



**East Dakota Water Development District**  
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**MINUTES**  
**October 15, 2020**

The Board of Directors of the East Dakota Water Development District (EDWDD) held a regular meeting on October 15, 2020, by way of video-conferencing (Zoom). Chairman Anderson called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. The following persons attended:

**Directors Present**

Mark Anderson  
Mary Ellen Connelly  
Gary Duffy  
Spencer Hawley  
Martin Jarrett  
Kay Kassube  
Dana Loseke  
John Moes

**Directors Absent**

Jeff Barth

**Others Present**

Steve Dick, Hartford  
Linda Harris, West Dakota Water Development District  
Galen Hoogestraat, USGS Dakota Water Science Center  
Chris Laveau, USGS Dakota Water Science Center  
Tami Moore, Miner Conservation District  
Jeremy Schelhaas, SD DENR Watershed Protection Program

**Staff Present**

Kevin Christenson  
Jay Gilbertson  
Jeremy Hinke  
Alexa Kruse  
Deb Springman

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**Administrative Items**

Approval of Agenda - The Manager asked to have two items added to the Administrative Items portion of the Agenda. The first would start the process of filling the two (2) pending vacancies, as of January 1, 2021, on the Board (Director Areas 6 and 8), and the other to designate a candidate for consideration for appointment to the State Conservation Commission.

**Motion** by Loseke, seconded by Jarrett to approve the agenda as so amended. Motion carried unanimously.

Minutes - The Board reviewed the Minutes of the September 17<sup>th</sup>, 2020, meeting. It was noted that both Directors Connelly and Moes were listed as in attendance and absent at the meeting. Both were present, and the Minutes should be corrected to reflect that.

**Motion** by Moes, seconded by Kassube to approve the Minutes as so amended. Motion carried unanimously.

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Financial Reports - The Board reviewed the September 2020 Financial Reports.

**Motion** by Kassube, seconded by Loseke to accept the September 2020 Financial Reports. Motion carried unanimously. Chairman Anderson then asked that the reports be placed in the District files.

Meetings and Conferences - Director Loseke attended a meetings of the Big Sioux River Watershed Project Steering Committee (Sept. 23), an Izaak Walton Water Quality Seminar on Des Moines Water Works Watershed Mitigation Efforts (Sept. 24), DENR Triennial Review of Water Quality Standards (Sept. 30), Friends of the Big Sioux River Board Meeting (Oct. 5) and Big Sioux River Greenway Clean Up (Oct. 10).

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

1. September 23<sup>rd</sup> - Big Sioux River Watershed Project Steering Committee, Sioux Falls.
2. September 24<sup>th</sup> - Observation well inventory at Big Sioux Community Water System Egan well field; SD Board of Water & Natural Resources via video-conferencing.
3. September 25<sup>th</sup> - Observation well inventory at Big Sioux Community Water System Egan well field.
4. September 29<sup>th</sup> - Whetstone River re-diversion discussion w/ UMRWD, Ortonville, MN.
5. September 30<sup>th</sup> - SD DENR Surface Water Quality presentation on the triennial review of South Dakota water quality standards; Observation well installation at Big Sioux Community Water System Egan well field.
6. October 2<sup>nd</sup> - Observation well GPS survey at Big Sioux Community Water System Egan well field.
7. October 6<sup>th</sup> - Clark County Commission meeting via video-conference (Dry Lake #2; Deuel County Commission meeting, Clear lake (drainage ordinance discussion).
8. October 7<sup>th</sup> - Brookings Conservation District Board of Supervisors, Brookings.
9. October 14<sup>th</sup> - Eastern South Dakota Water Conference via video-conference; Observation well installation at Clark Rural Water System Kampeska well field.

