



East Dakota Water Development District
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MINUTES
July 21,2022

The Board of Directors of the East Dakota Water Development District (EDWDD) held a regular meeting on July 21st, 2022, 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
Troy Larson
John Moes
Joedy Poppe

Directors Absent

Spencer Hawley
Bob Kappel

Others Present

Galen Hoogestraat, USGS Dakota Science Center
Joshua Jones, City of Aurora
Ryan Thompson, USGS Dakota Science Center*

Staff Present

Barry Berg*
Jay Gilbertson
Alexa Kruse*
Deb Springman

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* - participated via video-conference.

Administrative Items

Approval of Agenda - The Manager requested two (2) items be added to the Agenda under Administrative items. First, a consideration of mid-year adjustments to staff and director compensation, along with travel-related reimbursements (mileage, meals and lodging). Second, he wanted to discuss the disposition of a piece of analytical equipment.

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

Minutes - The Board reviewed the Minutes of the April 21st, 2022, meeting.

Motion by Donovan, seconded by Poppe to approve the Minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

The Board reviewed the Minutes of the May 19th, 2022, meeting.

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Motion by Larson, seconded by Moes to approve the Minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Financial Reports - The Board reviewed the May and June 2022 financial statements.

Motion by Poppe, seconded by Duffy to approve the May and June 2022 financial statements. Motion carried unanimously. Chairman Anderson directed that the approved financial statements be placed in the District files.

Report of Meetings and Conferences - Director Donovan reported on the July 18th meeting of the Friends of the Big Sioux River Board of Directors in Sioux Falls.

Director Larson reported on the July 20th meeting of the South Dakota Association of Rural Water Systems Manager's Group meeting in Sioux Falls.

Director Moes reported on the May 18th meeting of the Lake Pelican Water Project District in Watertown.

The Manager briefly commented on the following meetings he attended:

June 1st & 2nd - Deadwood. South Dakota Association of Rural Water Systems (SDARWS) Board of Directors.

June 6th - Clear Lake. Deuel County Planning & Zoning Board.

June 7th - Lake Poinsett. Outlet gate inspection.

June 9th - Webster. Day County Commission meeting - Bitter Lake flooding/drainage.

June 11th - 8:30 a.m. - Lake Poinsett. Q&A with the Lake Poinsett Association.

June 13th - 1:30 p.m. - EDWDD Office, Brookings. South Dakota Lakes & Streams Association (SDLSA) Board of Directors.

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

June 14th - Rapid City. West Dakota Water Development District Water Resources Roundtable.

June 18th - Lake Poinsett. Lake Poinsett Water Project District Board of Directors.

June 21st - Montrose. South Dakota Association of Conservation Districts (SDACD) Vermillion-Big Sioux Area meeting.

June 22nd - Fort Sisseton State Park. SDACD Coteau Area meeting.

June 23rd - via video-conference. South Dakota Board of Water & Natural Resources.

June 23rd - Tea. Thirty-Second Annual Lewis & Clark Regional Water System Membership Banquet.

June 28th - City Hall, Dell Rapids. Big Sioux River Project Steering Committee.

June 6th - Brookings. Brookings County Conservation District Board of Supervisors

June 7th - via videoconference. SDLSA Board of Directors.

July 12th - Clear Lake. Deuel County Planning & Zoning Board.

July 13th - Sioux Falls. Minnehaha County Auditor's Office (EDWDD director area maps).

July 13th - Pierre. SD DANR Watershed Protection Program (2022 Integrated Report discussion).

July 15th - Flandreau. Moody County Chapter - National Wild Turkey Federation.

July 19th - Sioux Falls. Rural Water Open Golf Tournament.

July 20th - Sioux Falls. SDARWS Manager's Group meeting.

July 20th - Centerville. Vermillion Basin Water Development District Board of Directors.

Upcoming Meetings -

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1. **July 21st - 9:00 a.m.** - Kelly Inn, Yankton. July James River WDD Board of Directors meeting.
2. **July 26th - 9:30 a.m.** - SDSU Raven Precision Ag Building, Brookings. South Dakota Water & Community Symposium.
3. **August 2 - 10:00 a.m.** - Boadwine Farms, 46945 251st Street, Baltic. Midwest Dairy Dairy Sustainability VIP Tour.
4. **August 4th** - SDSU Oak Lake Field Station. 2022 South Dakota Watershed Academy, sponsored by SDSU Extension & Water Resources Institute.
5. **August 12th** - Pickerel Lake. South Dakota Lakes & Streams Association Board of Directors.
6. **August 18th - 9:30 a.m.** - EDWDD Office, Brookings. August EDWDD Board of Directors meeting.

Payment Requests - The Manager presented the Board with three payment requests from District-sponsored activities that required Board action. He noted that the requests were in order and consistent with the conditions established by the Board at the time of the awards.

