



**East Dakota Water Development District**  
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**MINUTES**  
**October 17, 2019**

The Board of Directors of the East Dakota Water Development District (EDWDD) held a regular meeting on October 17<sup>th</sup>, 2019, at the Redlin Environmental Center, Bramble Park Zoo, 800 Tenth Street NW, Watertown, SD. Chairman Jarrett called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. The following persons attended:

**Directors Present**

Mark Anderson  
Jeff Barth  
Mary Ellen Connelly  
Gary Duffy  
Spencer Hawley  
Martin Jarrett  
John Moes

**Directors Absent**

Kay Kassube  
Dana Loseke

**Others Present**

Roger Foote, Upper Big Sioux River Watershed Project  
John McMaine, South Dakota State University  
Scott Mohror, Banner Associates  
Fred Prah, Lake Poinsett Water Project District  
Mary Raine, City of White  
Heath Thompson, Sioux Rural Water System

**Staff Present**

Jay Gilbertson

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**Administrative Items**

**Approval of Agenda -**

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

**Minutes -** The Board reviewed the Minutes of the September 19<sup>th</sup>, 2019, meeting.

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

**Financial Reports -** The Board reviewed the August and September 2019 Financial Reports.

**Motion** by Moes, seconded by Duffy to accept the August and September 2019 Financial Reports. Motion carried unanimously. Chairman Jarrett then asked that the reports be placed in the District files.

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Meetings and Conferences - Director Connelly attended a meeting of the Friends of the Big Sioux River in Sioux Falls on October 7<sup>th</sup>.

Director Hawley attended the 2019 Eastern South Dakota Water Conference in Brookings on October 16<sup>th</sup>.

Director Moes attended the October 16<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Lake Pelican Water Project District in Watertown.

The Manager briefly commented on the following meetings he attended in the past month:

1. September 19<sup>th</sup> - Beadle Conservation District, Huron. Discussion of restoration options for Lake Osceola.
2. September 26<sup>th</sup> - Board of Water and Natural Resources, Pierre.
3. October 1<sup>st</sup> - Grant County Commission, Milbank.
4. October 16<sup>th</sup> - Eastern South Dakota Water Conference, SDSU, Brookings.
5. October 16<sup>th</sup> - SD DENR gaging station network expansion discussion with SD Lakes & Streams Association, SDSU, Brookings.

Upcoming Meetings -

1. **October 17<sup>th</sup> - 3:00 p.m.** - Sioux Falls. Minnehaha Conservation District Board of Supervisors.
2. **October 22<sup>nd</sup> - 24<sup>th</sup>** - Billings, MT. EPA Region 8 Nonpoint Source Pollution Workshop.
3. **October 23<sup>rd</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup>** - Deadwood. South Dakota Association of Rural Water Systems Managers Group.
4. **October 29<sup>th</sup> - 31<sup>st</sup>** - Pierre. South Dakota Water Management Board
5. **November 7<sup>th</sup> - 1:00 p.m.** - various DDN sites. South Dakota Board of Water & Natural Resources.
6. **November 7<sup>th</sup> - 3:30 p.m.** - Belleview, MN. AREA II/RCRCA Annual Legislative Gathering.
7. **November 12<sup>th</sup> - 8:00 a.m.** - St. Paul, MN. Minnesota Ground Water Association 2019 Fall Conference.
8. **November 14<sup>th</sup> - 7:00 p.m.** - USDA Service Center, Flandreau. Moody Conservation District Board of Supervisors.
9. **November 21<sup>st</sup> - 9:30 a.m.** - Water Treatment Plant, 2100 North Minnesota, Sioux Falls. November EDWDD Board of Directors meeting.

Payment Requests - The Manager presented several payment requests from District sponsored activities that required Board action. He noted that the requests were in order and consistent with provisions set by the Board at the time of award. He requested Board authorization to make the following payments:

<u>Grant Recipient/Activity</u>	<u>Requested Amount</u>
SDSU/Nitrate Removal by Ag Residual Media (Hua)	\$ 1,400.97
SDSU/Bacteria Removal from Stormwater Runoff (Hua)	\$ 5,560.86
Kingsbury County/Lake Thompson Outlet Investigation	\$ 4,702.50
SDSM&T/BSR WQ Trend Assessment (Kunza)	\$ 6,185.25
Total	<u>\$ 17,849.58</u>

**Motion** by Duffy, seconded by Barth to authorize payments totaling \$ 17,849.58 as requested. Motion carried unanimously.

