



**East Dakota Water Development District**  
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**MINUTES**  
**October 19, 2023**

The Board of Directors of the East Dakota Water Development District (EDWDD) held a regular meeting on October 19, 2023, 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  
Jeff Barth  
Ryan Donovan  
Spencer Hawley  
Bob Kappel  
John Moes

**Others Present**

- none -

**Staff Present**

Jay Gilbertson

**Directors Absent**

Gary Duffy  
Joedy Poppe

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**Administrative Items**

Approval of Agenda -

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

Minutes - The Board reviewed the Minutes of the September 21<sup>st</sup>, 2023, meeting.

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

Financial Reports - The Board reviewed the September 2023 Financial Reports.

**Motion** by Hawley, seconded by Barth to accept the September 2023 Financial Reports. Motion carried unanimously. Chairman Anderson then asked that the reports be placed in the District files.

Meetings and Conferences - Director Donovan reported on the October 16<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Friends of the Big Sioux River Board in Sioux Falls.

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

1. **September 25<sup>th</sup>** - Big Sioux River Watershed Project Steering Committee, Sioux Falls.
2. **October 2<sup>nd</sup>** - Dakota Mainstem Regional Water System Special Membership and Board Meeting, Madison.
3. **October 4<sup>th</sup>** - Site visit with new South Dakota Geological Survey drilling rig, Estelline.
4. **October 6<sup>th</sup>** - South Dakota Association of Rural Water Systems (SDARWS) long-range planning discussion, Madison.
5. **October 6<sup>th</sup>** - Minnehaha County Auditor discussion of WDD director areas & redistricting, Sioux Falls.
6. **October 10<sup>th</sup>** - Minnehaha Conservation District Board of Supervisors, Sioux Falls.
7. **October 11<sup>th</sup>** - 2023 Eastern South Dakota Water Conference, South Dakota State University (SDSU), Brookings.
8. **October 12<sup>th</sup>** - Zebra mussel discussion with South Dakota Lakes & Streams Association President Brad Johnson, Watertown.
9. **October 16<sup>th</sup>** - SDSU Wildlife & Fisheries zebra mussel discussion, Brookings.
10. **October 16<sup>th</sup>** - EDWDD Director Area 4 vacancy candidate visit, Brookings.
11. **October 17<sup>th</sup>** - Vermillion Basin Water Development District (VBWDD) expansion discussion with Senator Casey Crabtree, Madison.
12. **October 17<sup>th</sup>** - Zebra mussel discussion with City of Sioux Falls Public Works Director Mark Cotter, Sioux Falls.
13. **October 18<sup>th</sup>** - VBWDD expansion discussion with Representative John Mills, Brookings.

Upcoming Meetings -

1. **October 19<sup>th</sup> - 1:00 p.m.** - via video-conference. Dakota Mainstem RWS Board of Directors Meeting.
2. **October 24<sup>th</sup> - 26<sup>th</sup>** - Gillette, Wyoming. Upper Missouri Water Association Annual Meeting.
3. **October 25<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup>** - Deadwood. SDARWS Manager's Group.
4. **November 1<sup>st</sup> - 8:30 a.m. (MST)** - Rapid City. West Dakota Water Development District water resource issue listening session.
5. **November 2<sup>nd</sup> - 3:30 p.m.** - Slayton, MN. Area II River Basins Projects/RCRCA Annual Legislative Gathering.
6. **November 2<sup>nd</sup> - 3<sup>rd</sup>** - Raleigh, North Carolina. National Rural Water Association State Leadership & Management Board Training.
7. **November 4<sup>th</sup> - 2:00 p.m.** - White. Retirement celebration for Gene Wilts, Brookings-Deuel Rural Water System.
8. **November 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup>** - Pierre. SDARWS Leadership Seminar.
9. **November 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup>** - Pierre. South Dakota Board of Water & Natural Resources.
10. **November 9<sup>th</sup> - 9:00 a.m.** - Huron. James River Water Development District Board meeting.
11. **November 9<sup>th</sup> - 6:30 p.m.** - Augustana University Humanities Center, Sioux Falls. Friends of the Big Sioux River Seminar - The Future of Water in South Dakota.
12. **November 19<sup>th</sup> - 9:30 a.m.** - Sioux Falls Water Treatment Plant, 2100 North Minnesota Avenue, Sioux Falls. November EDWDD Board of Directors meeting, followed by tour of the Smithfield waste water treatment plant.