Upcoming Meetings -

1. **October 15<sup>th</sup> - 7:00 p.m.** - Upper Big Sioux River Watershed Project via teleconference.
2. **October 20<sup>th</sup> - 9:00 a.m.** - SDARWS Quality On Tap Editorial Board via Zoom.
3. **October 20<sup>th</sup> - 10:30 a.m.** - Deuel County Commission via Zoom.
4. **October 21<sup>st</sup> - 7:00 p.m.** - Vermillion Basin Water Development District Board.
5. **October 28<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup>** - Deadwood. South Dakota Association of Rural Water Systems Manager's Group.
6. **November 4<sup>th</sup> - 12:30 p.m.** - Brookings. Brookings Conservation District Board of Supervisors.
7. **November 5<sup>th</sup> - 1:00 p.m.** - via video-conference. South Dakota Board of Water and Natural Resources.
8. **November 10<sup>th</sup> - 6:00 p.m. (MST)** - Rapid City. West Dakota Water Development District Board of Directors.
9. **November 12<sup>th</sup> - 9:00 a.m.** - via video-conference. James River Water Development District Board
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11. **November 12<sup>th</sup> - 10:00 a.m.** - via video-conference. Western South Dakota Missouri River Development Stakeholder Meeting.
12. **November 19<sup>th</sup> - 9:00 a.m.** - via Zoom. November EDWDD Board of Directors meeting.

Payment Requests - The Manager presented a payment request from a District sponsored activity that required Board action. 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>
SDSU/Low-Impact Storm Water Development (McMaine)	\$ 1,204.59
Total	\$ 1,204.59

**Motion** by Kassube, seconded by Duffy to authorize payments totaling \$ 1,204.59 as requested. Motion carried unanimously.

State Conservation Commission Nomination - The Manager presented a request from the South Dakota Department of Agriculture for a nomination to represent water development districts on the State Conservation Commission. Under South Dakota Codified Law 38-7-4 (Composition of commission - Appointment and terms of members - Vacancies), the Governor appoints a commission member from a list of three names recommended by the water development districts.

He stated that Tom Glover of Burke (and a South-Central Water Development District director) currently holds this position. Mr. Glover is interested in continuing to serve, and South-Central WDD will be submitting his name for consideration. While the Governor is likely to re-appoint Mr. Glover, the water development districts should still provide a list of potential candidates.

**Motion** by Loseke, seconded by Moes to submit the name of Director Kay Kassube for consideration for appointment to the State Conservation Commission representing water development districts. Motion carried unanimously.

Pending Vacancies for Director Areas 6 & 8 - The Manager noted that terms of office for Directors Kassube (Area 6) and Connelly (Area 8) would expire at the end of the year (December 31, 2020). Further, no valid petitions were filed for either position during the nominating period earlier in the year, and as such, both positions will be vacant as of January 1, 2021.

The Manager requested authorization to initiate the process of filling the pending vacancies in Director Area 6 and 8. The pending vacancies would be advertised in the appropriate newspapers for these areas in November and December. He proposed setting a deadline of January 14<sup>th</sup>, 2021, for nominating petitions to be filed at the District office, with Board action to fill the vacancy at the January 21<sup>st</sup>, 2021, meeting in Brookings. He noted that the terms of office for both such appointed positions would be through December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2024. Finally, Directors Kassube and Connelly, so long as they continue to qualify, could continue to serve until a replacement has been selected, including into 2021.

**Motion** by Kassube, seconded by Loseke to authorize publication of the Notice of Vacancies; to require that all applicants for the vacancy submit their petitions to the EDWDD office no later

than 5:00 p.m. on January 14<sup>th</sup>, 2021; and to set the January 21<sup>st</sup>, 2021, Board meeting as the initial time to consider all valid petitions and to appoint new Directors for Areas 6 and 8. Motion carried unanimously.

### **SD DENR Stream Gage Network**

Jeremy Schelhaas, with the South Dakota Department of Environment & Natural Resources, presented an overview of the stream gaging network that they maintain. He noted that for many years, SD DENR had maintained a network of water quality monitoring stations (WQM Network), to assess the condition of various critical water resources. There are currently about 150 WQM Network sites across the state, including many within the boundaries of East Dakota.

In some instances, WQM Network points have been co-located with stream gaging stations operated and maintained by the United States Geological Survey (USGS). However, the majority of the locations where water quality samples are collected have historically lacked such capabilities. However, the quantity of water at a particular location is also important. When determining the load of a pollutant at a given location, it is important to know both the concentration in the water, along with the total volume of water. Beginning about 10 years ago, SD DENR began to install stage recorders at a number of their WQM Network sites. The Manager noted that District staff were involved in this process, particularly in the collection of discharge data at sites in eastern South Dakota. At this time, about forty WQM sites have stage recording capability.

