



**East Dakota Water Development District**  
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**MINUTES**  
**February 15, 2024**

The Board of Directors of the East Dakota Water Development District (EDWDD) held a regular meeting on February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024, at the EDWDD office in Brookings. Chairman Anderson called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. The following persons attended:

**Directors Present**

Mark Anderson  
Jeff Barth\*  
Ryan Donovan\*  
Gary Duffy  
Bonnie Dybedahl  
Spencer Hawley  
John Moes  
Jodey Poppe\*

**Directors Absent**

Bob Kappel

**Others Present**

Dave Bartel, James River Water Development District\*  
Jeremiah Bergstrom, South Dakota State University  
Rob Dalton, South Dakota State University  
Sushant Mehan, South Dakota State University  
Sarah Sellars, South Dakota State University

**Staff Present**

Barry Berg\*  
Jay Gilbertson  
Deb Springman

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**Administrative Items**

**Approval of Agenda -**

**Motion** by Moes, seconded by Duffy to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

**Minutes -** The Board reviewed the Minutes of the January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2024, meeting.

**Motion** by Hawley, seconded by Dybedahl to approve the January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2024, Minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

**Financial Reports -** The Board reviewed the December 2023 and January 2024 financial reports.

**Motion** by Moes, seconded by Hawley to accept the December 2023 and January 2024 financial reports. Motion carried unanimously. Chairman Anderson then asked that the reports be placed in the District files.

Report of Meetings and Conferences - Director Donovan reported on meetings of the Friends of the Big Sioux River (January 22<sup>nd</sup> & February 8<sup>th</sup>). Both meetings were held in Sioux Falls.

Director Dybedahl reported on the National Cattlemen's Beef Association meeting in Orlando, Florida, on January 30<sup>th</sup> - February 2<sup>nd</sup>.

The Manager briefly summarized the following meetings he attended since the January 2018 Board meeting:

1. January 9<sup>th</sup> - 11<sup>th</sup> - South Dakota Association of Rural Water Systems (SDARWS) Annual Technical Conference, Pierre.
2. January 17<sup>th</sup> - Vermillion Basin Water Development District Board of Directors, via teleconference.
3. January 17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> - Lobbying for SB 53 & SJR 502, Pierre.
4. January 24<sup>th</sup> - SDARWS Source Water Protection Workshop, Pierre.
5. January 24<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> - SDARWS Manager's Group Meeting.
6. January 24<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> - Lobbying for HB 1124 & 1128, Pierre.
7. January 29<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup> - Lobbying for HB 1130 & SJR 502, Pierre.
8. February 5<sup>th</sup> - Lobbying for HB 1124, remote testimony.
9. February 6<sup>th</sup> - Lobbying for HB 1128, remote testimony.
10. February 9<sup>th</sup> - SD Lakes & Streams Association Board of Directors, via video-conference.

In addition, the Manager acted in his capacity as District lobbyist to the 2024 South Dakota Legislature in Pierre during this period.

Upcoming Meetings -

1. **March 6<sup>th</sup>** - Pierre. South Dakota Water Management Board.
2. **March 7<sup>th</sup>** - Pierre. Last regular day of the 2023 Legislative Session.
3. **March 12<sup>th</sup> - 3:00 p.m. (MST)** - Rapid City. West Dakota Water Development District Board of Directors meeting.
4. **March 14<sup>th</sup> - 9:00 a.m.** - Huron. James River Water Development District Board of Directors meeting.
5. **March 20<sup>th</sup> - 6:30 p.m.** - Centerville. Vermillion Basin Water Development District Board of Directors meeting.
6. **March 21<sup>st</sup> - 9:00 a.m.** - EDWDD Office, Brookings. March EDWDD Board of Directors meeting.
7. **March 25<sup>th</sup>** - Final day of the 2023 Legislative Session (Veto Day).
8. **March 27<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup>** - Pierre. 2024 Environmental & Water Quality Conference.
9. **March 27<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup>** - Pierre. South Dakota Board of Water & Natural Resources.

Upcoming Director Vacancies - The Manager reviewed the process by which the pending vacancies in the even-numbered director areas will be filled. He noted that all incumbent directors had been provided with the necessary paperwork, and formal public notices will be published in all appropriate District newspapers in early March. At the time of the meeting, no petitions had been filed for any of the four positions.