<u>Grant Recipient/Activity</u>	<u>Requested Amount</u>
SDSU Watershed Planning Assessment (Bergstrom)	\$ 3,434.66
SDSU Watershed Planning Assessment (Bergstrom)	\$ 5,041.86
Flood Study (Estelline Area Economic Development Association)	<u>\$ 9,000.000</u>
Total	\$ 17,476.52

Motion by Duffy, seconded by Barth to authorize payments totaling \$17,476.52 as requested. Motion carried unanimously.

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Schedule Finance & Personnel Committee Meetings - The Manager noted that at it's August 18th meeting, the Board is scheduled to review and give initial consideration to a DRAFT 2023 District budget. The formal public budget hearing will take place at the September 15th Board meeting. In advance of the development of the DRAFT budget, standard practice has been to have the Personnel Committee (Directors Barth, Donovan, Moes & Poppe) meet with the Manager to conduct his annual performance review, and during which the Manager presents comments and recommendations on District staff. This is followed by a meeting of the Finance Committee (Directors Duffy, Hawley, Kappel and Larson), which conducts an preliminary of the DRAFT, which would include any changes suggested by the Personnel Committee.

He indicated he would be circulating suggested dates for both of the meetings. He would also be distributing copies of the Managers Annual Performance Evaluation Form for each director to complete, along with a return envelope to submit to the Personnel Committee Chair (Moes).

Property Surplus - The Manager stated that he was going to donate a spectrophotometer acquired by the District in 2003 to the South Dakota Association of Rural Water Systems (SDARWS). The unit, a HACH DR-4000, has been used primarily to measure nitrate concentration in water samples over the past 19 years. It is the oldest of three such units owned by the District, and the move will not hamper any existing or planned District projects. The SDARWS Source Water Protection Specialist, Kevin Christenson, will use the unit for similar purposes as part of his efforts.

Travel Expense Reimbursement Changes - In light of the current rate of inflation, and subsequent cost increases, the Manager proposed adjustments to the current Travel Expense Reimbursement rates, covering mileage, meals and lodging. He noted that the current rates, contained within the District Policies and Procedures Manual, had not been updated since April 2009, January 2012 and December 2010, respectively. He proposed the following changes:

1. Changing the mileage reimbursement rate when private cars are used for District activities from a fixed rate of \$0.50/mile to whatever the prevailing federal (Internal Revenue Service) standard mileage rate was. For the final 6 months of 2022, the federal standard mileage rate for business travel will be 62.5 cents per mile. He noted that the rate paid by the District would vary according to changes in the federal rate, but that the 'policy' would not need to be altered with every adjustment.
2. Increase the breakfast, lunch and supper meal allowances by two dollars (\$2.00) each. The current rates are \$7, \$11 and \$23, and the change would result in rates of \$9, \$13 and \$25 for qualified meals.
3. Increase the recommended per night lodging cost limitation from \$90 (plus tax) to \$125 (plus tax).

The Board and the Manager discussed the merits of the proposed changes.

Motion by Barth, seconded by Donovan, to adopt the proposed changes to the Travel Expense Reimbursements, and to amend the District Policy and Procedures Manual to reflect the changes. Further, the changes were to be applied to all appropriate expenses incurred from July 1st, 2022, forward. Motion carried unanimously.

Director Fees - In light of the current rate of inflation, and subsequent cost increases, the Manager proposed adjustments to the current director's fees, last adjusted in September 2019. The fees are paid out to directors when they attend regular or special meetings of the Board (\$175 per meeting/\$200 for the Chair). Fees are also paid for meetings of standing or *ad hoc* Board committees and/or meetings of other organizations that the District may belong to as a member or have interest in (\$125 for meetings lasting less than 3 hours, \$175 for meetings lasting 3 hours or more). The Manager proposed increasing all fees by \$25.

The Board and the Manager discussed the merits of the proposed changes.

Motion by Barth, seconded by Moes, to adopt the proposed changes to the Directors Fees, and to amend the District Policy and Procedures Manual to reflect the changes. Further, the changes were to be applied to all appropriate expenses incurred from July 1st, 2022, forward. Motion carried unanimously.

Staff Compensation - In light of the current rate of inflation, and subsequent cost increases, the Manager proposed mid-year adjustments to current staff compensation. He noted that at the start of 2022, all full-time and part-time staff received a 4.5% salary increase over 2021 rates. When the increases were originally adopted in September 2021, the adjustment was deemed fair and reasonable. However, as the

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regional inflation rate has risen to above 9 %, he proposed adjustments to cover at least some, if not all of the disparity.

The Board and the Manager discussed a variety of potential adjustments to staff compensation.

Motion by Barth, seconded by Donovan, to authorize an increase in compensation for all full-time staff of seven percent (7 %) over current rates. Further, the changes were to be applied effective from July 1st, 2022, forward. Motion carried (4-3) with Directors Barth, Donovan and Poppe, along with Chairman Anderson, supporting, and Directors Duffy, Larson and Moes opposed.

