



East Dakota Water Development District
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MINUTES
July 16th, 2020

The Board of Directors of the East Dakota Water Development District (EDWDD) held a regular meeting on July 16th, 2020, by way of remote video-conferencing (ZOOM). Chairman Anderson called the meeting to order at 9:05 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

Directors Absent

- none -

Others Present

Susan Conner, Miner County
Steve Dick, Hartford
Jim Finnegan, USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service
Tanya Flegel, Kingsbury Conservation District
Jim Knight, 4-Lakes Association
Brad Prehiem, Vermillion Basin Water Development District
Mark Rath, SD Dept. of Environment & Natural Resources

Staff Present

Barry Berg
Kevin Christenson
Jay Gilbertson
Deb Springman

Administrative Items

Approval of Agenda - The Manager asked to have a request from the Minnehaha Conservation District added to the Agenda.

Motion by Kassube, seconded by Jarrett to approve the agenda with the proposed addition. Motion carried unanimously.

Minutes - The Board reviewed the Minutes of the June 18th, 2020, meeting.

Motion by Barth, seconded by Duffy to approve the Minutes of the June 18th, 2020, meeting as so amended. Motion carried unanimously.

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Financial Reports - The Board reviewed the June 2020 Financial Reports.

Motion by Loseke, seconded by Kassube to accept the June 2020 Financial Reports. Motion carried unanimously. Chairman Anderson asked that the report be placed in the District files.

Report of Meetings and Conferences - Directors Connelly and Loseke reported on the Friends of the Big Sioux River (FBSR) Board of Directors meeting on July 6th in Sioux Falls.

Director Loseke attended the June 24th meeting of the Big Sioux River Watershed Implementation Project Steering Committee and the July 13th Minnehaha Conservation District Board of Supervisors meetings in Sioux Falls. He also reported on discussions held between FBSR and the City of Sioux Falls Environmental Division on a range of issues.

Chairman Anderson attended the June 24th meeting of the Big Sioux River Watershed Implementation Project Steering Committee in Sioux Falls.

The Manager briefly commented on the following meetings and activities:

June 24th - Big Sioux River Watershed Implementation Project Steering Committee, Renner.

June 25th - South Dakota Board of Water and Natural Resources, via ZOOM.

June 26th - Environmental Law & Policy Center telephone interview on Big Sioux River conditions.

July 6th - Lake Alice water level informational presentation, Clear Lake.

July 7th - SDSU Ag & Biosystems Engineering Department Interview - Abigail Tomasek.

July 9th - SDSU Ag & Biosystems Engineering Department Interview - Kelsey McDonough.

July 14th - South Central Water Development District Board meeting, Armour; West Dakota Water Development District Board meeting, Rapid City.

July 15th - Vermillion Basin Water Development District Board meeting, ZOOM.

Upcoming Meetings -

1. **July 16th - 700 p.m.** - via telephone conference call. Upper Big Sioux River Watershed Board.
2. **July 22nd - 8:00 a.m.** - Sioux Falls. South Dakota Association of Rural Water Systems Manager's Group meeting.
3. **July 22nd - 10:00 a.m.** - Flandreau. SDACD Vermillion-Big Sioux Area meeting
4. **August 10th - 3:00 p.m.** - Sioux Falls. Minnehaha Conservation District Board of Supervisors.
5. **TBD.** EDWDD Personnel Committee.
6. **TBD.** EDWDD Finance Committee.
7. **August 20th - 9:00 a.m.** - via Zoom. July EDWDD Board of Directors meeting.

Schedule Meetings of Personnel and Finance Committees - The Manager noted that meetings of the Personnel and Finance Committees needed to be scheduled in advance of the August Board meeting. The Personnel Committee, made up of Directors Barth, Jarrett (Chair), Loseke & Moes, tentatively agreed to meet during the week of August 10-14. They will conduct the Manager's annual performance review, and develop recommendations for any adjustments to District staff compensation. The Finance Committee, made up of Directors Connelly, Duffy, Hawley & Kassube (Chair), tentatively agreed to meet during the week of August 10-14 to work on a DRAFT 2021 District budget. The recommendations of both committees will be formally presented to the full Board at the August 20th

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 Board meeting. The Manager stated that the formal budget adoption will not be considered until the September Board meeting, following a public hearing.