Following the severe floods on the lower Big Sioux River in 2014, an effort was made to upgrade the WQM stations in the basin to provide for real-time access to the data being collected. Prior to that, DENR (or District) staff had to visit the sites and physically download the data. The District contributed to this effort, which included establishing some new stations, all in support of improving our flood prediction capabilities. At the conclusion of this effort, all DENR stage recording sites in the Big Sioux River basin had real-time capabilities.

Last year, in cooperation with the SD Lakes & Streams Association (SDLSA), four more DENR WQM stations were upgraded (2 each in the James River and Vermillion River basins), along with a new site established on Lake Thompson. In each case, the 'home' water development district provided fifty percent (50%) of the material costs, with SDLSA covering the balance. DENR staff handled installation and has assumed responsibility for maintenance.

Earlier this year, DENR identified one-time funds that will be used to complete system-wide upgrades of the remaining sites without real-time capability in a single effort, without the need for outside assistance.

Real-time information from all of the SD DENR stations can be viewed on various on-line platforms, such as the National Weather Service site at: <https://water.weather.gov/ahps2/index.php?wfo=fsd>.

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## Project Assistance Requests

### IV. A SD Lakes & Streams Association

The Manager reminded the Board that last year, the South Dakota Lakes & Streams Association (SDLSA) stepped forward and made an investment in the DENR Stream Gaging Network described earlier. They provided fifty/fifty matching funds to upgrade the data management software used by DENR, convert four existing sites to real-time capabilities, and establish a new site on Lake Thompson. The District provided the necessary matching funds for the Lake Thompson site.

He stated that the rapid expansion of the DENR network has identified a need for additional support equipment to gather the actual stream flow (discharge) data at the monitoring sites. DENR currently uses two devices to gather discharge data - one for wadeable streams (Flow Tracker) and another for deeper waters (StreamPro). They have two of each units, but with the expansion of the Network, having devices available for the eastern, central and western parts of the state would be advantageous.

SDLSA has agreed to provide fifty percent of the costs for the acquisition of a third set of devices, estimated at \$31,000. The Manager proposed that the District provide the balance of the cost share, house the equipment, and make it available to DENR and others qualified stakeholders as necessary. District staff have extensive experience with the units in question, and most of the use would take place within the boundaries of the District. This would allow DENR to station their existing units in Pierre and Rapid City.

**Motion** by Kassube, seconded by Duffy to allocate up to \$15,500 in District project assistance funds to cover the necessary fifty/fifty match to acquire the stream discharge measuring devices as requested. Motion carried unanimously.

City of Sioux Falls - 2020 Big Sioux River Water Summit - The Manager presented a request from the City of Sioux Falls for District cost-share assistance in support (sponsorship) of the 2020 Big Sioux River Water Summit, which virtually on December 7<sup>th</sup>. He would be presenting results of the Districts water quality sampling efforts within the basin at the event. The District has sponsored this event at the \$500 level since its inception in 2013.

**Motion** by Loseke, seconded by Connelly to provide \$500 in sponsorship support of the 2020 Big Sioux River Water Summit, and to authorize expenditure of the funds. Motion carried unanimously.

### **‘Rebranding’ the Big Sioux River Watershed Project**

Alexa Kruse, Watershed Project Specialist, briefed the Board on her ongoing efforts to raise the awareness of the general public of the goals and activities of the Big Sioux River Watershed Project (Project). Knowledge of the Project and it’s results are well known, and accepted, within the target audience for the best management practices being promoted. However, the vast majority of the residents of the Project area are largely unfamiliar with the Project, even though they are directly impacted by the water quality impairments that are being addressed.

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Ms. Kruse is working to develop more user friendly marketing efforts in order to raise general public awareness and expand public outreach efforts, and shared her activities to date.

**Adjournment**

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

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Spencer Hawley, Secretary

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