



East Dakota Water Development District
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MINUTES
May 16, 2024

The Board of Directors of the East Dakota Water Development District (EDWDD) held a regular meeting on May 16th, 2024, at the Big Sioux Community Water System Office, 23343 479th Avenue, Egan. Chairman Anderson called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. The following persons attended:

Directors Present

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

Others Present

Jodi Johanson, Big Sioux Community Water System

Staff Present

Barry Berg
Jay Gilbertson

Directors Absent

John Moes

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Administrative Items

Approval of Agenda - Director Duffy requested a progress report on the staff compensation study and the Dakota Mainstem Regional Water System.

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

Minutes - The Board reviewed the Minutes of the March 21st, 2024, meeting.

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

Financial Reports - The Board reviewed the March and April 2024 Financial Reports.

Motion by Barth, seconded by Dybedahl to accept the March and April 2024 Financial Reports. Motion carried unanimously. Chairman Anderson asked that the report be placed in the District files.

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Report of Meetings and Conferences - Director Donovan and Chairman Anderson reported on the Earth Day 2024 clean up efforts held on April 20th in Sioux Falls.

Director Duffy reported on the April 18th Annual Meeting of the KingBrook Rural Water System in Arlington.

The Manager briefly commented on the following meetings he attended:

1. March 27th & 28th - Fort Pierre. 2024 Environmental & Water Quality Conference.
2. March 27th - Blunt. Central Plains Water Development District Board of Directors meeting.
3. March 28th - Pierre. South Dakota Board of Water & Natural Resources.
4. April 2nd - White. Brookings-Deuel Rural Water System Annual Meeting.
5. April 3rd & 4th - Pierre. South Dakota Association of Rural Water Systems (SDARWS) Board of Directors.
6. April 9th - Sioux Falls. Eastern SD Chapter of the South Dakota Engineering Society.
7. April 18th - Lake Sinai. Water quality sampling.
8. April 18th - video-conference. SDARWS Quality On Tap Editorial Board.
9. April 20th - Sioux Falls. South Dakota Open Records Workshop.
10. April 22nd - Flandreau. Earth Day talk at Flandreau High School.
11. April 24th & 25th - Rapid City. SDARWS Managers Group Meeting.
12. April 29th - Brookings County. Observation well inspection.
13. May 7th - South Dakota State University Campus, Brookings. 2024 Big Sioux Water Festival.
14. May 9th - Mitchell. James River Water Development District Board of Directors.
15. May 14th - Brookings. South Dakota Lakes & Streams Association Board of Directors/Annual Meeting.
16. May 15th - Salem. Vermillion Basin Water Development District Board of Directors.

Upcoming Meetings -

1. **June 10th - 3:00 p.m.** - Sioux Falls. Minnehaha Conservation District Board of Supervisors.
2. **June 11th - 9:00 a.m.** - Dell Rapids. Big Sioux River Project Steering Committee.
3. **June 12th & 13th** - Huron. 2024 South Dakota Governor's Ag Summit.
4. **June 18th - 9:00 a.m.** - EDWDD Office, Brookings. SDGS groundwater/surface water interaction study update.
5. **June 18th - 9:30 a.m.** - DeSmet. South Dakota Association of Conservation Districts (SDACD) Vermillion-Big Sioux Area meeting.
6. **June 19th & 20th** - Deadwood. South Dakota Association of Rural Water Systems (SDARWS) Board of Directors.
7. **June 21st - 9:00 a.m.** - Webster. SDACD Coteau Area meeting.
8. **June 25th - 9:00 a.m.** - EDWDD Office, Brookings. June EDWDD Board of Directors meeting.
9. **June 27th & 28th** - Pierre. South Dakota Board of Water and Natural Resources.

The Manager requested that the Board consider re-scheduling it's June meeting from June 20th to June 25th. The State Board of the South Dakota Association of Rural Water Systems, on which the Manager serves as the Class C Director, is scheduled for the same date.

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Motion by Barth, second by Donovan to hold the June 2024 EDWDD Board of Directors meeting on Tuesday, June 25th, at 9:00 a.m. at the District Office in Brookings. Motion carried unanimously.

Payment Requests - The Manager presented the Board with a single payment request from a District-sponsored activity that required Board action. He noted that 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>
Friends of the Big Sioux River - RO Unit Mobilization	\$ 1,382.25
	\$ 1,382.25

Motion by Kappel, seconded by Hawley to authorize payment of \$ 1,382.25 as requested. Motion carried unanimously, with Director Donovan abstaining.

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 report on progress at the next meeting.

2024 Director Petitions Update - The Manager stated that the current terms of office for the directors representing even-numbered director areas (2, 4, 6 & 8) expire at the end of this calendar year (December 31, 2024). The Secretary of State’s website indicates that valid petitions were filed for three of these areas. Former director Troy Larson was the sole petitioner for director area 2 director area, and Director Bob Kappel was the sole petitioner for director area 6 director area. Each will take office on January 1, 2025. Director Dybedahl and Richard Bonander (Valley Springs) each filed for director area 4, and will be on the November 2024 general election ballot. No petitions were filed for area 8.

