



East Dakota Water Development District
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MINUTES
May 18, 2023

The Board of Directors of the East Dakota Water Development District (EDWDD) held a regular meeting on May 18th, 2023, at the District Office, 132B Airport Avenue. Chairman Anderson called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. The following persons attended:

Directors Present

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

Others Present

Travis Entenman, Friends of the Big Sioux River

Staff Present

Jay Gilbertson
Deb Springman

Directors Absent

Gary Duffy
Spencer Hawley

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Administrative Items

Approval of Agenda - Director Donovan requested a progress report on the staff compensation study.

Motion by Larson, seconded by Donovan to approve the meeting agenda as so amended. Motion carried unanimously.

Minutes - The Board reviewed the Minutes of the April 19th, 2023, meeting.

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

Financial Reports - The Board reviewed the April 2023 Financial Reports.

Motion by Moes, seconded by Barth to accept the April 2023 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 the May 15th Downtown (Sioux Falls) Rotary meeting where he spoke on CO2 pipelines.

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Director Donovan reported on the May 15th meeting of the Friends of the Big Sioux River held in Sioux Falls.

Director Moes reported on the May 17th meeting of the Lake Pelican Water Project District in Watertown.

The Manager briefly commented on the following meetings he attended:

1. April 20th - Rapid City - 2022 Western South Dakota Hydrology Conference.
2. April 26th & 27th - Rapid City. South Dakota Association of Rural Water Systems (SDARWS) Manager's Group.
3. May 9th - 9:30 a.m. - South Dakota State University Campus, Brookings. 2023 Big Sioux Water Festival.
4. May 11th - Mitchell. James River WDD Board of Directors.
5. May 17th - Brookings. South Dakota Lakes & Streams Association Board of Directors.

Upcoming Meetings -

1. **June 7th & 8th** - Deadwood. South Dakota Association of Rural Water Systems (SDARWS) Board of Directors.
2. **June 12th - 3:00 p.m.** - Sioux Falls. Minnehaha Conservation District Board of Supervisors.
3. **June 14th - 9:30 a.m.** - Howard. South Dakota Association of Conservation Districts (SDACD) Vermillion-Big Sioux Area meeting.
4. **June 15th - 9:00 a.m.** - EDWDD Office, Brookings. June EDWDD Board of Directors.
5. **June 21st - 9:00 a.m.** - Webster. SDACD Coteau Area meeting.
6. **June 27th - 9:00 a.m.** - Dell Rapids. Big Sioux River Project Steering Committee.
7. **June 29th & 30th** - Pierre. South Dakota Board of Water and Natural Resources.

Staff Compensation Study - The Manager noted that this effort had not been a priority in recent months, but that he would reach out to Cota Consulting to get the process moving forward. A meeting would be arranged to see what would be needed to advance the work. He would request their assistance in developing position descriptions for the current staff. He would report on progress at the next meeting.

Director Area 4 Impending Vacancy

The Manager reviewed the process by which a vacancy on the District Board of Directors is dealt with. It was noted that at the April 2023 Board meeting, Director Larson indicated that he was beginning the process of selling his current home in Hartford, and moving to southern Lake County. Once the move was complete, he would no longer reside within Director Area 4, and the position would be considered vacant.

Under South Dakota Codified Law 46A-3B-9, the remaining directors are empowered to make a vacancy appointment to cover the balance of the term of office, which in this case runs through December 31st, 2024. Historically, the Board has declared a vacancy, published a formal notice in the papers of record for the director area, established a period of time during which potential applicants may circulate nominating petitions, and set a time and place to make a vacancy appointment.

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Project Assistance Request(s)

Friends of the Big Sioux River - Travis Entenman, Managing Director for the Friends of the Big Sioux River (FBSR), presented the Board with a cost-share assistance request. An ongoing activity that FBSR uses to highlight the importance of clean water is a series of collaborations with area brewers. Water for the brewing process is largely collected from the Big Sioux River and treated using reverse osmosis (RO). The degree to which the water must be treated is the starting point for discussions of why the river is impaired, and what things can be done to improve the situation. To date, Remedy Brewing of Sioux Falls has released a 'Big Sioux Brew' on Earth Day in 2021 (German kolsch), 2022 (blonde ale) and 2023 (German pilsner). In the summer of 2021, they also made a Mexican-style lager (El Rio) for RiverFest in Sioux Falls. Last September, Wood Grain Brewing of Sioux Falls released Flow Ridin' IPA, all using treated river water. FBSR has recently purchased a higher capacity reverse osmosis unit, which allowed for a larger production run of Big Sioux Brew 2023.

The request is for funds to acquire a trailer, pumps, and additional equipment to make the process of collection and filtration more mobile, which in turn would allow FBSR to work with brewers across the watershed. There has been considerable interest, with many brewing beers named for local water bodies. Being able to say that the water in Kampeska Cold Press Stout (by Watertown Brewing) actually came from Lake Kampeska is a draw.

The filtration process, which happens right on the trailer, is also a very effective demonstration of what needs to happen in order for our water to be cleaned up before consumption. The package would be used as a demonstration/program for a variety of events, such as public education forums, school programs, water festivals, etc..

Mr. Entenman stated that the total cost of the mobile unit was \$12,000. The RO unit, already acquired by FBSR, was \$3,900, leaving \$8,100 remaining. He requested cost-share assistance from the Board for whatever portion of the balance they were willing to provide. The Board questioned Mr. Entenman about the effort.

Motion by Kappel, seconded by Larson to award up to \$8,000 in District cost-share assistance to the Friends of the Big Sioux River (FBSR) to be applied toward the costs of acquiring the necessary equipment (trailer, water tank(s), generator, etc..) to allow FBSR to mobilize their reverse osmosis filtration unit.

Substitute Motion by Moes to award District cost-share assistance in the amount of fifty percent (50%) of the projected costs of the effort, up to a maximum amount of \$6,000. Motion died for lack of a second.

Motion passed with Directors Barth, Kappel, Larson and Poppe, along with Chairman Anderson in support, Director Moes opposed, and Director Donovan abstaining.

It is the Board's understanding that the newly mobile unit will both enhance ongoing collaboration with area breweries, and provide opportunities to demonstrate water filtration in classrooms and at community events within the river basin.

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District Updates

2023 Big Sioux Water Festival - Deb Springman, Coordinator for the Big Sioux Water Festival, provided the Board with an overview of the 2023 event, held earlier in the month. The 31st Annual event was held on Tuesday, May 9, 2023, on the campus of South Dakota State University (SDSU). There were 1,100 fifth grade students from 56 classrooms in attendance from 25 area schools. The festival theme was "Be the Wave of Change. One Ripple at a Time" to conserve, protect, and educate about our water resources. The water festival provided 29 hands-on activities, 2 assemblies, and 23 Exhibit Hall exhibits led by professionals in the environmental and water resource fields, as well as volunteers from the Mickelson Middle School Enrichment Group and the SDSU Robotics Club. Students learned about various water topics, conservation, and how they could take an active role in protecting the environment. More than 150 volunteers helped during this year's event. The next Big Sioux Water Festival will be held on Tuesday, May 7, 2024.

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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