



East Dakota Water Development District
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MINUTES
August 15, 2024

The Board of Directors of the East Dakota Water Development District (EDWDD) held a regular meeting on August 15, 2024, at the District Office in Brookings, SD. Chairman Anderson called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. The following persons attended:

Directors Present

Mark Anderson
Jeff Barth
Ryan Donovan*
Gary Duffy
Bonnie Dybedahl
Spencer Hawley
Bob Kappel
John Moes
Joedy Poppe*

Others Present

Jesse Campbell, MAP - Private Well Assistance Program*
Lisa Kunza, SD School of Mines & Technology*
Kurt Pfeifle, Dakota Mainstem Regional Water System

Staff Present

Barry Berg
Jay Gilbertson

* - participated via video-conference.

Administrative Items

Approval of Agenda -

Motion by Barth, seconded by Moes to approve the Agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Financial Reports - The Board reviewed the June 2024 and July 2024 Financial Reports.

Motion by Moes, seconded by Dybedahl to accept the June 2024 and July 2024 financial reports. Motion carried unanimously. Chairman Anderson asked that the report be placed in the District files.

Report of Meetings and Conferences - Director Donovan reported on the Lewis & Clark Regional Water System's Annual Meeting held in Tea on June 27th.

The Manager briefly commented on the following meetings he had attended:

1. June 25th - Sioux Falls. Midwest Dairy Association dinner.
2. June 26th - 29th - Washington, DC. USEPA Watershed Funding Workshop.

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3. July 10th - southern Brookings County. Big Sioux River discharge measurements.
4. July 24th - Sioux Falls. South Dakota Association of Rural Water Systems Manager’s Group meeting.
5. July 30th - Sioux Falls. 2025 Legislation discussions w/ Representative Kadyn Wittman.
6. August 7th - Codington & Brookings, Counties. MAP Private Well Assessment tour.
7. August 8th - EDWDD Office, Brookings. Lake Poinsett Management Plan discussions.
8. August 9th - Brookings. Big Sioux River diversion public hearing.

Upcoming Meetings

1. **August 15th** - Brookings. SDSU Extension Watershed Academy.
2. **August 27th** - EDWDD Office, Brookings. South Dakota Lakes & Streams Association Board of Directors.
3. **August 28th** - Day County. Prairie Coteau Watershed Project Field Day.
4. **September 5th** - Yankton. South Dakota Association of Rural Water Systems Board of Directors.
5. **September 12th - 9:00 a.m.** - Aberdeen. James River Water Development District Board of Directors.
6. **September 14th - 10:00 a.m.** - Methodist Church Camp, Lake Poinsett. Lake Poinsett Management Plan public information meeting.
7. **September 19th - 10:30 a.m.** - EDWDD Office, Brookings. September EDWDD Board of Directors meeting. Public hearing on 2025 District budget at 11:00 a.m..
8. **September 26th** - Pierre. South Dakota Board of Water and Natural Resources.

Payment Requests - The Manager presented one payment/reimbursement request that required Board action. He noted that the request was in order and consistent with the conditions established by the Board at the time of the award.

<u>Grant Recipient/Activity</u>	<u>Requested Amount</u>
USGS - FFY 2025 Yellow Bank River Gaging Station Support	\$ 6,652.00
	\$ 6,652.00

Motion by Kappel, seconded by Duffy to authorize payment of \$ 6,652.00 to the US Geological Survey as requested. Motion carried unanimously.

Position Description/Wage Assessment Update - The Manager reported that he would be meeting with the consultant (Cota Consulting) hired to help prepare formal position descriptions for all full-time District staff, and to conduct a wage assessment on August 22nd. He expected to be able to report final results at the September meeting.

Schedule Standing Committee Meetings - The Manager proposed to have the Personnel Committee (Directors Barth, Donovan, Moes and Poppe) meet at 8:30 a.m. on September 19th at the District office, prior to the regular Board of Directors meeting. He proposed that the Finance Committee meet to make a final review of the DRAFT District budget for 2025 at 9:30 a.m. on September 19th at the District office.

Motion by Moes, seconded by Barth to hold the committee meetings at the time and dates

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suggested. Motion carried unanimously.

Schedule Public Hearing on 2025 District Budget - The Manager requested that the Board establish the time and place for the public hearing on the 2025 District budget. He suggested that it be during the September 19th, 2024, Board meeting in Brookings.

