



East Dakota Water Development District
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MINUTES
May 19, 2022

The Board of Directors of the East Dakota Water Development District (EDWDD) held a regular meeting on May 19th, 2022, at the District Office, 132B Airport Avenue. Chairman Anderson called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. The following persons attended:

Directors Present

Mark Anderson
Jeff Barth
Ryan Donovan
Bob Kappel
Troy Larson
John Moes*

Directors Absent

Gary Duffy
Spencer Hawley
Joedy Poppe

Others Present

Brad Prehiem, Vermillion Basin Water Development District

Staff Present

Barry Berg
Jay Gilbertson
Alexa Kruse
Deb Springman

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* - participated via telephone conference.

Administrative Items

Approval of Agenda - The Manager asked to have Item III, Director Area 4 Vacancy Appointment, moved to immediately follow Item II. A., Approval of the Agenda.

Motion by Barth, seconded by Loseke to approve the meeting agenda as so amended. Motion carried unanimously.

Vacancy Appointment of Director for Area 4 - The Manager reviewed the process undertaken to appoint a person to fill the vacancy and represent Director Area 4. At the March 2022 meeting, then Director Dick submitted his resignation, effective at the end of the meeting. SDCL 46A-3B-9 allows for the remaining Board members to appoint a replacement from qualified candidates proposed by nominating petitions signed by at least 25 eligible voters from the area. Public notices of the vacancy were sent to the official newspaper for the area in April, with a statement that the Board would act on the vacancy no sooner than it's May 2022 meeting, assuming valid nominating petitions were submitted. The Manager reported that a single set of valid petitions was submitted by Troy Larson of Hartford. Mr. Larson, who was in attendance, introduced himself to the Board.

Motion by Barth, seconded by Kappel to appoint Troy Larson of Hartford to serve as the Director Area 4 representative through the end of December 2024, effective immediately. Motion carried unanimously. Following the vote, Mr. Larson took a seat at the Board table.

Director Moes left the meeting at 9:15 a.m.

Minutes - The Manager asked to have consideration of the April 2022 Board Minutes deferred until the June meeting. The initial draft he prepared contained numerous errors and misprints, and he would prefer to re-write them rather than amend them extensively at this time. It was the consensus of the Board to defer consideration of the April 2022 Board Meeting Minutes until it's June 16th meeting.

Financial Reports - The Board reviewed the April 2022 Financial Reports.

Motion by Donovan, seconded by Barth to accept the April 2022 Financial Reports. Motion carried unanimously. Chairman Anderson asked that the report be placed in the District files.

Report of Meetings and Conferences - Director Barth reported on several meetings regarding CO2 pipelines he had attended.

Director Donovan reported on the May 16th meeting of the Friends of the Big Sioux River held in Sioux Falls.

The Manager briefly commented on the following meetings he attended:

1. April 27th - Rapid City. 2022 Western South Dakota Hydrology Conference.
2. April 28th - via video-conference. Minnesota Ground Water Association Spring Conference.
3. April 29th - via video-conference. US Army Corps of Engineers Funding Information Session.
4. May 3rd - Sioux Falls. Ground-breaking ceremony for the Regional Water Treatment Plant.
5. May 4th - Watertown. City Council Work Session - US Army Corps of Engineers - Flood Mitigation Study (Mahoney Creek dam).
6. May 12th - Mitchell. James River Water Development District Board of Directors.
7. May 17th - Madison. Lake County Commission meeting - VBWDD expansion.
8. May 17th - Brookings. South Dakota Lakes & Streams Association Board of Directors.

Upcoming Meetings -

1. **June 1st & 2nd** - Deadwood. South Dakota Association of Rural Water Systems (SDARWS) Board of Directors.
2. **June 11th - 8:30 a.m.** - Lake Poinsett. Q&A with the Lake Poinsett Association.
3. **June 13th - 1:30 p.m.** - EDWDD Office, Brookings. South Dakota Lakes & Streams Association Board of Directors.
4. **June 14th - 1:00 p.m. (MST)** - SD GF&P West River Outdoor Campus, Rapid City. West Dakota WDD Water Resources Roundtable.
5. **June 16th - 9:00 a.m.** - EDWDD Office, Brookings. June EDWDD Board of Directors meeting.
6. **June 21st - 9:30 a.m.** - Montrose. South Dakota Association of Conservation Districts (SDACD) Vermillion-Big Sioux Area meeting.
7. **June 22nd - 9:00 a.m.** - Fort Sisseton State Park. SDACD Coteau Area meeting.
8. **June 23rd & 24th** - Pierre. South Dakota Board of Water and Natural Resources.

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9. **June 28th** - 9:00 a.m. - Dell Rapids. Big Sioux River Project Steering Committee.

Payment Requests - The Manager presented the Board with a payment/reimbursement request that required Board action. The request was in order, and consistent with the conditions established by the Board at the time of the award.

<u>Grant Recipient/Activity</u>	<u>Requested Amount</u>
SDSU/ Watershed Planning Assessment (Bergstrom)	<u>\$ 1,883.48</u>
Total	\$ 1,883.48

Motion by Barth, seconded by Kappel to authorize payment of \$1,883.48 as requested. Motion carried unanimously.

