



East Dakota Water Development District
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MINUTES
April 9, 2026

The Board of Directors of the East Dakota Water Development District (EDWDD) held a regular meeting on April 9th, 2026, at the EDWDD office in Brookings. Chairman Moes called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. The following persons attended:

Directors Present

Mark Anderson
Jeff Barth
Rick Bonander
Debra Elofson
Troy Larson*
Julie Loveland-Swanstrom*
John Moes

Directors Absent

Spencer Hawley
Director Area 6 vacant

Others Present

Laura Edwards, SDSU Extension Service*
Makenzie Huber, South Dakota Searchlight*
Martin Jarrett, Lake Madison Development Association
Lisa Kunza, SD School of Mines & Technology*
Ted Lewis, City of Sioux Falls*
Deb Reineke, Lake County Commission
Chris Schmit, South Dakota State University
Tim Stefanich, AE2S*
Eric Witt, Brookings Municipal Utilities

Staff Present

Barry Berg
Jaelynn Dreckman
Jay Gilbertson
Jeremy Hinke
Deb Springman

* - participated by way of video-conferencing.

Administrative Items

Approval of Agenda -

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

Minutes - The Board reviewed the Minutes of the February 19th, 2026, Board of Directors meeting.

Motion by Larson, seconded by Barth to approve the February 19th, 2026, Minutes of the Board of Directors meeting as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

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Financial Reports - The Board reviewed the February 2026 and March 2026 financial reports.

Motion by Bonander, seconded by Barth to accept the February 2026 and March 2026 financial reports. Motion carried unanimously. Chairman Moes then asked that the reports be placed in the District files.

Report of Meetings and Conferences - Director Anderson attended an informational meeting on the proposed new Smithfield facility at the Crooks Community Center on March 9th.

Director Bonander attended the 2026 Sioux Empire Water Festival at the University of Sioux Falls campus on March 3rd and 4th.

Director Larson reported on the Dakota Mainstem Regional Water System Annual Meeting, held on March 27th in Sioux Falls, and the Big Sioux Community Water System Annual Meeting, held on April 7th in Flandreau.

The Manager briefly summarized the following meetings he attended since the February 2026 Board meeting:

1. March 17th - Big Sioux River Project Steering Committee, Dell Rapids.
2. March 18th - Vermillion Basin WDD Board of Directors, Centerville.
3. March 20th - SDSU Thesis defense, Rose Eitemiller, Brookings.
4. March 24th - SDSU Thesis defense, Tulsi Ram Pokhrel, Brookings.
5. March 26th - South Dakota Board of Water & Natural Resources, via Zoom.
6. March 27th - Dakota Mainstem Regional Water System Annual Meeting, Sioux Falls.
7. March 30th - Milbank City Council meeting, Milbank.
8. April 2nd - South Dakota Association of Rural Water Systems (SDARWS) Board of Directors Meeting & SDARWS Rural Water Center Board of Directors, Pierre.
9. April 7th - Big Sioux Community Water System Annual Meeting, Flandreau.
10. April 9th - Arizona Water Infrastructure Finance Authority Long-Term Water Augmentation Committee, via videoconference.

Upcoming Meetings -

1. **April 9th - 4:30 p.m.** - Brookings. RESPEC Company Brookings Office Open House.
2. **April 10th** - Sioux Falls. City of Sioux Falls source water protection discussions.
3. **April 13th - 3:00 p.m.** - Sioux Falls. Minnehaha Conservation District Board of Supervisors.
4. **April 13th - 6:30 p.m.** - Arlington. KingBrook Rural Water System Annual Meeting.
5. **April 14th - 6:30 p.m.** - White. Brookings-Deuel Rural Water System Annual Meeting.
6. **April 15th - 9:00 a.m.** - SDARWS Quality On Tap Editorial Board, via videoconference.
7. **April 15th - 10:00 a.m.** - EDWDD Office, Brookings. SD Lakes & Streams Association Board of Directors.
8. **April 15th** - Pierre - South Dakota Water & Wastewater Association Spring Seminar.
9. **April 16th** - Rapid City - 2026 Western South Dakota Hydrology Conference.
10. **April 22nd & 23rd** - Rapid City. South Dakota Association of Rural Water Systems Manager's Group.
11. **April 23rd - 8:00 a.m.** - Brooklyn Center, MN. Minnesota Groundwater Association Spring Seminar.

