



East Dakota Water Development District
132B Airport Drive
Brookings, SD 57006

605-688-6741

605-688-6744 Fax

MINUTES
March 15, 2023

The Board of Directors of the East Dakota Water Development District (EDWDD) held a regular meeting on March 15, 2023, at the District office in Brookings. 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
Spencer Hawley*
Bob Kappel
Troy Larson

Others Present

Scott Buss, Minnehaha Community Water Corporation*
Brent Hoffman, Grant-Roberts Rural Water System*
Jodi Johanson, Big Sioux Community Water System*
Terry Kaufman, Clark Rural Water System*
Kurt Pfeifle, SD Association of Rural Water Systems*
Travis Steffenson, Sioux Rural Water System*
Eric Witt, Brookings Municipal Utilities

Directors Absent

John Moes
Joedy Poppe

Staff Present

Barry Berg*
Jay Gilbertson
Jeremy Hinke
Amber Lively*
Deb Springman

* - participated via video-conference

Administrative Items

Approval of Agenda -

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

Minutes - The Board reviewed the Minutes of the February 16th, 2023, Board meeting.

Motion by Barth, seconded by Larson to approve the Minutes of the February 16th, 2023, Board meeting as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

DRAFT

Financial Reports - The Board reviewed the February 2023 financial reports.

Motion by Barth, seconded by Donovan to accept the February 2023 financial reports. Motion carried unanimously. Chairman Anderson then asked that the report be placed in the District files.

Report of Meetings and Conferences - Director Donovan reported on the Friends of the Big Sioux meeting on February 20th, and the SD Wildlife Federation 29/90 meeting on March 14th, both held in Sioux Falls.

Director Larson noted that he had been presenting various talks on the proposed Dakota Mainstem Regional Water System over the past month.

The Manager briefly summarized the following meetings he attended since the February 2023 Board meeting:

1. February 17th - Water 2040 discussion, via video-conference.
2. February 23rd - South Dakota Lakes & Streams (SDLSA) Board Meeting, via video-conference.
3. February 24th - City of Brookings Parks & Recreation water supply discussion, Brookings.
4. March 1st - Water 2040 discussion, via video-conference.
5. March 6th - Dakota MainStem Regional Water System discussion, via video-conference.
6. March 8th - Prairie Coteau Watershed Project Coordinator Interviews, Webster.
7. March 13th - Minnehaha Conservation District Board of Supervisors, via video-conference.

In addition, the Manager acted in his capacity as District lobbyist to the 2023 South Dakota Legislature in Pierre during this period.

Upcoming Meetings -

1. **March 15th - 3:00 p.m.** - Centerville. Vermillion Basin Water Development District Board of Directors.
2. **March 16th - 9:00 a.m.** - Huron. James River Water Development District Board of Directors.
3. **March 16th - 12 noon** - Webster. Lake Region County Commissioners & Officials Association District Meeting.
4. **March 20th - 9:30 a.m.** - Arlington. KingBrook Rural Water System Board of Directors.
5. **March 21st - 10:00 a.m.** - Milbank. Grant County Drainage Board Tiling Workshop.
6. **March 21st - 7:00 p.m.** - Watertown. Lake Pelican Water Project District Annual Meeting.
7. **March 22nd - 9:00 a.m.** - Dell Rapids. Big Sioux River Project Steering Committee.
8. **March 23rd - 10:00 a.m.** - Valley Springs. Farm To Brew SD soil health workshop.
9. **March 27th** - Final day of the 2023 Legislative Session (Veto Day).
10. **March 29th** - video-conference. 2023 DANR Environmental & Water Quality Conference.
11. **March 30th** - Pierre. South Dakota Board of Water & Natural Resources.
12. **April 4th** - Flandreau. Big Sioux Community Water System Annual Meeting.
13. **April 4th** - Clear Lake. Brookings-Deuel Rural Water System 50th Annual Meeting.
14. **April 6th** - Pierre. South Dakota Association of Rural Water Systems (SDARWS) Board of Directors.

15. **April 19th - 9:30 a.m.** - Minnehaha Community Water Corporation Office, Dell Rapids.
April EDWDD Board of Directors meeting.
16. **April 20th** - Rapid City. Western South Dakota Hydrology Conference.

2023 Legislative Session Review

The Manager reviewed the status of numerous bills (listed below) he has tracked as the District lobbyist during the ongoing 98th Session of the South Dakota Legislature:

Senate Bill (SB) 17, An Act to make appropriations for water and environmental purposes and to declare an emergency.

SB 20, An Act to authorize the awarding of de-obligated grants in accordance with policies of the Board of Water and Natural Resources.

