



**East Dakota Water Development District
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**MINUTES
May 19, 2011**

The Board of Directors of the East Dakota Water Development District (EDWDD) held a regular meeting on May 19, 2011 at the District office in Brookings. Chairman Eggers called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. The following persons attended:

Directors Present

Lois Brown
Mary Ellen Connelly
Curt Eggers
Martin Jarrett
John Johnson
Kay Kassube
Roger Scheibe
Jerry Soholt
John Weidler

Directors Absent

none

Others Present

Dave Bennett, Big Sioux Community Water System
Emily Haakinson, Lake County
Jim Madsen, Izaak Walton League
Shelley Nelson, Kingsbury County Commission
Rina Reynolds, Brookings

Staff Present

Jeremy Hinke
Deb Springman
Kristie Theilen

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Administrative Items

Approval of Agenda - Chairman Eggers asked to have an assistance request from Brookings County dropped, and a funding request from KingBrook Rural Water System added to the agenda. **Motion** by Jarrett, seconded by Scheibe to approve the agenda as amended. Motion carried unanimously.

Minutes - The Board reviewed the Minutes of the meetings on April 21, 2011. Director Connelly noted that the draft minutes incorrectly stated that she attended the Sioux Empire Water Festival. **Motion** by Scheibe, seconded by Kassube to approve the April 21st Minutes as amended. Motion carried unanimously.

Financial Reports - The Board reviewed the April 2011 Financial Report. **Motion** by Soholt, seconded by Brown to accept the April 2011 Financial Report. Motion carried unanimously. Chairman Eggers then asked that the report be placed in the District files.

Report of Meetings and Conferences - Directors Brown, Kassube, Scheibe and Weidler attended the Big Sioux Water Festival in Brookings on May 10th. They noted that former Director Robert Todd was also present as a classroom guide.

Director Jarrett attended the Regional Meeting of the American Water Works Association in Deadwood on May 12th.

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Director Johnson attended the April 21st meeting of the Upper Big Sioux River Advisory Board in Watertown.

Director Weidler attended a meeting in Sioux Falls of Vermillion River watershed counties exploring efforts to address basin-wide flooding/drainage issues on May 18th.

Upcoming Meetings -

1. **May 23 - 8:00 p.m.** - USDA Service Center, Watertown. Codington County Commission Work Group Meeting.
2. **May 26 - 5:45 p.m.** - Holiday Inn City Centre, Sioux Falls. Lewis & Clark Regional Water System Annual Meeting.
3. **June 14 - 9:00 a.m.** - Day County Courthouse, Webster. SDACD Coteau Annual Area Meeting.
4. **June 16 - 9:00 a.m.** - EDWDD Office, Brookings. June EDWDD Board of Directors Meeting.
5. **June 16-18** - Thief River Falls, MN. 2011 Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts Summer Tour.
6. **June 20 - 3:00 p.m.** - John's Place, Flandreau. SDACD Vermillion-Big Sioux Annual Area Meeting.

Travel Authorization - Motion by Brown, seconded by Connelly to authorize attendance by the Manager of the 2011 Minnesota Association of Watershed District (MAWD) Summer Tour, which will be held in Thief River Falls, Minnesota, on June 16-18. Motion carried unanimously.

Project Assistance Requests

Big Sioux Community Water System - Dave Bennett, Water Treatment Plant Operator for the Big Sioux Community Water System (BSCWS), presented the Board with a project assistance request from the 2010 Well Head Protection Area Protection Program (Program). The Manager noted that in May of 2010, the District set aside \$250,000 in District project assistance funds to provide direct support to public water suppliers (PWSs) within its coverage area for the purpose of advancing source water protection efforts. The Program provides cost-share assistance to PWSs in support of specific best management practices within, or directly impacting, recognized well head protection areas (WHPAs).

BSCWS is requesting \$25,000 in Program assistance to be applied toward the purchase of 33.5 acres of land within the established well head protection area for their Egan well field. The BSCWS Board of Directors has authorized the purchase of the land, and a purchase agreement has been executed. Mr. Bennett indicated that it is BSCWS's intent to close on the purchase agreement on November 2nd.

The Manager has examined the material provided by BSCWS, and concluded that the request meets Program requirements. The only question was the total cost of the land purchase. Program assistance in this case would only cover 50% of the purchase cost, up to a cap of \$25,000. If the purchase price is for \$50,000 or greater, then the request for \$25,000 is appropriate. If the total price is less than \$50,000, our expenditure would be reduced accordingly. Mr. Bennett indicated that while the final cost had not yet been determined, it would be in the range of \$140,000 to \$160,000.

Motion by Kassube, seconded by Weidler to provide District cost-share assistance from the 2010 Well Head Protection Area Protection Program to cover fifty percent (50%) of the price of the proposed land purchase, up to a maximum of \$25,000, by BSCWS as requested. It was noted that the actual payment would not be

made until after the purchase was finalized later in the year. Motion carried unanimously, with Director Jarrett abstaining.

Kingbrook Rural Water System - Randy Jencks, Manager of the Kingbrook Rural Water System (KRWS), presented the Board with a project assistance request from the 2010 Well Head Protection Area Protection Program (Program). KRWS is requesting \$25,000 in Program assistance to be applied toward the purchase of roughly 320 acres of land within the established well head protection area for their Chester well field. The KRWS Board of Directors has authorized the purchase of the land, and a purchase agreement has been executed and is being finalized.