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12. **April 25th** - Sioux Falls. Friends of the Big Sioux River River Clean Up.
13. **May 6th & 7th - Pierre.** South Dakota Water Management Board.
14. **May 12th - 9:30 a.m.** - South Dakota State University Campus, Brookings. 2026 Big Sioux Water Festival.
15. **May 14th - 9:00 a.m.** - Huron. James River WDD Board of Directors.
16. **May 14th - 4:30 p.m.** - Hilton Garden Inn Sioux Falls South, Sioux Falls. Lewis & Clark Regional Water System Annual Meeting.
17. **May 21st - 10:00 a.m.** - LCRWS , 46986 Monty Drive, Tea. May EDWDD Board of Directors meeting.
18. **May 21st - 1:00 p.m.** - LCRWS , 46986 Monty Drive, Tea. May Vermillion Basin WDD Board of Directors meeting.

Pending Director Vacancies - The Manager reviewed the 2026 general election cycle, during which District director areas 1, 3, 5, 7 and 9 will be filled. The filing deadline for the petitions was March 31st, 2026, and as of that time, only the incumbent directors had filed nominating petitions.

Payment Request(s) - The Manager reported having received two (2) payment requests that required Board action. He noted that the requests were in order and consistent with the conditions established by the Board at the time of the award. He requested authorization to make the following payments:

<u>Grant Recipient/Activity</u>	<u>Requested Amount</u>
SDSU Establishment of a PFAS Laboratory (Islam)	\$ 2,818.10
SDSM&T - Big Sioux River PFAS Assessment (Kunza)	\$ 419.70
Total	\$ 3,237.80

Motion by Elofson, seconded by Bonander to authorize payments totaling \$ 3,237.80 as requested. The Manager noted that this was the final request for the SDSM&T project. Motion carried unanimously.

Initial Review of Proposed Changes to District By-Laws

The Manager proposed several changes to Article IV of the District By-Laws, shown below. The changes would bring the document into compliance with changes made to water development districts code during the 2025 legislative session. He noted that under the By-Laws, changes must be discussed at one meeting, and then acted on at a subsequent meeting.

ARTICLE IV

DIRECTOR QUALIFICATIONS AND NUMBER

The qualifications and term of office for each director shall be determined by applicable statutory provisions, specifically including, but not limited to, SDCL Chapter 46A-3B. Based on the general population of the District, the Board shall consist of nine members, as stipulated in SDCL 46A-3B-2.

DIRECTOR VACANCIES

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Vacancies, as defined in SDCL 46A-3B-9, which may occur on the District Board, shall be filled by elective action of the remaining directors from among candidates from the director area in which the vacancy exists. The director candidate(s) must reside in and be a registered voter in the director area to be represented, as required in SDCL 46A-3B-2. A qualified candidate duly appointed to fill a vacancy shall serve out the balance of the director term.

A notice declaring a vacancy on the Board of Directors, the duration of the vacancy appointment, and the period of time for accepting ~~nominating petitions~~ statements of interest of candidates for such vacancy, shall be published in all official newspapers within the director area for which the vacancy exists. Such notification shall be published at least 20 days prior to the time ~~petitions~~ statements of interest will no longer be accepted. ~~Nominating petitions~~ Statements of interest are to be presented to the principal office of the water development district.

The Manager proposed revisiting this matter at the June Board meeting.