DRAFT Reconfigured EDWDD & VBWDD Director Areas

The Manager noted that during the 2024 Session of the South Dakota Legislature, the boundaries of both the East Dakota and Vermillion Basin Water Development Districts were re-drawn. Territory was removed from the western part of EDWDD, and added to VBWDD. The shift involved parts of Kingsbury, Lake and Miner Counties, all of which has been part of EDWDD since 1963. The end result is that VBWDD’s name now actually describes its territory, and EDWDD territory is largely restricted to he Big Sioux and Minnesota River basins.

The legislation technically does not take effect until July 1st, however, staff at the South Dakota Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources (DANR) have begun work on necessary re-drawing of director areas for both entities. The Manager reviewed DRAFT copies of the re-drawn director areas for the District. Final DRAFT maps and descriptions are expected to completed in late June.

Project Assistance Request(s)

South Dakota Department of Game, Fish & Parks - The Manager stated that earlier this spring, the District received a letter from South Dakota Department of Game, Fish & Parks (GF&P) Secretary Kevin Robling, suggesting options for collaboration with his agency on addressing aquatic invasive

species (AIS). The letter was addressed to lake associations in the state, but Secretary Robling also included several water development districts on the mailing list.

The Manager noted that while there are a number of formally established lake associations around lakes in eastern South Dakota, such entities are not universal. In consultation with Dave Bartel, James River Water Development District (JRWDD) Manager, the Manager has proposed to GF&P that the two water development districts might help promote AIS awareness in the region. Specifically, it is proposed to have the two WDDs supporting AIS awareness signs for those lakes with AIS issues, but are without a formal lake association. He provided a DRAFT example of the proposed signs. GF&P would propose to match any WDD funds applied to this effort 1:1, and they would take care of acquisition and installation. Estimated costs are ~\$825 per sign. The Manager proposed a grant of up to \$6,000, which would leverage about 15 signs for lakes in the District.

Motion by Hawley, seconded by Duffy to allocate up to \$6,000 in District project-assistance funds in support of the proposed effort, with the understanding that the signs would be deployed within the boundaries of the District. Motion prevailed with Directors Barth, Donovan, Duffy, Dybedahl, Hawley, Kappel and Chairman Anderson supporting, and Director Poppe opposed.

Regional Water Systems Updates

Shared Resources - Jodi Johanson, Manager of the Big Sioux Community Water System (BSCWS), provided a brief progress summary for the Shared Resources project. Shared Resources is a collaboration between BSCWS and the Minnehaha Community Water Corporation to establish a well field and water treatment plant near Trent in southern Moody County. It will also include water storage and pipelines connecting to existing BSCWS and MCWC distribution networks. A groundbreaking for the water treatment plant was held earlier in the day.

Dakota Mainstem Regional Water System - The Manager reported that things are progressing for the proposed Dakota Mainstem Regional Water System (DMRWS). Earlier in the year, the South Dakota Legislature placed the project on the State Water Resources Management System (SWRMS) list, and allocated a grant of \$1,000,000 in support. Kurt Pfiefler, previously with the South Dakota Association of Rural Water Systems, has been hired as a part-time Executive Director. The DMRWS Board of Directors are currently interviewing engineering and consulting firms to further develop a regional needs assessment.

District Updates

2024 Big Sioux Water Festival - The Manager presented a summary of the recent 2024 Big Sioux Water Festival (BSWF), prepared by Deb Springman, BSWF Coordinator. The 32nd Annual event was held on Tuesday, May 7, 2024, on the campus of South Dakota State University (SDSU). There were ~1,200 fifth grade students from 58 classrooms in attendance from 27 area schools. The festival theme was "Take Weather Cirrus'ly," with an emphasis on water and weather. The water festival provided 33 hands-on activities, 2 assemblies, and 24 Exhibit Hall exhibits led by professionals in the environmental and water resource fields, as well as volunteers from the Mickelson Middle School Enrichment Group. 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 6, 2025.

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2024 Water Quality Sampling - The Manager presented a summary of the anticipated water quality sampling activities of the District in the 2024 field season, prepared by Jeremy Hinke. Monthly river/stream sampling will involve 43 sites within the Big Sioux River and Minnesota River watersheds. The sites are the same as those monitored last year, with the exception of a site on the Big Sioux River south of Brookings. The United States Geological Survey has moved the real-time nitrate monitoring platform to their 'Big Sioux River near Brookings' stream gage (#06480000), and we will monitor that location instead of a nearby river site. Monitoring will consist of nitrate, total suspended solids and E. coli bacteria samples sent to the State Health Laboratory, along with field measurements (water temperature, salinity, dissolved oxygen, pH and specific conductivity).

Staff collected samples from 14 area lakes in 2023, targeting water bodies with limited data sets. The South Dakota Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources has opted to add 9 of these lakes to their 2024 efforts, so the District will only be conducting monthly monitoring of 5 lakes this year. They are Summit Lake in Grant County, Twin Lakes along the border between Brookings and Kingsbury Counties, and Spirit Lake, Lake Henry and Lake Whitewood in Kingsbury County. Although the final three lakes are part of the territory that will be leaving the District on July 1st, the District will monitor for the full field season to ensure that the data collection begun last year results in an adequate data set for assessment.

The Manager also noted that he has received a number of queries about nitrate levels in the Big Sioux River, and he anticipates additional, nitrate-only, sampling to take place.

Adjournment

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There being no further District business or issues for consideration, Chairman Anderson declared the meeting adjourned at 3:25 p.m.

Spencer Hawley, Secretary