The Manager has examined the material provided by KRWS, and concluded that the request meets Program requirements. The total purchase price of the land exceeds that necessary for KRWS to qualify for the full amount of Program support, \$25,000.

Motion by Johnson, seconded by Jarrett to provide District cost-share assistance from the 2010 Well Head Protection Area Protection Program to cover fifty percent (50%) of the price of the proposed land purchase, up to a maximum of \$25,000, by KRWS as requested. It was noted that the actual payment would not be made until after the purchase was finalized. Motion carried unanimously, with Director Weidler abstaining.

United States Geological Survey - The Board was presented with two joint funding agreements (JFAs) from the United States Geological Survey (USGS) for the installation and then operation of a stream gaging station on the outlet of Lake Thompson. The Manager had requested the JFAs in response to growing interest among the six counties that make up the core of the Vermillion River watershed (Clay, Turner, McCook, Miner, Lake and Kingsbury) to address basin-wide water management. As this effort moves forward, upper basin counties (Kingsbury and Miner) have recognized that an important element of any effort to deal with the water in the system is the ability to monitor the amount of water coming out of Lake Thompson. In the mid-1980s, and again in the late 1990s, USGS operated a stream gaging station west of Ramona on the East Fork of the Vermillion River, immediately downstream of the Lake Thompson outlet. In each instance, when the flows from the lake ceased, the gage was discontinued. The District provided the local cost-share for the gages.

Installation of the new gaging station at the Ramona site would cost \$19,000. Seasonal operation (April thru November) of the gage for the balance of federal fiscal year (FFY) 2011 and all of FFY 2012 (June 2011 thru September 2012) would be \$14,500. The USGS Cooperative Studies program would cover fifty percent (50%) of the total costs (\$33,500), leaving \$16,750 (\$9,500 for installation; \$7,250 for operation) to come from non-federal sources.

Commissioner Shelley Nelson from Kingsbury County encouraged the Board to enter into the JFAs, as the results would provide a sound technical basis for upper basin management decisions.

Motion by Kassube, seconded by Jarrett to provide District cost-share assistance for fifty-percent (50%) of the cost, to a maximum of \$9,500, for the installation of a stream gaging station on the Lake Thompson outlet. Motion carried unanimously. The Board deferred action on the request for operational funds, and directed staff to provide additional information on the effort at the June Board meeting.

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2011 Big Sioux Water Festival

Deb Springman, Big Sioux Water Festival Project Coordinator, gave a summary of the recently completed (May 10th) event. 1,010 fourth graders from 54 classes attended. They learned about water from over 30 presenters and more than 20 interactive displays in the exhibit hall. 11 classes participated in the quiz bowl. Over 250 volunteers helped stage the event, with former Director Todd and his wife acting as guides. The teachers resource room contained information a variety of sources, including SD Ag in the Classroom, Project WET, The Outdoor Campus, USFWS Prairie Discovery Trunk, and the SD Children's Museum, along with the District's traveling trunks. Media reports on the event occurred in local newspapers and radio stations. The District has received Thank You notes from classes at several schools and a number of presenters. Ms. Springman noted that the 2012 event will be held on Tuesday, May 9th, on the South Dakota State University campus.

Proposed Changes to the Federal Clean Water Act

Jim Madsen, National President of the Izaak Walton League, presented a summary of changes (in a draft guidance document) that have been proposed by the United States Environmental protection Agency and the United States Army Corps of Engineers for determining whether a waterway, water body, or wetland is protected by the Federal Clean Water Act. Over the past decade, interpretations of Supreme Court rulings have removed some critical waters from federal protection, and have generally caused confusion about which waters and wetlands are protected under the Clean Water Act. As a result, important waters now lack clear protection under the law, and businesses and regulators face uncertainty and delay. The draft guidance is intended to reaffirm protections for small streams that feed into larger streams, rivers, bays and coastal waters. It should also reaffirm protection for wetlands that filter pollution and help protect communities from flooding. It also will provide clearer, more predictable guidelines for determining which water bodies are protected by the Clean Water Act.

Project Updates/Status Reports

Education and Outreach - Deb Springman reported that as a South Dakota facilitator for Project Wet, she conducted a 6-hour Project WET Workshop at the Watertown Regional Library for 11 area educators on April 30th. Project WET (Water Education for Teachers) is a an international, interdisciplinary, water education program for formal and non-formal educators of students ages 5 to 18. The curriculum consists of 91 hands-on activities that help develop awareness, knowledge, and skills in regards to our water resources.

Ms. Springman and two other staff members participated in "Live it Up at the Library" on May 5th at the Watertown Regional Library. The event was sponsored by South Dakota Public Broadcasting. The event brought water resource awareness to children ages pre-kindergarten to 1st grade. More than 900 youngsters from the area attended.

Ms. Springman was asked by the National Izaak Walton League to assist in teaching Creek Freaks at Terry Redlin Environmental Center at Bramble Park Zoo, Watertown, on May 14th and 15th. Creek Freaks is a new educational program intended to teach youth ages 10-14 years old about the importance of our lakes, rivers and streams. The training session prepared adult volunteers to lead the program in South Dakota. The training included teaching concepts, conducting classroom experiments, as well as a day of field training at Mud Creek where chemical, biological and physical habitat information was collected and analyzed to

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determine relative stream health. South Dakota is only the second state in the country to receive this training. The first training was conducted in Cedar Rapids, Iowa in 2010.

Adjournment

There being no further District business or issues for consideration, Chairman Eggers declared the meeting adjourned at 11:40 a.m.

Roger Scheibe, Secretary

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