SB 44, An Act to repeal provisions regarding the creation of river basin natural resource districts.

SB 83, An Act to revising provisions regarding water development districts.

SB 84, An Act authorize compensation for water project district directors.

SB 131, An Act to remove certain limitations on property tax levy increases.

SB 143, An Act to raise the revenue threshold for a required audit of a water development district.

SB 152, An Act to provide increased funding for the water and environment fund.

SB 156, An Act to make an appropriation of American Rescue Plan Act monies for preconstruction activities of water resources in western South Dakota and to declare an emergency.

SB 184, An Act to make an appropriation of American Rescue Plan Act monies for eligible water projects and to declare an emergency.

SB 195, An Act to authorize the redistricting of water development district director areas by the district's board of directors.

SB 200, An Act to authorize participation in contracts by certain board members and employees of water districts.

House Bill (HB) 1021, An Act to make an appropriation to the State Conservation Commission and to declare an emergency.

HB 1029, An Act to revise certain provisions regarding the county zoning and appeals process.

HB 1058, An Act to revise the water resources projects list.

HB 1072, An Act to subject lithium to severance tax.

HB 1134, An Act require property owner consent before construction resulting in lake water level alteration.

Dakota MainStem Regional Water System

Director Larson presented an overview of the impacts of the large-scale water development activities that made up the Pick-Sloan Missouri Basin Program, initially authorized by the Flood Control Act of 1944. It called for the conservation, control, and use of water resources in the Missouri River basin. He noted that while much of what was ‘promised’ during the early years of the effort, principally large-scale irrigation projects, Pick-Sloan ultimately set the stage for the development of regional water delivery systems in upper basin states (Montana, North Dakota and South Dakota). Current regional systems in South Dakota that access water from Pick-Sloan impoundments include WEB Water Development Association, Tri-County/Mni Waste Water Company, Mid-Dakota Rural

DRAFT
Water System, West River/Lyman-Jones Rural Water System, Randall Community Water District and others.

Director Larson noted that these and many other public water suppliers (PWSs) have experienced fairly dramatic increases in water usage from current and potential customers. This has prompted ongoing discussions about how this demand might be addressed, as well as the long-term water needs of South Dakota. Discussion points have included providing a better definition of the water resources we are currently using, expanded source water protection, directing(?) high water-demand activities to areas with water, and long-distance transport from the Missouri River.

To the latter point, several efforts have developed in the past few years. Water Investment in Northern South Dakota (WINS) is a collaborative effort between WEB, the BDM Rural Water System and the City of Aberdeen to bring Missouri River water to those utilities to meet future needs. The Western Dakota Regional Water System is a proposed system intended to bring Missouri River water to western South Dakota. The Dakota Mainstem Regional Water System (DMRWS) has been proposed to address the remaining "gap" in the central and southern portions of eastern SD.

DMRWS is envisioned as a wholesale provider of treated(?) Missouri River water to member PWSs, but would not serve individual consumers or businesses. There are currently 28 utilities represented on the Steering Committee - 18 rural water systems and 10 cities, along with several ex officio advisors, including the District Manager. A main tenant of the project is to not compete with any existing utilities, but rather provide a supplemental source of water to address current and long-term water needs. Steering Committee members are currently developing long-range plans in order to help define the potential system capacity and distribution networks.

Director Larson and the Manager noted that the next steps in the development of DMRWS will involve the creation of a formal entity (filing articles of incorporation), and the subsequent development and adoption of by-laws. An attorney will be retained to assist with these steps. An application will also be developed to seek cost-share assistance from the state, likely through the State Water Resources Management System (SWRMS).

On behalf of the DMRWS, Director Larson requested District cost-share assistance to be applied to the formal instigation and development of the entity. The Steering Committee has developed a rough budget of \$160,000 for anticipated expenses for 2023. The funds would initially be managed by the South Dakota Association of Rural Water Systems (SDARWS) Rural Water Center.

Several representatives of the DMRWS Steering Committee spoke in favor of the effort and the request.

Motion by Donovan, seconded by Duffy to award \$50,000 in District cost-share assistance to the SDARWS Rural Water Center to be applied toward the developmental costs of the Dakota Mainstem Regional Water System, and to authorize distribution upon request. Motion carried unanimously, with Director Larson abstaining.

DRAFT

District Updates

Summary of 2022 Water Quality Sampling Efforts (Lakes) - Jeremy Hinke presented a summary of the results of District lake water quality sampling conducted by District staff during 2022.

Adjournment

There being no further District business, Chairman Anderson declared the meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

Spencer Hawley, Secretary

DRAFT