



East Dakota Water Development District
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MINUTES
November 17, 2022

The Board of Directors of the East Dakota Water Development District (EDWDD) held a regular meeting on November 17th, 2022, at the South Dakota Corn Growers Association Office, 4712 South Technopolis Drive, Sioux Falls. Chairman Anderson called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. The following persons attended:

Directors Present

Jeff Barth
Ryan Donovan
Gary Duffy
Spencer Hawley
Bob Kappel
Troy Larson
John Moes
Joedy Poppe

Directors Absent

- none-

Others Present

Travis Entenman, Friends of the Big Sioux River
Kyle Lee, Kingsbury County Commission
Jesse Morris, DGR Engineering
Tobias Schantz, City of Crooks

Staff Present

Barry Berg
McKenzie Blaine
Jay Gilbertson
Amber Lively

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Administrative Items

Approval of Agenda - Director Barth asked to have a discussion about authorizing the Manager to make certain funding decisions added under District Updates.

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

Minutes - The Board reviewed the Minutes of the October 20th, 2022, meeting.

Motion by Larson, seconded by Moes to approve the Minutes of the October 20th, 2022, meeting of the East Dakota Water Development District Board of Directors as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

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

Motion by Moes, seconded by Larson to accept the October 2022 Financial Reports. Motion carried unanimously. Chairman Anderson then asked that the report be placed in the District files.

Report of Meetings and Conferences - Director Larson reported on discussions with SD Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources (DANR) Secretary Hunter Roberts and staff concerning the proposed Water 2040 effort in Pierre on November 9th. He also spoke on the same subject at the South Dakota Association of Rural Water Systems (SDARWS) Leadership Conference in Pierre on November 16th.

Chairman Anderson attended the Friends of the Big Sioux River public forum on November 14th at Augustana University in Sioux Falls.

The Manager briefly commented on the following meetings he attended:

1. October 20th - South Dakota Lakes & Streams Association (videoconference).
2. October 26th & 27th - SDARWS Manager's Group Meeting, Deadwood.
3. November 3rd - SD Board of Water & Natural Resources (video-conference).
4. November 3rd - AREA II Minnesota River Basin Projects/Redwood-Cottonwood Rivers Control Area Legislative Meeting.
5. November 8th - Sioux Falls Science in the Pub presentation, Severance Brewing, Sioux Falls.
6. November 9th - Pierre. Water 2040 discussion with DANR Secretary Roberts and staff.
7. November 10th - Joint Committee on Appropriations presentation on the status of the BSRP, Pierre.
8. Heartland River: The Past, Present, and Future of Local Water Resources (FBSR Forum), Augustana University, Sioux Falls.
9. November 15th - Lake County Commission, Madison, to discuss VBWDD expansion.
10. November 15th - Miner County Commission, Howard, to discuss VBWDD expansion.

Upcoming Meetings -

1. **November 22nd - 10:15 a.m.** - DeSmet. Kingsbury County Commission - VBWDD expansion discussion.
2. **December 6th - 10:00 a.m.** - Matthews Training Center, Pierre. South Dakota Non-Point Source Task Force.
3. **December 8th - 8:00 a.m.** - Sioux Falls Convention Center, 1101 N West Avenue, Sioux Falls. 2022 Big Sioux River and Sustainability Summit.
4. **December 12th - 3:00 p.m.** - Sioux Falls. Minnehaha Conservation District Board of Supervisors.
5. **December 13th - 9:00 a.m.** - City Hall, Dell Rapids. Big Sioux River Project Steering Committee.
6. **December 13th - 3:00 p.m. (MST)** - Rapid City. West Dakota Water Development District Board of Directors.
7. **December 15th - 1:00 p.m.** - EDWDD Office, Brookings. December EDWDD Board of Directors meeting.

Big Sioux River Project

Barry Berg, Senior Project Coordinator for the Big Sioux River Project (BSRP), provided an overview of the history and current status of the effort.

As was noted last month, Alexa Kruse , who coordinated public outreach activities for the BSRP, departed as a full-time employee last month. However, as BSRP was in the process of selecting a third BSRP staff, he and the Manager were able to adjust the search and hire both a replacement and the desired third position.