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Payment Request(s) - The Manager presented the Board with a reimbursement request from the sponsor of a District-supported project. He noted that the request was in order, and consistent with provisions set by the Board at the time of award. He requested authorization to pay the following:

<u>Grant Recipient/Activity</u>	<u>Requested Amount</u>
Pilot-scale <i>E. coli</i> removal demonstration project - Hua, SDSU	\$ 1,917.90
Total	\$ 1,917.90

**Motion** by Duffy, seconded by Dybedahl to authorize payment of \$1,917.90 as requested. Motion carried unanimously.

Consideration of Revisions to the 2024 District Budget - The Manager presented a year-end summary of fiscal year 2023 expenditures and expenses, and reviewed proposed changes to the FY 2024 District budget (below). He noted that the changes primarily reflect the actual year-end 2023 expenditures and account balances, along with carry-over of funds that had been obligated but not expended. He noted the following particular adjustments:

1. Appropriations - Administration: \$12,000 reduction in health insurance costs;
2. Appropriations - Technical Assistance: \$59,666 reduction due to the elimination of an unfilled position;
3. Appropriations - Project Assistance: \$350,330 increase due to carry over of unobligated project assistance funds and obligated funds not yet expended at the close of FY 2023;
4. Means of Finance - Capital Reserves: \$263,729 increase as the result of carry over of unobligated 2023 grant assistance funds, along with committed, but unexpended, grants; and
5. Means of Finance - Miscellaneous Revenue: \$20,000 increase due to higher interest returns.

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**FY 2024 BUDGET**

<u>APPROPRIATIONS</u>	INITIAL BUDGET	OPERATIONAL BUDGET
01 Board of Directors	\$ 41,677	\$ 41,392
02 Administration	\$ 216,858	\$ 205,258
03 Technical Assistance	\$ 400,616	\$ 340,950
04 Operational Expenses	\$ 152,750	\$ 152,750
05 Professional Services	\$ 60,000	\$ 60,000
06 Capitol Outlay	\$	\$ 63,500
07 External Grant Expenditures	\$ 325,000	\$ 325,000
08 Project Assistance	\$ 458,299	\$ 808,629
09 Contingency	<u>\$ 150,000</u>	<u>\$ 150,000</u>
<b>TOTAL FY 2024 APPROPRIATIONS</b>	<b>\$ 1,868,700</b>	<b>\$ 2,147,579</b>

<u>MEANS OF FINANCE</u>	INITIAL BUDGET	OPERATIONAL BUDGET
100 Tax Revenue	\$ 983,700	\$ 983,700
200 External Grant Revenue	\$ 325,000	\$ 325,000
300 Capitol Reserve Transfer	\$ 470,000	\$ 733,729
400 Miscellaneous Revenue	<u>\$ 90,000</u>	<u>\$ 105,150</u>
<b>TOTAL FY 2024 MEANS OF FINANCE</b>	<b>\$ 1,868,700</b>	<b>\$ 2,147,579</b>

**Motion** by Hawley, seconded by Dybedahl to approve the carry-over of funds from 2023 and to adopt the proposed adjustments to the 2024 District operational budget. Motion carried unanimously.

### **Project Assistance Request(s)**

South Dakota State University - Community Water Values Survey for ESD - Jeremiah Bergstrom, Jeremiah Bergstrom (School of Design) presented a proposal entitled, “Implementing Community Water Values Survey for Eastern South Dakota.” He noted that the effort was a follow up to an earlier, District-supported effort (“Assessing Capacity for Community-based Watershed Planning in South Dakota”). The proposed survey would provide a more in-depth look into current perceptions of South Dakota residents and communities’ needs as they relate to water resource management. The effort consists of three tasks. First, a survey, modeled after a similar effort from Minnesota, will finalize, test, activate and promote the survey. Second, the survey will be implemented through a variety of venues, including community events, on-line opportunities and targeted efforts at area colleges and universities. Finally, the survey results will be compiled and analyzed using a variety of statistical methodologies. Results will be presented to project sponsors, as well as participating organizations and communities. Overall costs for this effort would be \$50,000. Mr. Bergstrom stated that the effort would take approximately 12-months to complete.

The Manager indicated that he would work with Mr. Bergstrom to present this proposal to both the Vermillion Basin and James River Water Development District, as their coverage areas would be included within the scope of the project.

**Motion** by Hawley, seconded by Moes, to provide \$50,000 in District cost-share assistance to South Dakota State University in support of the proposal, “Implementing Community Water Values Survey for Eastern South Dakota.” It was understood that the effort would begin on June 1, 2024, with a projected completion date of September 1, 2025. Motion carried unanimously.

