



East Dakota Water Development District

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MINUTES November 18, 2021

The Board of Directors of the East Dakota Water Development District (EDWDD) held a regular meeting on November 18th, 2021, at the South Dakota Corn Growers Association Office, 4712 South Technopolis Drive, Sioux Falls. Vice-Chairman Duffy called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. The following persons attended, either in person or via video-conferencing(*):

Directors Present

Jeff Barth
Steve Dick
Ryan Donovan*
Gary Duffy
Spencer Hawley
Bob Kappel
John Moes
Joedy Poppe

Directors Absent

Mark Anderson

Others Present

Travis Entenman, Northern Prairies Land Trust/Friends of the
Big Sioux River
Troy Larson, Lewis & Clark Regional Water System

Staff Present

Barry Berg
Jay Gilbertson
Alexa Kruse
Deb Springman*

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Administrative Items

Approval of Agenda -

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

Minutes - The Board reviewed the Minutes of the October 21st, 2021, meeting.

Motion by Barth, seconded by Poppe to approve the Minutes of the October 21st, 2021, meeting of the East Dakota Water Development District Board of Directors as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Financial Reports - The Board reviewed the October 2021 Financial Reports.

Motion by Hawley, seconded by Moes to accept the October 2021 Financial Reports. Motion carried unanimously. Vice-Chairman Duffy then asked that the report be placed in the District files.

Report of Meetings and Conferences - Director Barth reported on requests that have come to the Minnehaha County Commission for the disposition of the County's American Recovery Plan Act (ARPA) funds. Of note was a proposal to develop a regional wastewater collection and treatment facility for communities in the southwestern part of the county.

Director Donovan reported on the November 15th meeting of the Friends of the Big Sioux River (FBSR) in Sioux Falls.

Directors Moes reported on meetings of the Upper Big Sioux River Watershed Board and the Lake Pelican Water Project District in Watertown, held on October 21st and November 17th respectively.

The Manager briefly commented on the following meetings he attended:

1. October 21st - Upper Big Sioux River Watershed Advisory Board (videoconference).
2. October 25th - 2021 Sioux Falls Dairy Crawl.
3. October 26th - McCook County Commission, Salem.
4. October 27th & 28th - SDARWS Manager's Group Meeting, Deadwood.
5. November 4th - South Dakota Board of Water & Natural Resources (video-conference).
6. November 10th - Sioux Valley County Commissioners Association, Brookings.
7. November 15th - USEPA Farm, Ranch, and Rural Communities Federal Advisory Committee (FRRCC) (video-conference).
8. November 16th - Introductory meeting with Watertown City Administrator, Watertown.
9. November 16th - Discussion of Missouri River Basin watershed activities and upcoming Minnesota Pollution Control Agency water quality work (videoconference).

Upcoming Meetings -

1. **November 18th** - 7:00 p.m. - Watertown. Upper Big Sioux River Watershed Advisory Board.
2. **December 1st - 3rd** - via video-conference. Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts Annual Conference.
3. **December 1st** - Western Dakota Regional Water System information meeting, teleconference.
4. **December 3rd** - South Dakota Association of Rural Water Systems Board of Directors, Sioux Falls.
5. **December 6th** - 1:30 p.m. - Pierre, and via video-conference. South Dakota Non-Point Source Task Force.
6. **December 7th** - 1:00 p.m. - Sioux Falls, and via video-conference. Big Sioux River Water Summit.
7. **December 9th** - 1:00 p.m. - Flandreau. Moody Conservation District Board of Supervisors.
8. **December 13th** - 3:00 p.m. - via video-conference. Minnehaha Conservation District Board of Supervisors.
9. **December 13th** - Deuel County Planning & Zoning Board, Clear Lake.
10. **December 14th** - 10:00 a.m. - Upper Big Sioux Watershed Project planning meeting, Watertown.
11. **December 14th** - 3:00 p.m. (MST) - Rapid City. West Dakota Water Development District Board of Directors.
12. **December 15th** - Vermillion Basin Water Development District, Centerville.
13. **December 16th - 1:00 p.m.** - EDWDD Office, Brookings. December EDWDD Board of Directors meeting.

Payment Requests - The Manager presented a payment request from a District-sponsored activity. He noted that the request was in order and consistent with provisions set by the Board at the time of award. He requested Board authorization to make the following payment:

<u>Grant Recipient/Activity</u>	<u>Requested Amount</u>
Day County Conservation District/NESD Aquatic Invertebrate Survey	\$ 4,000.00
Total	\$ 4,000.00

Motion by Kappel, seconded by Dick to authorize payment of \$4,000.00 as requested. Motion carried unanimously.

