



**East Dakota Water Development District**  
**132B Airport Drive**  
**Brookings, SD 57006**  
**605-688-6741      605-688-6744 Fax**

**MINUTES**  
**June 25, 2024**

The Board of Directors of the East Dakota Water Development District (EDWDD) held a regular meeting on June 25<sup>th</sup>, 2024, at the EDWDD office in Brookings. Chairman Anderson called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m.. The following persons attended:

**Directors Present**

Mark Anderson  
Jeff Barth  
Ryan Donovan  
Gary Duffy  
Bonnie Dybedahl  
Bob Kappel  
John Moes

**Others Present**

Norman Barth, Washington, DC  
Rick Bonander, Valley Springs  
Kevin Christenson, SD Association of Rural Water Systems\*  
Travis Holzer, Banner Associates  
Jeff Hyett, USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service  
Lisa Kunza, SD Scholl of Mines & Technology\*  
Daniel Ostrom, USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service

**Directors Absent**

Spencer Hawley  
Joedy Poppe

**Staff Present**

Jay Gilbertson  
Deb Springman

\* - participated via video-conference

**Administrative Items**

**Approval of Agenda** - The Manager requested to have three items added to the Agenda: a discussion of PFAS Sampling in the Big Sioux River Watershed; action on a Resolution of Support to Re-Authorize the Reclamation Rural Water Supply Act of 2006; and discussion of Staff Position Descriptions.

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

**Minutes** - The Board reviewed the Minutes of the May 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024, meeting.

**Motion** by Barth, seconded by Dybedahl to approve the Minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

**Financial Reports** - The Board reviewed the May 2024 financial statements.

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**Motion** by Moes, seconded by Dybedahl to approve the May 2024 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 June 17<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Friends of the Big Sioux River Board of Directors in Sioux Falls.

Directors Dybedahl and Moes reported on the June 21<sup>st</sup> SustainAg Conference in Sioux Falls.

The Manager briefly commented on the following meetings he attended:

June 4<sup>th</sup> - Lake Poinsett. Storm damage tour with Lake Poinsett Association Board of Directors.

June 6<sup>th</sup> - Sioux Falls/Canton. EDWDD Director Area redistricting briefings for Minnehaha & Lincoln County Auditors.

June 8<sup>th</sup> - Lake Poinsett. Lake Poinsett Master Plan Public Informational Meeting.

June 10<sup>th</sup> - Flandreau/Madison. EDWDD Director Area redistricting briefings for Moody & Lake County Auditors.

June 11<sup>th</sup> - Dell Rapids - Big Sioux River Project Steering Committee.

June 12<sup>th</sup> - Huron. 2024 Governor's Agricultural Summit

June 18<sup>th</sup> - Brookings. Briefing on SD Geological Survey study of the interaction between the Big Sioux River and the Big Sioux Aquifer.

June 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> - Deadwood. South Dakota Association of Rural Water Systems (SDARWS) Board of Directors.

June 24<sup>th</sup> - EDWDD Office, Brookings. South Dakota Lakes & Streams Association Board of Directors.

Upcoming Meetings -

1. **June 25<sup>th</sup> - 4:00 p.m.** - Sioux Falls. Dairy & Conversation: A Five-Course Conversation (MidWest Dairy).
2. **June 27<sup>th</sup> - 4:30 p.m.** - Sioux Falls. Lewis & Clark RWS 34<sup>th</sup> Annual Membership Banquet.
3. **June 27<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup>** - USEPA Headquarters, Washington, D.C. - Scaling Sustainable Solutions to Accelerate Nonpoint Source Pollution Reduction in the Agricultural Sector Workshop
4. **June 27<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup>** - Matthews Training Center, Pierre. South Dakota Board of Water & Natural Resources.
5. **July 11<sup>th</sup> - 9:00 a.m.** - Kelly Inn, Yankton. July James River WDD Board of Directors meeting.
6. **July 17<sup>th</sup> - 6:30 p.m.** - Centerville. July Vermillion Basin WDD Board of Directors meeting.
7. **July 18<sup>th</sup> - 9:00 a.m.** - EDWDD Office, Brookings. July EDWDD Board of Directors meeting.
8. **July 23<sup>rd</sup>** - Sioux Falls. Rural Water Open Golf Tournament.
9. **July 24<sup>th</sup> - 8:00 a.m.** - Sioux Falls. South Dakota Association of Rural Water Systems Manager's Group meeting.

Payment Requests - The Manager presented two (2) payment/reimbursement requests that required Board action. He noted that the requests were in order, and consistent with conditions established at the time of the awards. It was also noted that these payments would complete the District's obligation to these efforts.