Travel Authorization - The Manager requested authorization to attend the Minnesota Ground Water Association 2019 Fall Conference, which will be held in St. Paul, Minnesota, on November 12<sup>th</sup>. The focus of this day-long conference is the growing need to effectively communicate groundwater science, showcasing approaches to effective communication of groundwater information and concepts to the general public and decision makers.

**Motion** by Barth, seconded by Moes to authorize the Manager to attend the Minnesota Ground Water Association 2019 Fall Conference as requested. Motion carried unanimously.

### **Project Assistance Request(s)**

City of Madison - USACE Flood Study - The Manager presented a request from the City of Madison for District cost-share assistance. The City has entered into an agreement with the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) for the purpose of conducting a flood risk management study, an overview of which was presented to the Board at their September meeting. Specifically, they are pursuing efforts under the USACE's Section 22 Program to update the hydrology and hydraulics developed during a comparable investigation completed for the City in 1995. The City has repeatedly experienced severe flooding along the course of Park Creek, which traverses the community from northwest to southeast. Potential remedial efforts could include detention dams upstream of the city on Park Creek and tributaries, improvements to a railroad bridge, and a combination of detention and nonstructural alternatives.

The projected cost of the investigation is \$150,000, with the Corps providing fifty percent (50%) of the costs. Lake County has committed \$25,000 toward the effort, and the City will provide \$37,500. The request from the City is for \$12,500 from the District to complete the funding.

**Motion** by Duffy, seconded by Connelly to provide District project assistance to the City of Madison to cover one-sixth of the local costs of the proposed flood risk management study to be conducted by USACE, up to a maximum amount of \$12,500. Motion carried unanimously.

City of Sioux Falls - 2019 Big Sioux River Summit - The Manager presented a request from the City of Sioux Falls for District cost-share assistance in support (sponsorship) of the 2019 Big Sioux River Water Summit, which will be held at the Downtown Hilton Garden Inn in Sioux Falls on December 5<sup>th</sup>. He noted that the District has sponsored this event at the \$500 level since its inception in 2013.

**Motion** by Barth, seconded by Connelly to provide \$500 in sponsorship support of the 2019 Big Sioux River Water Summit, and to authorize expenditure of the funds. Motion carried unanimously.

Town of Nunda - Drinking Water Facility Plan - The Manager presented a request for District cost-share assistance from the Town of Nunda. The community has engaged DGR Engineering to conduct an assessment of the condition of their drinking water system and consider options for the future. One option to be assessed is a connection to the KingBrook Rural Water System. The projected cost of the study is \$10,000. The Town is seeking \$8,000 in support from the South Dakota Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Small Community Planning Grants Program. The request

of the District is for fifty percent (50%) of the balance of the necessary funds, which would amount to \$1,000.

**Motion** by Barth, seconded by Duffy to provide District project assistance to the Town of Nunda to cover fifty-percent (50%) of the local costs of the proposed drinking water facility plan, up to a maximum amount of \$1,000. Motion carried unanimously.

City of White - Drinking Water & Waste Water Facility Plans - Mary Raine, Finance Officer for the City of White, and Scott Mohror, Banner Associates, presented a request for District cost-share assistance. The City has engaged Banner Associates conduct assessments of the condition of both their drinking water and waste water systems and consider options for the future. Recognizing that there will be disruptions to the communities infrastructure with any actions, they are pursuing both drinking water and waste water efforts. The projected cost of the drinking water study is \$21,000, while the waste water investigation will cost \$29,000. The Town is seeking \$18,000 in support from the SD DENR Small Community Planning Grants Program. The request of the District is for fifty percent (50%) of the balance of the necessary funds, which would amount to \$16,000 (DW - \$6,500 & WW -\$9,500).

Again, support of the requests as presented would be consistent with past actions of the Board, and I will be recommending support. Broken out, District support would be for fifty percent (50%) of the local costs, up to a maximum of \$6,500 for the drinking water system facility plan, and fifty percent (50%) of the local costs, up to a maximum of \$9,500 for the waste water system facility plan.

**Motion** by Barth, seconded by Moes to provide District project assistance to the City of White to cover fifty-percent (50%) of the local costs of the proposed drinking water and waste water facility plans, up to a maximum amount of \$16,000 (\$6,500 cap for the DW portion and \$9,500 for the WW portion). Motion carried unanimously.

