial lake.

Rare species encountered during 2020 surveys include the Common mud minnow (fish) – North Buffalo Lake, Marshall County; Carmine shiner (fish) – Whetstone River, Grant County; Blackside darter (fish) – North Fork Yellowbank River, Grant County; Creek heelsplitter (mollusk) – North Fork Yellowbank River, Whetstone River, both Grant County; and Lilliput (mollusk) -North Fork Yellowbank River, Grant County

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As noted in the letter of request, there has been a change in the funding for this effort. The request (\$4,000) is intended to cover the resulting shortfall. There would be no new work done as the result of this award, but would allow the project to move forward to completion without a reduction in effort.

Motion by Dick, seconded by Hawley to provide up to \$1,600 in District costshare assistance to the Lake Poinsett Association as requested. Motion carried unanimously.

Director Loseke departed the meeting at 11:00 a.m.

Lake Poinsett Association - Deb Eisenbeisz, President of the Lake Poinsett Association (LPA), presented a request for District cost-share assistance in support of their efforts to monitor water quality within the lake. In cooperation with staff from the South Dakota Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), they have developed a testing plan to look at a range of parameters - total phosphorus, total Kjeldahl nitrogen, nitrites/nitrates, chlorophyll-a, ammonia, *Escherichia coli* (*E. coli*) bacteria, and microcystin (a class of toxins produced by certain freshwater cyanobacteria). Total analytical costs for the two-year sampling plan is \$2,812.

On behalf of LPA, Ms. Eisenbeisz requested funding from the District for the analytical and shipping costs for the microcystin samples, projected at \$1,600. LPA would cover the balance of the costs related to the conventional chemical parameters, which comes to \$1,212. She noted that when developing the LPA budget for the current year, this sampling program was not anticipated, so they were undertaking efforts to raise additional funds to be formally applied to this effort.

Motion by Dick, seconded by Hawley to provide up to \$1,600 in District cost-share assistance to LPA as requested. Motion carried (6-1) with Directors Dick, Duffy, Hawley, Moes and Poppe, along with Chairman Anderson, in support, and Director Kappel opposed.

District Updates

USDA Conservation Implementation Strategy WQ Monitoring - The Manager noted that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) has historically provided cost-share assistance to support the adoption and implementation of best management practices (BMPs). The emphasis has been on improving both agronomic conditions and general water quality. Several years ago, USDA started to direct an increasing share of these funds toward geographically-specific efforts. At this point, most of their BMP-support funds are being directed toward such focused efforts, which they call their Conservation Implementation Strategy (CIS).

Activities seeking funding under the CIS Program tend to be focused on particular water quality issues, and cover limited geographic areas. They are being developed by individual county Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) District Conservationists, covering local watersheds with specific and identifiable issues. The intent is to increase the percentage of BMP adoption within a given area, and hence be able to show actual water quality improvements as the result of the BMP implementation. As such, CIS projects all have a requirement to formally demonstrate that there really is/was an improvement in water quality.

The Manager is currently working with the Kingsbury County NRCS Office on a funded CIS project directed toward the Badger Lake watershed. He has been approached by the sponsors of three more CIS projects, from the NRCS offices in Brookings, Deuel and Grant Counties, for comparable aid. He provided an overview of how the District will provide the necessary support, with sampling targeting total suspended solids (using transparency tubes) and nutrients (District in-house testing). Samples will be collected by NRCS/CIS project staff, with sample analyses handled by District personnel. He indicated that such support could be managed with existing resources at present.

SDSU Stormwater Demonstration Projects - Dr. John McMaine, with the Department of Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering at South Dakota State University (SDSU), provided the Board with a review and update on stormwater management projects he has undertaken with support from the District:

- ◆ Sioux Falls Rain Garden, which included several public workshops, installation of a rain garden in an established neighborhood, and the results of ongoing water quality and quantity monitoring at the site; and
- ◆ Brookings Rain Water Collection, which included distribution of rain barrels, an on-line Earth Day presentation in 2020, and installation of a rain water harvesting system and rain garden at the Boys & Girls Club.

Adjournment

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

Spencer Hawley, Secretary