Mr. Berg introduced Amber Lively, who will cover many of Ms. Kruse’s responsibilities, as well as helping out with general BSRP activities as needed. McKenzie Blaine will be working more closely with Barry to help complete paperwork and follow up on contacts he makes with producers. Between the two, it is expected that the BSRP will be in position to expand activities in 2023.

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.

Project Assistance Request(s)

City of Crooks - The Manager presented the Board with a request for cost-share assistance request from the City of Crooks. They have engaged DGR Engineering to assess the current condition and future needs of the drinking water system in light of mounting development pressure. The projected cost of this effort is \$20,000, and the community is seeking financial assistance from the District. Tobias Schantz, City Administrator/Finance Officer, and Jesse Morris, DGR, discussed the proposed effort and answered questions from the Board.

Motion by Larson, seconded by Duffy to provide District cost-share assistance to the City of Crooks to cover up to fifty percent (50%) of the costs of the proposed water system assessment, up to a maximum of \$10,000. Motion carried unanimously.

Friends of the Big Sioux River - The Manager noted that he had been in discussion with Travis Entenman, Executive Director of the Friends of the Big Sioux River (FBSR), concerning the joint acquisition of a portable, high-capacity reverse osmosis filtration system. The system would be used as an educational tool in public outreach events, demonstrating the importance of clean water and the costs of treatment. Unfortunately, they had not yet been able to put together a final package for consideration by the Board.

Motion by Barth, seconded by Kappel to defer consideration of such a request until a later date. Motion carried unanimously.

District Updates

Water 2040 Discussion - Director Larson and the Manager updated the Board on efforts to begin planning for future water sources for eastern South Dakota, an effort tentatively dubbed **Water 2040**. The effort is predicated on the notion that even though current water needs can be addressed with available resources, continued and expanding pressure on existing resources will soon outstrip capacity of many public water supplier. As such, efforts are being considered that would (hopefully) set the stage for what is to come.

Vermillion Basin WDD Expansion - The Manager reviewed recent developments in the effort to expand the Vermillion Basin Water Development District (VBWDD) to encompass more of the actual Vermillion River watershed. At present, VBWDD includes Clay and Turner Counties, which cover the lower basin. The upper basin lies within Kingsbury, Lake and Miner Counties, which are part of East Dakota WDD. McCook County is the unaffiliated middle area. If a way could be found to bring McCook County into the fold, the thinking has been that portions of the District could be transferred to VBWDD, creating a third, basin-level WDD.

He noted that on November 8th, the voters of McCook County voted to join VBWDD by a margin of 66% to 34%. The vote has been canvassed, and VBWDD now consists of Clay, Turner and McCook Counties. The Manager and Brad Preheim, VBWDD Manager, have subsequently met with the commissioners in Lake and Miner Counties, and they remain supportive of the expansion effort. They will meet with the Kingsbury County Commission later in the month. Assuming that meeting goes well, legislation will be developed for the upcoming legislative session to carry the expansion forward.

Potential WDD Legislation for the 2023 Legislative Session - The Manager reviewed additional potential legislative efforts being considered for the 2023 Legislative Session, which begins on January 10th. Topics include the process by which water development district director areas are changed, the number of directors for a WDD (which are based on population), and fiscal audit requirements.

Funding Decisions Made by the Manager - Director Barth opened a discussion about granting the Manager the authority to make certain District cost-share assistance grant funding decisions without prior action by the Board. He noted that while having an applicant attend a Board meeting and present their case to the directors was useful and informative, the final decisions were rarely in doubt. In the case of very modest requests, the costs of attending the meeting might well amount to a large percentage of the ask. He proposed authorizing the Manager to make such decisions independent of the Board, but report all such instances to the Board. He noted that he did not propose to establish a new policy immediately, but wished to initiate a discussion.

Several directors spoke in support and in opposition to the proposal. The consensus of the Board was to defer further consideration of this concept until such time as a planned review of the procedures and priorities used by the Board was completed. Chairman Anderson and the Manager indicated that they would meet prior to the December Board meeting, and report on their plans to expedite this effort.

Adjournment

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

Spencer Hawley, Secretary