South Dakota State University - Rainwater Harvesting - Dr. John McMaine, South Dakota State University (SDSU) Department of Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering, presented a request for District cost-share assistance. Working in conjunction with Jeremiah Bergstrom, SDSU School of Design, a project has been developed to promote rainwater harvesting (on-site retention/detention of runoff) in the Brookings community. Project elements include a demonstration of rainwater harvesting at a public location (Brookings Boys & Girls Club), develop educational units for K-12 and college students, raise community awareness of rain barrels, distribution of rain barrels at reduced cost and develop rainwater harvesting and irrigation plan for a commercial-scale structure.

Total project costs are estimated at \$11,000. Primary funding for the effort is being sought through a grant of \$6,600 from the State 319 Information & Education Program, with the balance (\$4,400) requested from the District.

The Manager noted that funding decisions for the current round of 319 Information & Education Program grants would be made by late November, so that if the SDSU request was not successful, the Board could act to reallocate any support provided to this project to another activity.

**Motion** by Connelly, seconded by Barth to provide District project assistance to South Dakota State University to cover fifty-percent (50%) of the costs of the proposed rainwater harvesting project, up to a maximum amount of \$4,400. Motion carried unanimously.

### **State Stream & Lake Gaging Network Expansion**

The Manager noted that the recent persistent high water levels in area lakes and streams has prompted a renewed interest in the existing real-time water level and stream flow data available from the network of state and federal stream gages. The availability of stream flow data, along with past records (days/months/years), has helped address many questions fielded by District staff. He noted that a majority of the gages involved are run by the US Geological Survey (with help from various partners), but there is a modest network of gages managed by the South Dakota Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR). The DENR gages in the Big Sioux basin have been upgraded, supported by a grant from East Dakota, to real-time reporting capability. However, DENR 24 gaging stations outside of this basin require periodic, manual data downloads.

On October 16<sup>th</sup>, the Manager met with representatives of the South Dakota Lakes & Streams Association (SDL&SA), DENR, Vermillion Basin WDD, the James River WDD and the National Weather Service to discuss options for the expansion and/or upgrading of the DENR network. Later in the day, SDL&SA indicated that they would be committing a total of \$26,000 toward this effort. Specifically, they agreed to provide funds to 1) establish a new lake level monitoring site on Lake Thompson in Kingsbury County, 2), upgrade four (4) existing DENR stream gaging sites in the James River and Vermillion River watersheds, and 3) upgrade of the software/programming used by DENR to manage the information collected from its network. Their support is in the form of a fifty-fifty match for each action.

In recognition of the support pledged by SDL&SA, the Manager requested Board action to authorize the award of a cost-share assistance grant to cover the balance of the costs necessary for the establishment of the lake level gage on Lake Thompson. DENR has projected costs for the acquisition of the necessary materials and equipment is \$9,000. SDL&SA has pledged up to \$5,000 for the effort. The Manager requested a comparable grant of up to \$5,000 to complete the funding. Depending on field conditions, it is expected that the gage might yet be installed in 2019. The proposed site is on the bridge along the Oldham Road.

**Motion** by Barth, seconded by Moes to provide District cost-share assistance to cover fifty-percent (50%) of the costs of the proposed real-time lake level monitoring station on Lake Thompson, up to a maximum amount of \$5,000. Motion carried unanimously.

### **Regional Water Resource Activities Updates**

Upper Big Sioux River Watershed Project - Roger Foote, Project Coordinator for the Upper Big Sioux River Watershed Project (Project), provided with an overview of Project activities and highlights. The Project encompasses headwaters of the Big Sioux River, including the watersheds of Lake Kampeska and Lake Pelican. He noted that the exceptionally wet season/year has hampered efforts to get many best management practices (BMPs) started in the Project area.

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Lake Poinsett Water Project District - Fred Prah, Chairman of the Lake Poinsett Water Project District, provided the Board with an overview of their activities and concerns. The District is focused on efforts to lower the level of the lake in advance of the coming winter. However, high water levels in the Big Sioux River, into which the lake drains, have inhibited lowering of water levels.

### **District Issues Updates**

Vermillion Basin WDD Expansion - The Manager reported on ongoing efforts to expanded the Vermillion Basin Water Development District (VBWDD). Draft legislation has been prepared and is under review. Meetings have been held with the Clay and Turner County Commissions, and meetings are planned in McCook, Lake, Miner and Kingsbury Counties. To date, there has been no strong opposition to the concept. If there is a consensus to proceed, changes will be pursued in the 2020 Session of the South Dakota Legislature.

### **Adjournment**

There being no further District business, Chairman Jarrett declared the meeting adjourned at 12:00 noon.

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John Moes, Secretary

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