<u>Grant Recipient/Activity</u>	<u>Requested Amount</u>
City of DeSmet - Capital Improvement Plan	\$ 5,000.00
Dakota Mainstem RWS - Organizational & development support	<u>\$ 10,000.00</u>
Total	\$ 15,000.00

**Motion** by Duffy, seconded by Kappel, to authorize payments totaling \$15,000 as requested. Motion carried unanimously.

Director Area Re-Districting Update - The Manager reviewed developments in state efforts to redraw the water development district (WDD) director areas for the East Dakota and Vermillion Basin WDDs that will be necessary to reflect the upcoming territorial changes. On July 1<sup>st</sup>, portions of Kingsbury, Lake and Miner Counties, which are largely within the watershed of the Vermillion River basin, will officially become part of the Vermillion Basin Water Development District. The change results in a loss of roughly 8,000 people, and while this change is modest compared to the District's roughly 335,000 total constituents, it is sufficient to require re-drawing director area boundaries.

Staff with the Department of Agriculture & Natural Resources (DANR) have completed DRAFT director area descriptions, and the Manager has worked with them through several iterations. The final issues pertain to the actual descriptions of the areas, as some counties within the District have changed the designations (names) of election precincts. The changes have been noted, and the Manager expects that the changed rules will be presented to the State Board of Water & Natural Resources at their late September meeting.

### **Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act (P.L. 83-566)**

Daniel Ostrem, with the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) Area Support Office in Brookings, provided an overview of the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act. In 1954, the US Congress passed the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act, commonly referred to as Public Law (PL) 566. The Act required the Soil Conservation Service, now doing business as the NRCS, to provide planning assistance and construction funding for water control projects. Restrictions on projects regard the maximum size of the watershed and the size of water works and projects. The Act sought to enhance cooperation between the federal government and states, and localities to prevent flood damages. Under PL 566, the Secretary of Agriculture is authorized to construct flood protection measures below a certain acre-foot limit. Such initiatives shall be cost-shared and localities were required to contribute rights-of-way. The Act also required that the Secretary of the Interior be consulted regarding plans which affect reclamation, irrigation or public lands under the Secretary of the Interior.

Mr. Ostrem noted that a number of PL 566 projects were undertaken in South Dakota in the 1960s and 1970s, but it has not been a particularly active program in recent years. NRCS is hoping to generate some interest in potential projects, or at the least get the word out about how the program might be used to address local issues/needs in South Dakota down the line. He noted that they are currently in discussions with the City of Mitchell on an effort that would address the Lake Mitchell/Firesteel Creek watershed.

The Manager indicated that the PL 566 program provides a variety of options for watershed projects that have a strong water quantity (flood control, etc..) emphasis, but they could be incorporated into

more conventional water-quality based efforts that have been undertaken within the District, and he would consider this program for future activities.

### **PFAS in the Big Sioux River Basin**

The Manager reported fielding a number of inquiries about the presence of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in the Big Sioux River. Public water suppliers (PWSs) across the state are starting to test for a variety of PFAS compounds in their finished water under a US Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) program. The testing is largely being conducted by Kevin Christenson with the South Dakota Association of Rural Water Systems, a former District employee. He noted that initial testing has not yet detected significant presence of the compounds, but PWS managers are starting to think about where these compounds might be coming from if they are detected. In that many of the PWSs in the Big Sioux River basin draw water from shallow aquifers adjacent to the river, questions about the presence in the river have arisen.

The Manager has found that very few if any water samples have been collected from the surface waters of the state, including the Big Sioux River. He has reached out to Mr. Christenson and Dr. Lisa Kunza, South Dakota School of Mines and Technology (SDSM&T) about setting up a PFAS sampling program in the basin.

Mr. Christenson and Dr. Kunza briefed the Board on their current efforts. The Manager indicated that he would be looking to bring a proposal forward in a few months to address the data gap.

### **South Dakota's Watershed Clean Water SRF Program**

The Manager noted that the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) has organized workshop for senior agency staff, program managers and stakeholders, to be held on June 27<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> in Washington, DC. The effort is to "Discuss Scaling Sustainable Investments to Accelerate Non-Point Source Pollution Reduction in the Agricultural Sector," which is government-speak for trying to identify new ways to support watershed protection/restoration activities. DANR was asked to attend and speak about how they have used the State's Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) to provide cost-share assistance to the Big Sioux River Project (BSRP), along with other watershed protection efforts.

The Manager and Kris Dozark, DANR Watershed Protection Program, will be part of a panel discussion of alternative funding efforts across the nation. He presented a DRAFT version of the presentation they had prepared for the workshop.

### **Adjournment**

There being no further District business, Chairman Anderson declared the meeting adjourned at 3:45 p.m.

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Spencer Hawley, Secretary