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Payment Requests - The Manager presented two (2) payment requests from a 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 - E. Coli Stormwater Treatment Pilot Project	\$ 2,469.16
City of Bryant - Water/Waste Water Facility Plan Update	\$ 5,000.00
	\$ 7,469.16

**Motion** by Moes, seconded by Barth to authorize payments totaling \$ 7,469.16 as requested. Motion carried unanimously.

### District Updates

Zebra Mussels in the Big Sioux River - The Manager reported that earlier in the month, the South Dakota Department of Game, Fish & Parks (GF&P) announced that zebra mussels had been found in the Big Sioux River just below Watertown. This was followed by a series of news reports on the potential impacts on downstream water facilities, like the City of Sioux Falls water intake pipe. To date, there have been no reports of zebra mussels outside of the upper river basin.

He reported that he has initiated discussions with the City of Sioux Falls, South Dakota State University and GF&P to conduct a systematic zebra mussel survey of the Big Sioux River in the 2024 field season. With the City of Sioux Falls dependent on the river for a modest, but not trivial, portion of its drinking water supply, determining just where they are located within the basin, and when they might impact the water intake, is very important. He indicated that he would be bringing forward a formal proposal for Board consideration at the November meeting.

Dakota Mainstem Regional Water System - The Manager reported on progress with the Dakota Mainstem Regional Water System (DMRWS). At a meeting on October 1<sup>st</sup>, a new Board of Directors was elected by the membership, and a leadership team chosen. DMRWS has also engaged the necessary professional services (legal, engineering & accounting) to move forward. DMRWS is pursuing financial assistance from the State of South Dakota, through a grant application to the State Water Resources Management System (SWRMS) program. Support for this request is anticipated from the South Dakota Board of Water and Natural Resources when it meets on November 8<sup>th</sup>, at which time the 2024 Omnibus Water Funding bill will be presented.

The Manager requested guidance from the Board with regard to supporting the DMRWS during the upcoming legislative session. Given the monetary and technical support provided by the District to-date, he would anticipate being asked to lobby and/or testify on behalf of the effort. It was the consensus of the Board that the Manager would provide whatever assistance deemed necessary to promote and support the DMRWS.

Vermillion Basin WDD Expansion - The Manager reported on recent activities pertaining to the proposed expansion of the Vermillion Basin Water Development District (VBWDD). He has developed draft legislation that would transfer portions of the East Dakota Water Development District (District) to VBWDD. The territory, in Miner, Lake and Kingsbury Counties, largely comprises the

DRAFT

upper portion of the Vermillion River watershed. With the transfer, VBWDD would effectively encompass the whole of the river basin. The Manager, along with the VBWDD Manager Brad Preheim, will be meeting with the three County Commissions next month to reaffirm their support for the changes.

The Manager noted that while the proposed territorial shifts would constitute a major change for the District, at a practical level the impacts would be modest. Based on 2020 federal census data, the shift would reduce the District population by ~7,150 people (2.1% of the District total). However, growth in the City of Sioux Falls in the period since the census was taken is estimated at over 9,350 people, so the net effect is a wash. From a valuation (tax base) standpoint, the shift would result in a roughly 5% reduction. However, with District wide growth at 3% in the most recent assessment, the ‘loss’ would be recovered within a year or two.

### **Adjournment**

There being no further District business, Chairman Anderson declared the meeting adjourned at 9:42 a.m.

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Spencer Hawley, Secretary

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