Lewis & Clark Regional Water System

Troy Larson, Executive Director for the Lewis and Clark Regional Water System (LCRWS), provided an overview of the history and current status of LCRWS. He noted the original discussions for a southeast South Dakota water pipeline dates to the mid-1980s. Early planning and promotional efforts were supported by the District, with financial assistance provided through the early 2000s. LCRWS is a non-profit organization incorporated in 1990, and authorized by Congress in 2000. It is a wholesale provider of water to 20 member cities and rural water systems in a 5,000 square-mile area in southeast South Dakota, northwest Iowa and southwest Minnesota. System groundbreaking was in August 2003, with construction starting in earnest in 2004.

The system became operational in July 2012, with water currently being delivered to 15 members — Beresford, Centerville, Harrisburg, Lennox, Lincoln County RWS, Lincoln Pipestone RWS, Luverne, Minnehaha Community Water Corp, Parker, Rock County RWD, Rock Rapids, Sioux Falls, South Lincoln RWS, Tea and Worthington. Water rates cover 100% of the operations and maintenance expenses. The source of water is a series of wells that tap into an aquifer adjacent to the Missouri River. Construction is ongoing to connect the remaining five members — Hull, Madison, Sheldon, Sibley and Sioux Center. When completed the project will benefit an estimated 300,000 people in the region. The original capacity was 23.5 million gallons a day (MGD), but after authorization some members reserved additional capacity to expand the System at their cost to 45 MGD, with the ability to expand to 60 MGD in the future.

Funding for construction is provided through federal, state and local grants. The three states and 20 members have paid 100% of their cost share, so the completion schedule is entirely dependent upon federal funding levels, much of which is expected to come from recently approved federal infrastructure funding.

USEPA Farm, Ranch, and Rural Communities Federal Advisory Committee

District employee Barry Berg, the Project Coordinator for the Big Sioux River Project, is a member of the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Farm, Ranch, and Rural Communities Committee (FRRCC). The FRRCC was created to provide independent policy advice, information, and recommendations to the EPA Administrator on a range of environmental issues and policies that are of importance to agriculture and rural communities. Committee members include representatives from academia, industry (e.g., agriculture and allied industries), non-governmental organizations, and state, local, and tribal governments. Mr. Berg reviewed recent activities of the FRRCC.

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Local Water Resource Entities Updates

Friends of the Big Sioux River - Travis Entenman, Executive Director of the Friends of the Big Sioux River (FBSR), briefed the Board on the organizations history and current activities. He noted that the FBSR is a locally-based organization, organized around a mission to protect and restore the Big Sioux River and its watershed, improve the water quality, and educate our community to build a conservation ethic. Their vision is to restore and ensure the health of the Big Sioux River watershed and promote the environmental, recreational, economical use and enjoyment of the river for future generations. Community involvement is critical to achieving our vision and FBSR seeks win-win solutions through strong partnerships and coalitions, with all parts of the community, government, and stakeholders.” Two former EDWDD directors, Dana Loseke and Mary Ellen Connelly, were instrumental in getting the organization started, and both served on the FBSR Board of Directors. EDWDD Director Ryan Donovan is currently the Chairman of the FBSR Board of Directors.

Northern Prairies Land Trust - Travis Entenman, Executive Director of the Northern Prairies Land Trust (NPLT), briefed the Board on the activities of his organization. NPLT was established in 1999 to preserve the unique ecosystems of the northern prairies. They function as a non-profit conservation organization with the overall goal of providing land preservation tools to landowners in South Dakota and Nebraska. Since their inception, they have made great strides in securing easements on over 7,000 acres. NPLT works with private landowners one-on-one to provide long-term, legally sound conservation strategies to protect the natural and economic elements of their land. Their primary tool for accomplishing their mission is the perpetual conservation easement. NPLT is continually working on new easements and also use their conservation expertise to act as a referral source for other private and governmental organizations. This has included the Big Sioux River Project, with which NPLT recently collaborated to secure a nearly 110-acre conservation easement along Skunk Creek just west of Sioux Falls.

District Updates

Director Area Re-Districting - The Manager noted that following each decennial federal census, the water development district director areas are to be assessed to make certain that all residents are fairly represented. Under South Dakota Codified Law (SDCL) 46A-3B-3, this effort is managed by the South Dakota Board of Water and Natural Resources. At present, this effort will not be completed in time for the results to be applied to the 2022 general election. As such, the director areas delineated following the 2010 federal census will continue to be applied. The Manager is exploring the possibility of amending SDCL 46A-3B-3 so that water development districts could conduct the re-districting themselves. A range of governmental entities have such authority in South Dakota, and he believes that the change would help expedite what is a protracted process.

Adjournment

There being no further District business, Vice-Chairman Duffy declared the meeting adjourned at 12:15 p.m.

Spencer Hawley, Secretary