Consideration of Revisions to the 2026 District Budget

The Manager presented a year-end summary of fiscal year 2025 expenditures and expenses, and reviewed proposed changes to the FY 2026 District budget (below). He noted that the changes primarily reflect the actual year-end 2025 expenditures and account balances, along with carry-over of funds that had been obligated but not expended. He noted the following particular adjustments:

1. Means of Finance - Capitol Reserves changes reflect 1) an increase of \$191,920 in Committed Fund Balance, reflecting what was actually owed at the start of the year, and 2) a zero dollar carry over of unexpended 2025 Uncommitted Funds.
2. Means of Finance - Miscellaneous Revenues changes reflect 1) an increase in Grants Receivables, and 2) a reduction in Interest income.
3. Reductions in Appropriations - Administration and Appropriations - Technical Assistance reflect salary reductions of 15 and 11 percent, respectively.
4. Increases in Appropriations - Professional Services and Appropriations - Capitol Outlay reflect modest bumps in software and subscriptions.
5. The increase in Appropriations - Project Assistance primarily reflects the bump in 2025 Prior Committed Funds.

FY 2026 BUDGET

<u>MEANS OF FINANCE</u>	Initial 9/25	Revised 4/26	%
100 Tax Revenue	\$ 998,700	\$ 998,700	100
200 Grant Revenue	\$ 300,000	\$ 300,000	100
300 Capitol Reserves	\$ 375,000	\$ 491,920	131
400 Miscellaneous Revenue	<u>\$ 140,000</u>	<u>\$ 162,875</u>	116
TOTAL FY 2026 MEANS OF FINANCE	<u>\$1,813,700</u>	<u>\$1,953,495</u>	108

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APPROPRIATIONS

01	Board of Directors	\$ 41,392	\$ 41,392	100
02	Administration	\$ 213,001	\$ 191,504	90
03	Technical Assistance	\$ 375,897	\$ 335,268	89
04	Operational Expenses	\$ 151,250	\$ 151,520	100
05	Professional Services	\$ 50,000	\$ 51,000	102
06	Capitol Outlay	\$ 71,000	\$ 72,000	101
07	Grant Expenditures	\$ 300,000	\$ 300,000	100
08	Project Assistance	\$ 461,160	\$ 661,082	143
09	Contingency	\$ 150,000	\$ 150,000	100
TOTAL FY 2026 APPROPRIATIONS		\$1,813,700	\$1,953,495	108

Motion by Anderson, seconded by Loveland-Swanstrom to approve the carry-over of funds from 2025 and to adopt the proposed adjustments to the 2026 District operational budget. Motion carried unanimously.

2026 South Dakota Climate & Weather Forecast

Laura Edwards, South Dakota’s State Climatologist, gave a presentation on recent and projected climate trends for eastern South Dakota. She noted that the past winter (December thru March) was one of the warmest and driest on record, with several counties establishing records. Snowfall was also below normal for the area, but not as bad as the western part of the state. Soil moisture, as recorded by MESONET stations, is correspondingly low over much of the middle and lower Big Sioux River basin. She noted that roughly half of the state is under drought conditions, primarily in the south and west, but that dry areas are expanding across the state in the past few months. This has led to impacts on not just agriculture, but has also impacted snow-based recreational activities.

Looking ahead, precipitation across the area is expected to be low, below the ½" per week long-term average. Roughly 40% of annual precipitation typically falls in April thru June, so continued dry conditions can have adverse, long-term impacts. Predictive models do not point to serious problems, but neither do they suggest above normal precipitation over the next several months. Mid-summer conditions are looking to be generally higher temperatures and modest moisture conditions.

She noted that the network of stream gages suggest that spring floods are likely to be limited, barring major spot precipitation events, as most streams/ivers are currently running at or below average.

PFAS in the Big Sioux River - 2024/2025 Monitoring Results

Dr. Lisa Kunza, South Dakota School of Mines & Technology (SDSM&T), provided a summary of their efforts to assess the presence and distribution of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in the Big Sioux River. She noted that PFAS are a large group of synthetic, long-lasting chemicals that are widely used in industrial and consumer products. Certain PFAS have been associated with adverse health outcomes, including certain cancers, liver and immune system effects, and developmental impacts. Because PFAS do not easily break down and can move readily through water, they may travel long distances in surface waters and accumulate downstream of urban and industrial areas.

