



**East Dakota Water Development District**  
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Brookings, SD 57006

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**MINUTES**  
**March 21, 2024**

The Board of Directors of the East Dakota Water Development District (EDWDD) held a regular meeting on March 21, 2024, at the District office in Brookings. Chairman Anderson called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m. The following persons attended:

**Directors Present**

Mark Anderson  
Jeff Barth\*  
Ryan Donovan  
Gary Duffy  
Bonnie Dybedahl  
Spencer Hawley  
Bob Kappel  
Joedy Poppe\*

**Directors Absent**

John Moes

**Others Present**

Kurt Pfeifle, SD Association of Rural Water Systems  
Cory Zirbel, Prairie Coteau Watershed Project\*

**Staff Present**

Barry Berg\*  
Jay Gilbertson  
Jeremy Hinke  
Deb Springman

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\* - participated via video-conference

**Administrative Items**

**Approval of Agenda -**

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

**Minutes -** The Board reviewed the Minutes of the February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024, Board meeting.

**Motion** by Hawley, seconded by Dybedahl to approve the Minutes of the February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024, Board meeting as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Financial Reports - The Board reviewed the February 2024 financial reports.

**Motion** by Duffy, seconded by Hawley to accept the February 2024 financial reports. Motion carried unanimously. Chairman Anderson then asked that the report be placed in the District files.

Report of Meetings and Conferences - The Manager briefly summarized the following meetings he attended since the February 2024 Board meeting:

1. February 26<sup>th</sup> - SD DOT observation well survey, Clear Lake.
2. March 4<sup>th</sup> - Water resource discussions, Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribe DNR, Flandreau; Director Area 4 petition delivery, Sioux Falls.
3. March 6<sup>th</sup> - Director Area 2 petition delivery, Wentworth.
4. March 12<sup>th</sup> - West Dakota Water Development District Board Meeting, Rapid City.
5. March 13<sup>th</sup> - 2024 Integrated Report discussion w/ DANR staff, Pierre.
6. March 19<sup>th</sup> - Big Sioux River Project Steering Committee, Dell Rapids.
7. March 20<sup>th</sup> - Vermillion Basin Water Development District Board Meeting, Centerville.

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 22<sup>nd</sup> - 10:00 a.m.** - via video conference. Lake Poinsett Management Plan Study Advisory Team (SAT) meeting.
2. **March 27<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup>** - Pierre. 2024 DANR Environmental & Water Quality Conference.
3. **March 28<sup>th</sup> - 12 noon** - Sisseton. Lake Region County Commissioners & Officials Association Meeting.
4. **March 28<sup>th</sup> - 1:00 p.m.** - Pierre. South Dakota Board of Water & Natural Resources.
5. **April 2<sup>nd</sup>** - Madison. Big Sioux Community Water System Annual Meeting.
6. **April 2<sup>nd</sup>** - Clear Lake. Brookings-Deuel Rural Water System Annual Meeting.
7. **April 4<sup>th</sup>** - Pierre. South Dakota Association of Rural Water Systems Board of Directors.
8. **April 9<sup>th</sup> - 12 noon** - Sioux Falls. South Dakota Engineering Society presentation.
9. **April 18<sup>th</sup> - 9:30 a.m.** - Big Sioux Community Water System, Egan. April EDWDD Board of Directors meeting.
10. **April 18<sup>th</sup>** - Rapid City. Western South Dakota Hydrology Conference.

### **2024 Legislative Session Review**

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

**House Bill (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,

**Senate Bill (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,

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

### **South Dakota Association of Rural Water Systems Update**

Kurt Pfeifle, Executive Director of the South Dakota Association of Rural Water Systems (SDARWS), provided an overview of the role and function of his organization. He noted that the mission of SDARWS is, “To provide the highest quality services that meet the needs of and supports the collective efforts of our water and wastewater membership.” The organizations membership includes nearly thirty regional (Class A) public water systems (PWSs), hundreds of municipal PWSs (Class B), sanitary districts and water development districts (Class C). He noted that the District’s Manager, Jay Gilbertson, is currently serves as the Class C representative on the SDARWS Board of Directors.

SDARWS provides service to it’s members in four main areas. Legislative guidance - SDARWS is the primary advocate for water and waste water issue in South Dakota, and maintains an active national presence in Washington, D.C., through the National Rural Water Association. Training - SDARWS staff run a variety of training programs across the state, ranging from one-on-one sessions to state-wide conferences, in collaboration with state and federal water resource agencies. Technical assistance - SDARWS staff respond to hundreds of requests for help from member, and non-member, water and waste water systems. Operators in small communities in particular often have limited technical training and experience, and SDARWS “circuit riders” provide expertise that helps keep their operations functioning. Public relations - SDARWS produces several publications aimed at keeping the public (Quality On Tap) and the water resource professionals (ServiceLine) up to speed on a range of water issues. Their quality of their outreach efforts are frequently recognized at the national level.

Mr. Pfeifle also briefed the Board on the status of the Dakota Mainstem Regional Water System.

### **Prairie Coteau Watershed Improvement and Protection Project**

Corey Zirbel, Project Coordinator for the Prairie Coteau Watershed Improvement and Protection Project (Project), provided an update on the activities of this effort. The Project encompasses the Big Sioux River watershed upstream from Estelline, along with portions of the Minnesota River watershed and the closed basin lakes of Day and Marshall Counties. This included significant portions of Codington, Deuel, Grant and Hamlin Counties in EDWDD.

He noted that watershed protection and restoration efforts have been underway in northeastern South Dakota for nearly three decades, starting with the Upper Big Sioux River Project, focused on Lake

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Kampeska and its headwaters. This was followed by a Lake Poinsett-focused effort, which eventually expanded to cover the BSR basin between area Estelline and Watertown. The Northeast Glacial Lakes Project was created to address problems in the upper Minnesota River watershed, and to protect as yet unimpaired waters in the closed basins area. Each made progress, but suffered from difficulties finding staff and retaining a solid focus once the initial coordinators moved on. A few years ago, these three efforts were merged into what is now the Prairie Coteau Watershed Improvement and Protection Project.

### **Adjournment**

There being no further District business, Chairman Anderson declared the meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

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Spencer Hawley, Secretary

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