Project Assistance Request(s)

Town of Canova Storm Water Facility Plan - The Manager presented a request from the Town of Canova for District cost-share assistance to complete a facility plan of their storm water collection and distribution system. Canova has suffered from poor drainage in various parts of town and they are looking to develop a plan to address the issue. The City has entered into an agreement with DGR Engineering to complete the work, at a projected total cost of \$12,500. The town is seeking \$10,000 from the SD DENR Small Community Planning Grants Program, and is requesting one-half of the balance of the costs (\$1,250) from the District.

Motion by Kassube, seconded by Duffy to provide District cost-share assistance to the Town of Canova covering fifty percent (50%) of the local costs of the proposed storm water facility plan, up to a maximum of \$1,250. Motion carried unanimously.

Kingsbury and Minnehaha Conservation Districts - The Manager presented requests for District cost-share assistance from both the Kingsbury and Minnehaha Conservation Districts. To place the requests in context, he noted that the December 2013 meeting, the Board agreed to provide \$5,000 in project assistance to the Miner Conservation District in support of their effort to acquire a new grass drill. At the time, it was recognized that such a decision would very likely prompt comparable requests from the other conservation districts (CDs) within the District. Over the subsequent years, requests have been received, and supported, from the CDs in Moody, Brookings, Deuel, Hamlin, Codington and Grant Counties. He noted that Lake County uses the drill from either the Miner or Moody CDs.

Both CDs are in the process of evaluating their current equipment, but will be purchasing a grass drill within the next few months to either replace an existing piece of equipment, or to expand their inventory in response to increased demand. Tanya Flegel, Manager for the Kingsbury Conservation District, reviewed their plans. The Manager noted that he had encouraged the requests to both provide needed and necessary assistance to the particular CDs, as well as to close out this particular set of awards. He recommended providing \$5,000 in District support to each CD.

Motion by Moes, seconded by Duffy to provide District cost-share assistance in the amount of \$5,000 each to the Kingsbury and Minnehaha Conservation Districts as requested to support the purchase of grass drills. Motion carried unanimously.

4-Lakes Association - The Manager presented the Board with a request for assistance from the 4-Lakes Association, which encompasses Thompson, Whitewood, Preston & Henry Lakes in Kingsbury County. The support would be directed toward an effort to clean out the outlet of Lake Thompson, removing impediments to flow, specifically accumulated vegetation and sediment within the outlet channel. Property owners around Lake Thompson have been impacted by various high-water problems which would hopefully be alleviated by the effort. The projected cost of this effort is \$30,000. The 4-Lakes Association has pledged \$10,000, and the Kingsbury County Commission has made up to \$5,000 for the effort. The request to East Dakota is for fifty percent (50%) of the costs of the effort, up to a maximum of \$15,000.

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James Knight, Special Projects Coordinator for the 4-Lakes Association, explained the planned activities. He noted that the effort was subject to review and oversight by the SD Water Management Board, which has established conditions and restrictions on what specifically could be done. The elevation of the outlet of the lake, mutually agreed upon as 1,687.5 feet above mean sea level, could not be lowered, and that the outflow from the lake would be limited to an increase of no more than six percent (6%). Kingsbury County has agreed to formally sponsor the effort, but day-to-day project management would be handled by Mr. Knight.

The Manager noted that the District typically provides financial assistance to projects to cover costs associated with planning, engineering and monitoring. This includes providing \$5,030 used to fund an engineering assessment of the proposed clean out activity last summer (shared equally with Kingsbury County). However, the District has, on only very rare and unique occasions, provided funds to be used for what would be construed as ‘construction’ activities. He suggested that such a precedent would open the Board up to other construction-related funding requests, and the potential number of requests from across the District would be significant. As such, he could not recommend support of the request.

The Board and Mr. Knight discussed various aspects of the proposed activity.

Motion by Moes, seconded by Jarrett to provide District cost-share assistance to cover fifty percent (50%) of the costs of the post-excavation engineering survey and the current monitoring equipment, up to a maximum amount of \$2,500. Director Moes noted that support for these activities would be consistent with past decisions made by the Board.

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Substitute Motion by Barth, seconded by Connelly to defer action on the request until the September Board meeting. After further discussion, Directors Barth and Connelly withdrew this motion.

The Board concurred that it would be important to clearly distinguish the purpose(s) toward which District funds are to be applied, and agreed that application of District support to ‘construction’ activities, no matter how worthy, could create a problematic precedent. **Motion** by Moes & Jarrett carried 6-3 with Directors Duffy, Hawley, Jarrett, Kassube Moes and Chairman Anderson supporting, and Directors Barth, Connelly and Loseke opposing.

Adjournment

There being no additional District business, Chairman Anderson declared the meeting adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

Spencer Hawley, Secretary