Beyond specific federal (Clean Water Act) requirements placed on public water suppliers (PWSs), there has been very limited testing for PFAS in South Dakota. In August 2024, the District Board engaged SDSM&T to conduct a survey of PFAS in surface water at 13 locations along the Big Sioux River (BSR), extending from north of Watertown to below Sioux Falls. Each site was sampled multiple times to evaluate the presence and distribution of PFAS over time. The initial sampling event in September 2024 included 11 sites, while subsequent sampling events in 2025 included all 13 sites. Forty PFAS analytes were analyzed using EPA Method 1633.

Fifteen different PFAS were detected above method detection limit, including PFHxS, PFOS, PFBS, PFHxA, PFPeS, PFPeA, PFOA, 6:2FTS, PFBA, PFHpA, PFHpS, PFNA, 8:2FTS, PFOSA, PFDA (listed from highest to lowest maximum observed concentration). In April 2024, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) finalized National Drinking Water Regulations (NPDWR) establishing enforceable Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs) for six PFAS in drinking water, including individual MCLs for PFOA, PFOS, PFHxS, PFNA, and HFPO-DA (GenX), as well as a Hazard Index approach for mixtures containing PFHxS, PFNA, HFPO-DA, and PFBS. Dr. Kunza stated that these drinking water benchmarks **do not** apply to surface waters, but they were considered only as health-based reference values to support interpretation of measured surface water concentrations.

Dr. Kunza noted that all five PFAS with individual drinking water MCLs that were included in the EPA's final rule were detected in the Big Sioux River. During the study period, concentrations of PFHxS, PFOS, and PFOA at selected sites were above their respective EPA drinking water MCL reference values. Concentrations above these drinking water reference values occurred primarily at two downstream urban reach locations (R9.3 and WQM64), with one additional above reference observation for PFOS at R17 on a single sampling date. Most other sites were below these reference values across sampling events. The highest PFAS concentrations were observed at site R9.3, WQM64, and R17. The report summarized observed PFAS concentrations by site and sampling date and provides context for future monitoring considerations.

The Manager stated that District staff would begin collecting samples for PFAS analyses in 2026. The 13 sampling sites that were part of the SDSM&T study would be tested, along with another site on the Whetstone River near Big Stone City. This site was part of a State sampling effort in 2025, and is located within District limits. Samples will be analyzed at South Dakota State University's newly established PFAS laboratory, using EPA Method 1633. Two rounds of sampling are planned in June and September.

District Updates

2026 Water Quality Sampling - Jeremy Hinke reviewed water sampling plans for the 2026 field season. Stream and river samples will be collected at 43 sites across the District, at sites previously assessed. Four additional sites will be added in the area around the planned new Smithfield processing facility near Colton to establish baseline water quality conditions in the area. A second round of monthly samples will be taken at the 43 primary sites looking at the concentration of nitrates in the water. Sampling will take place on nine (9) lakes within the District, consisting of composite in-lake samples and grab samples for *E. coli* bacteria. At two of the lakes (Albert and East Oakwood), total dissolved phosphorous will be added to the parameters sampled.

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Lake Madison Development Association - In September 2023, the District entered into an agreement with the Lake Madison Development Association (LMDA) to provide one-time incentive payments to landowners who enroll qualified land parcels in selected best management practice (BMP) activities. Qualifying criteria included 1) a minimum of forty (40) acres, 2) close proximity to a water body (lake, stream or wetland), and 3) a determination by LMDA and District staff that the effort would provide a water quality benefit. Martin Jarrett, LMDA, requested an amendment to the qualifying criteria, lowering the minimum parcel size to 15 acres. He noted that while larger parcels were preferred, there were instances where an otherwise good target for BMP implementation was disqualified for being too small. The Manager supported the request.

Motion by Larson, seconded by Anderson to lower the minimum parcel size from 40 acres to 15 acres as requested. Motion carried 6-1 with Directors Anderson, Bonander, Elofson, Larson and Loveland-Swanstrom, along with Chairman Moes, supporting, and Director Barth opposed.

Adjournment

There being no further District business or other matters, Chairman Moes declared the meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

Jeff Barth, Secretary

DRAFT document prepared by Jay Gilbertson, EDWDD Manager.

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