BWNR American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funding Allocations

The Manager reported on actions taken by the South Dakota Board of Water and Natural Resources (BWNR) to allocate American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to water infrastructure projects across the state at their meeting on May 17th. This was the second round of ARPA grant awards. The BWNR acted on several ARPA requests that had been deferred at the April 2022 BWNR meeting, including grants to Dell Rapids, the Lake Poinsett Sanitary District, South Shore and White totaling \$8,313,531. They also made a number of ARPA grant awards to projects that had previously received loans under the State Revolving Fund (SRF) program after the effective date of the ARPA Program. Grants totaling \$45,583,753 were awarded to Castlewood, Crooks, the Joint Well Field, Inc., Kingbrook Rural Water System, Lake Norden, Sioux Falls and Watertown.

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Vermillion Basin Water Development District Expansion

Brad Prehiem, Manager of the Vermillion Basin Water Development District (VBWDD), provided the Board with an update on efforts to expand the territory of the VBWDD to better encompass the majority of the Vermillion River basin. The process is consistent with the recommendations of a 5-year legislative study, which unfortunately was never fully realized.

The VBWDD covers only Clay and Turner Counties at the southern end of the Vermillion River watershed. He noted that the northern part of the basin is actually within East Dakota (portions of Lake, Miner & Kingsbury Counties), with the middle section (McCook County) not part of any WDD. In the interest of fostering a watershed-scale entity, the East Dakota Board has previously endorsed the proposed expansion, with the understanding that it would result in the loss of territory historically part of the District. The County Commissions of the impacted counties (Lake, Miner & Kingsbury) have also endorsed the effort.

Mr. Prehiem noted that the first step in the current process is to get the McCook County Commission to request a public vote on the question of adding the county to VBWDD. Under steps described in SDCL 46A-3A-16, the Commission can request that the Board of Water & Natural Resource call for such an election, to be held in conjunction with the 2022 general election in November. If they agree, Mr. Prehiem will hold a series of public meetings in the area. If the Commissioners opt not to request the election, the process will stop.

Mr. Prehiem requested the Board take formal action to support the effort. It was the consensus of the Board that as there were several Board members absent, such an action would be pre-mature. However, the directors in attendance indicated general support for the idea, and encouraged him to pursue his efforts.

District Updates

DRAFT 2022 Director Area Re-Districting - The Manager shared the most recent DRAFT version of what will be the new EDWDD Director areas, reflective of the population changes noted in the 2020 federal census. Under SDCL 46A-3B-3, such adjustments are to be made by the South Dakota Board of Water and Natural Resources (BWNR). The current maps have been prepared by staff at the SD Department of Agriculture & Natural Resources (DANR). He noted that the BWNR would not likely considered the changes until their September meeting, but that the current DRAFT maps met all technical and legal requirements, and did not displace any current directors.

2022 Big Sioux Water Festival - Deb Springman, Coordinator for the Big Sioux Water Festival, provided the Board with an overview of the 2022 event, held earlier in the month. A total of 32 classrooms participated in the virtual Big Sioux Water Festival this year. 18 classroom activities were paced on the Big Sioux Water Festival YouTube channel that were recorded by various water festival activity leaders. Topics included aquatic plants and animals, watersheds, wetlands, weather, water conservation, water use, and water chemistry. Classrooms had access (either by YouTube channel or Google Drive) to all these activities, starting April 15th, and they will be available until the end of the school year.

Nine of the activities required other than normal classroom materials, so the teachers had the opportunity to sign up to receive special materials for up to four of those activities. The "Water Festival in a Box" (materials, games, books, stickers, bookmarks, pencils, posters) were delivered to all the schools the week of April 15th. The Festival also offered nine different Live virtual opportunities (multiple times) on May 10th and May 12th. They included presentations by organizations that have historically participated in the Festival, such as Water Rocks!, Zoo Man, and the NRCS with their rain simulator. The Festival also offered opportunities for classes to attend a water pressure workshop, discover how Wind Cave was formed, learn about endangered sea turtles, and connect with educators from the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History.

The Festival Trivia Contest ran from May 2nd to May 13th. Classrooms used the WaterWise magazine to prepare for the contest and the top 3 classrooms received prizes. She noted that they have been receiving many positive comments and thank you notes from the schools. Multiple teachers have commented on how great it is that we are providing this opportunity for the students and how its educationally relevant and enjoyable.

Big Sioux River Watershed Project Developments - The Manager reported that Michaela Carlson, recently hired to work on the Big Sioux River Project (BSRP), has opted to pursue other interests. The process has begun to hire a replacement.

The current segments of the Upper Big Sioux River Project and the Northeast Glacial Lakes Project come to a close this summer. The DANR Watershed Protection Program is considering the possibility

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of merging the two projects, as well as expanding to encompass the balance of the Big Sioux River basin (not already part of the BSRP).

Adjournment

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

Spencer Hawley, Secretary

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