Motion by Moes, seconded by Barth to hold the public hearing on the District's FY 2025 budget on Thursday, September 19th, 2024, at 11:00 a.m. at the District office in Brookings and to authorize publication of the draft budget and necessary public notices. The Manager indicated that the draft budget will be published in all District newspapers in advance of the public hearing. Motion carried unanimously.

Director Area 7 Vacancy - Chairman Anderson reiterated that Director Donovan has indicated that he would be resigning from his position, effective in early September. The move is necessitated by his having moved his primary residence outside of the District. Chairman Anderson and the Board thanked Director Larson for his service, and wished him well in his future endeavors.

The Manager noted that under South Dakota Codified Law (SDCL) 46A-3B-9, the remaining directors are empowered to make a vacancy appointment to cover the balance Director Donovan's term of office, which runs through December 31st, 2026.

The Manager suggested deferring action on the vacancy appointment until later in the year. He noted that the formal description of the District's director areas was currently under revision. It is anticipated that the final changes to ARSD 74:05:05:20 would be completed in early November. The boundaries of all of the director areas, except director area 1, were being changed. It was the consensus of the Board to defer action until the November meeting.

Project Assistance Requests

Dakota Mainstem Regional Water System - Kurt Pfeifle, Executive Director for the Dakota Mainstem Regional Water System (DMRWS) presented the Board with a request for \$50,000 in District cost-share assistance. Mr. Pfeifle thanked the Board for their initial support, awarded in March 2023. He reviewed the progress made by the organization. The organization became an 'official' entity in June 2023, has established and populated a Board of Directors, and hired a part-time Executive Director, along with legal, accounting and engineering assistance. DMRWS currently has 34 members. Similar to the Lewis & Clark Regional Water System, membership is limited to public water suppliers, with a majority of the members from South Dakota, but entities in Minnesota, Iowa and Nebraska are interested.

DMRWS was the recipient of a \$1,000,000 State Water Resources Management System grant from the South Dakota Legislature in 2024, and they will be seeking a similar award in 2025. The funds are being used to develop a survey of member needs, which will lay the groundwork for a feasibility study and eventually construction design.

Motion by Kappel, seconded by Hawley to award \$50,000 in District cost-share assistance to the Dakota Mainstem Regional Water System in support of its developmental efforts, and to authorize distribution as requested. Motion carried unanimously.

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South Dakota School of Mines & Technology - The Manager presented the Board with a proposal from Dr. Lisa Kunza, South Dakota School of Mines & Technology (SDSM&T), to conduct a baseline assessment of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in the Big Sioux River. Dr. Kunza explained that she and SDSM&T graduate students would collect samples at 10 locations along the river between the headwaters (near Summit) and the Iowa state line south of Brandon. Work would start this fall with a single sampling run in September, to be followed by four (4) more runs in the 2025 field season. Total cost of the effort, which would be completed by the end of 2025, is \$99,514.

The Manager noted that there is growing interest in the potential impact of PFAS compounds on public water supplies in the Big Sioux River basin. State research has shown that there can be a strong connection between surface water and ground water systems, and as such if the river has PFAS in it, they can be drawn into local aquifers.

A preliminary map of sampling sites was discussed. Sample site selection is predicated on obtaining a broad assessment of conditions in the river, as opposed to targeting specific suspected/potential sources. Samples would be collected above and below the three major communities located along the river, Watertown, Brookings and Sioux Falls. Dr. Lisa Kunza noted that if the initial sampling in September identified particular trouble areas, the monitoring could be adjusted in the following year.

Motion by Hawley, seconded by Kappel to award \$99,514 in District cost-share assistance to the SDSM&T in support of the proposed baseline study of PFAS compounds in the Big Sioux River. Motion carried unanimously.

Midwest Assistance Program - Private Well Assessment Program

Jesse Campbell, Private Well Coordinator for the Midwest Assistance Program (MAP), provided an overview of the programs efforts to aid owners of private wells across a nine-state region (Montana, Wyoming, North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, Minnesota, Iowa and Missouri). The Individual Well Program is funded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on a national scale to develop and utilize a new assessment tool and host educational workshops on how to identify potential well issues, including contamination threats. MAP provides assistance and essential tools needed to protect and improve the water quality of wells in unregulated well owner communities.

The Manager noted that he had spent a day in the field with Mr. Campbell in early August, accompanying him on visit to three well owners in the Watertown and Aurora areas. He noted that the program is something that seems needed, and might be something that the District could support, or at least promote, at some point down the line.

Adjournment

There being no further District business, Chairman Anderson declared the meeting adjourned at 11:55 a.m.

Spencer Hawley, Secretary