*Director Donovan left the meeting at 11:15 a.m.*

South Dakota State University - Environmental & Economic Assessment of SRAM - The Manager noted that as the Seasonal Riparian Area Management Program (SRAM) moves into its second decade of existence, it has proven to be an effective, and increasingly popular best management practice (BMP) across eastern South Dakota. It effectively addresses one of the most common source of impairments on the rivers and streams of the region, an excess of bacteria in the waters. Water quality studies have shown a significant and immediate short-term impact on water quality in the areas where this BMP has been implemented. Anecdotally, participating landowners have also seen real economic benefits to their operations, which is critical for the continued adoption of SRAM in an entirely voluntary system. The Manager solicited a proposal from SDSU to formally assess the economic and environmental impacts of SRAM.

Sushant Mehan, Assistant Professor in the Ag & Biosystems Engineering Department and SDSU Extension Water Resource Engineer Specialist, explained the proposed effort. He noted that the project would assess the effectiveness of SRAM in improving forage conditions and its economic implications. Using NDVI and other spectral indices for remote sensing data analysis, the impact of SRAM would seek to quantify the impact on vegetation health and pasture quality. The assessment extends to

analyzing water quality data to understand the program's environmental influence, considering variables like alkalinity, dissolved oxygen levels, and *Escherichia coli* counts. He stated that preliminary findings indicate positive trends in vegetation health and water quality, suggesting SRAM's potential to foster healthier ecosystems. The economic analysis, involving a social cost-benefit analysis, aims to validate SRAM's feasibility, calculate the social benefit of SRAM to the public, and analyze the effect on the producers' finances. The evaluation involves stakeholder consultations and extensive outreach through workshops, online platforms, and publications. This two-year project encompasses various stages, from collecting, analyzing, and reporting findings from remote sensing to soil, forage, and water quality data. The project budget is \$120,553. The output from this proposal will quantify SRAM's multifaceted benefits to achieving sustainable agriculture through integrated land management and economic analysis.

The Manager indicated that he endorsed District support for the full amount of the request. He also noted that he had been in contact with other potential funding sources about the effort, as the results, a formal assessment of riparian buffer impacts, would be applicable to a variety of programs across the state. He noted that if other sources of support were arranged, it would reduce the District's commitment to the overall costs.

**Motion** by Moes, seconded by Duffy, to provide \$120,553 in District cost-share assistance to South Dakota State University in support the proposed study, "Assessing the Environmental and Economic Efficacy of the SRAM Program in the Big Sioux River Watershed." Motion carried unanimously.

## 2024 Legislative Session Review

The Manager reviewed the status of numerous bills (listed below) he is tracking as the District lobbyist during the ongoing 99<sup>th</sup> Session of the South Dakota Legislature:

- House Bill (HB) 1010**, An Act to require customer consent for installation of a smart meter for a utility service,
- HB 1030**, An Act to update statutory and regulatory references pertaining to water pollution,
- HB 1031**, An Act to update the development and implementation of conservation district standards,
- HB 1033**, An Act to address the administration of State Conservation Commission functions by the Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources,
- HB 1043**, An Act to include lithium in the definition of precious metal for purposes of the minerals severance tax, and to set the tax rate for lithium severed in this state,
- HB 1115**, An Act to provide an appropriation for the replacement of pipes for the McCook Lake pumping system,
- HB 1119**, An Act to create a habitat conservation specialty plate and emblem,
- HB 1124**, An Act to provide for the temporary filling of water development district board positions created as a result of population increases,
- HB 1128**, An Act to require a zoning authority to determine that a well is an established well that has not been abandoned in making a permitting decision,
- HB 1130**, An Act to revise water development district boundaries and taxing authority,
- HB 1235**, An Act to make an appropriation of State Fiscal Recovery Fund moneys for eligible water quality projects

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Senate Bill (SB) 7, An Act to revise the water resources projects list,

SB 16, An Act to make appropriations for water and environmental purposes and to declare an emergency

SB 53, An Act to make an appropriation for eligible water and wastewater projects and to declare an emergency

SB 66, An Act to make an appropriation for eligible water, wastewater, and storm water projects throughout state government, and to declare an emergency,

SB 75, An Act to modify provisions pertaining to the designation of a legal newspaper,

SB 111, An Act to revise requirements for mining and mineral exploration

Senate Joint Resolution 502, Providing legislative approval for a future use water permit application by the Lewis and Clark Regional Water System.

### **Adjournment**

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

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Spencer Hawley, Secretary

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