Project Assistance Request(s)

City of Aurora - Joshua Jones, Mayor of the City of Aurora, presented a request for District cost-share assistance for the completion of a engineering facility plan covering the community's water supply system. They have engaged Banner Associates out of Brookings to conduct the study, at a projected total cost of \$29,000. They are anticipate receiving \$8,000 in assistance from South Dakota Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources (DANR) in the form of a Small Community Planning grant, and are therefore seeking up to fifty percent (50%) of the remaining costs (\$21,000) from the District, which would come to \$10,500.

Mr. Jones provided background for the request, and answered questions about the effort from the Board.

Motion by Larson, seconded by Moes to provide District cost-share assistance to the City of Aurora to cover up to fifty percent (50%) of the local costs of the proposed investigation, up to a maximum of \$10,500, as requested. Motion prevailed (6-1) with Directors Donovan, Duffy, Larson, Moes and Poppe, along with Chairman Anderson supporting, and Director Barth opposed.

Drainage of Closed-Basin Lakes Investigation

The Manager reviewed the recent history of a series of closed-basin lakes both within and northwest of the District. As water levels have risen, adverse impacts to property and public infrastructure have been common. For many of the basins, there are no natural drainage pathways by which excess water can readily drain away. The basins will eventually drain if the water ever got high enough, but there will be considerable additional damage before this stage is reached (if ever). Since this phenomena first manifested itself in the 1990s, there have been numerous calls to create artificial solutions to this problem. These most often involve the creation of conduits (ditches or pipes) that would draw water from the lakes and deposit it in an adjoining waterway where it could drain away.

For many of the closed basin lakes in this area, the receiving water body would be the Big Sioux River. As such, while many of the lakes themselves are located largely outside of the District (Clark, Day & Marshall Counties), the Manager monitors any developments and conversations, including reaching out to the respective County Commissioners when appropriate, just to let them know that while we are sympathetic to their plight, the solution is not simply giving the problem to someone else.

In an effort to better understand what might be required to affect actual change, the Manager reached out to the US Geological Survey Dakota Water Science Center (DWSC). During the 1990s, following the last big water level rise on these lakes, they created a model water balance for Bitter Lake, with the intent

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to predict future lake-level changes in response to various climatic scenarios. The Manager asked if they could use this same model to predict water volumes necessary to achieve potential target lake levels. He noted that there is always a lot of talk about “just cutting a ditch,” but no real numbers or data on what would really be needed.

Galen Hoogestraat and Ryan Thompson, DWSC, described the process they undertook to study the matter, and presented their qualified results. They noted that the model predicted that in order to effect a reduction of 1 foot in the level of Bitter Lake, that it would be necessary to evacuate approximately 134,100 acre-feet of water. The majority of this amount, roughly 115,100 acre-feet, is currently present in upstream lakes, which would all have to be lowered to at or below their outlet level. If not, any water released from Bitter Lake would be replaced by water entering the lake from the watershed.

To accomplish the desired target (1-foot reduction), they calculated that a constant out flow of 185 cubic feet per second (cfs) over the course of a full year would be needed. By comparison, they noted that the average flow rate of the Big Sioux River at Watertown between 1946 and 2021 was 46 cfs. They noted that year-round evacuation of water from the lakes was clearly impractical, so the reduction would likely stretch over multiple years.

Finally, they reiterated that their work was predicated on a number of assumptions, although they believe their figures provided a reasonable estimation of what would be required to lower the level of Bitter Lake. However, they noted that additional investigation would be required before actual development and design of any remedial efforts.

DRAFT 2022 Director Area Re-Districting

The Manager reviewed with the Board the latest (final?) DRAFT versions of the director area re-districting developed by SD DANR staff. The changes reflect adjustments necessitated by the results of the 2020 federal census.

Motion by Larson, seconded by Barth to endorse the proposed changes to ARSD 74:05:05:20, which adjust the director areas to reflect population changes identified during the 2020 federal census. Motion carried unanimously.

District Updates

South Dakota Lakes & Streams Association - The Manager reviewed recent developments with the South Dakota Lakes & Streams Association (SDLSA). SDLSA has been largely inactive much several years, but recent collective interest in addressing the adverse impacts of aquatic invasive species (AIS) has brought many lake groups together on an informal basis. Using the structure provided by the pre-existing SDLSA, these lake groups have re-invigorated the organization. He has been providing technical assistance as the new members get SDLSA re-organized, including hosting meetings at EDWDD and via Zoom.

Lake Poinsett Management Plan - The Manager noted that a variety of stakeholders around Lake Poinsett, including the Lake Poinsett Association and the Lake Poinsett Water Project District, have come together with the idea of developing a Lake Poinsett Management Plan, to, “.. identify and prioritize critical needs and solutions for Lake Poinsett with a focus on water quality, water quantity, fish

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and wildlife habitat, tourism, recreation, economic development, roads and land use.” The groups goal is to give voice to Lake Poinsett constituents including area businesses, farmers, cabin owners and governmental entities and agencies to work together to maximize, develop, and build Lake Poinsett’s resources and opportunities. He indicated that the group would likely be participating in the Board’s August meeting.

Adjournment

There being no further District business, Chairman Anderson declared the meeting adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

Spencer Hawley, Secretary

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