



East Dakota Water Development District
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MINUTES
November 19, 2009

The Board of Directors of the East Dakota Water Development District (EDWDD) held a regular meeting on November 19, 2009, at the Water Reclamation Plant, 4500 North Sycamore, Sioux Falls, SD. Chairman Eggers called the meeting to order at 9:45 a.m. The following persons attended:

Directors Present

Lois Brown
Curt Eggers
Doug Feten
Vincent Flemming
Martin Jarrett
John Johnson
Kay Kassube
Robert Todd
John Weidler

Staff Present

Jay Gilbertson
Deb Springman
Roger Strom

Others Present

Andy Berg, City of Sioux Falls
Paul East, CPA, East, Vander Woude, Grant and Associates
Shirley Flemming, Florence
Bob Kappel, City of Sioux Falls
Dick Kelly, Minnehaha County Commission
Jason Love, RESPEC
Jared Oswald, RESPEC
Rod Price, AFLAC
Janice Shaeffer, CPA, East, Vander Woude, Grant and Company
Harley Shafer, Minnehaha Conservation District
Brian Top, USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service

Administrative Items

Approval of Agenda - The Manager requested two changes to the Agenda that had been distributed - the addition of a project assistance request from the Minnehaha Conservation District, and the deletion of a presentation by the Izaak Walton League. **Motion** by Weidler, seconded by Kassube to approve the agenda as amended. Motion carried unanimously.

Minutes - The Board reviewed the Minutes of the October 15, 2009, meeting. **Motion** by Feten, seconded by Todd to approve the October 2009 Minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Financial Reports - The Board reviewed the October 2009 Financial Report. **Motion** by Flemming, seconded by Weidler to accept the October 2009 Financial Report. Motion carried unanimously. Chairman Eggers then asked that the report be placed in the District files.

The Board then reviewed a comparison of District fiscal activity versus the District 2009 budget through the end of October 2009.

Report of Meetings and Conferences - Directors Flemming and Johnson attended the meeting of the Upper Big Sioux Watershed Advisory Board in Watertown on October 15.

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Director Todd attended the Eastern South Dakota Water Conference in Brookings on November 2 & 3.

Directors Brown and Kassube attended public presentation on the result of the Big Sioux River TMDL Study in Sioux Falls on November 3.

Directors Jarrett and Todd attended a meeting of the Lake County Commission at which water quality and drainage issues were discussed on November 10 in Madison. The Commission is considering establishing a citizen committee to provide advice on water issues.

Director Flemming attended the Lake Pelican Water Project District meeting in Watertown on November 18.

The Manager briefly commented on the following meetings he attended:

1. **October 16, 20 & 23** - Ortonville, MN. Planning meeting for a joint investigation of the Whetstone and Yellow Bank River watersheds by the District and the Upper Minnesota River and the Lac qui Parle/Yellow Bank Watershed Districts.
2. **October 20** - Brookings. Board of Water and Natural Resources (BWNR) meeting via teleconference.
3. **October 21** - Sioux Falls. Source water protection discussions with City drinking water staff.
4. **October 22** - Watertown. Source water protection discussions with City drinking water staff.
5. **October 27 - 29** - Spearfish. SD Association of Rural Water Systems Managers Organization.
6. **November 2 & 3** - Brookings. Eastern South Dakota water Conference.
7. **November 3** - Sioux Falls. Sioux Falls Area Big Sioux River TMDL public informational meeting.
8. **November 5 & 9** - Sioux Falls. CBSRWP easements discussions with City staff.
9. **November 6** - Pierre. BWNR meeting.
10. **November 10** - Veblen. Field inspection (with James River WDD Manager) of conditions around two permitted dairies.
11. **November 10** - Madison. Lake County Commission meeting to discuss formation of a County Water Advisory Commission.
12. **November 12** - Brookings. SD Lakes and Streams Association Board of Directors.
13. **November 17** - Pierre. SD Water Management Board hearing on amendments to FC-5 (Lake Poinsett flood control gates).

Upcoming Meetings -

1. **November 24** - Canby, MN (1:30 p.m.) & Madison, MN (7:00 p.m.). Lac qui Parle/Yellow Bank Rivers TMDL Public Informational Meetings.
2. **December 3-5** Alexandria, MN. Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts 39th Annual Meeting & Trade Show.
3. **December 9 & 10** - Matthews Training Center, Pierre. SD Water Management Board.
4. **December 12 - 9:00 a.m.** - Community Center, Wabasso, MN. AREA II Minnesota River Basin Legislative Breakfast and Board Meeting.
5. **December 15 - 9:00 a.m.** - Matthews Training Center, Pierre. Non-Point Source Task Force
6. **December 17 - 1:00 p.m.** - EDWDD Office, Brookings. December EDWDD Board Meeting. A luncheon for past and present Board members, spouses and staff will precede the meeting.

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Payment Requests - The Manager presented one payment request:

United States Geological Survey - At the November 2008 meeting, the Board agreed to provide District cost-share assistance totaling \$6,900 as cost-share for the operation and maintenance of a United States Geological Survey (USGS) gaging station. The gage is located on the Big Sioux River near Bruce. The USGS has submitted it's a payment request for \$6,900. **Motion** by Brown, seconded by Weidler to authorize payment of \$6,900 as requested. The Manager noted that this payment would complete the District obligation under this agreement. Motion carried unanimously.

Out-of-State Travel Authorization - The Manager requested Board authorization for out-of-state travel. He asked to attend the Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts (MAWD) 39th Annual Meeting to be held on December 3-5 at the Arrowhead Conference Center in Alexandria, Minnesota. **Motion** by Jarrett, seconded by Feten to authorize the Manager's attendance at the MAWD 39th Annual Meeting as requested. Motion carried unanimously.

Federal Fiscal Year 2010 USGS Gaging Station Agreement

The Manager reviewed the proposed joint funding agreement between the District and the USGS for support of stream gaging stations for Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2010 (October 2009 - September 2010). During FFY 2009, the District provided cost-share assistance for one gage, on the Big Sioux River near Bruce, at a cost of \$6,900. The current joint funding proposal would be for a continuation of support for this gage, at a cost of \$7,100. No new gage sites have been proposed.

Motion by Kassube, seconded by Brown to approve the FFY 2010 joint funding agreement for \$7,100 in support of the gage on the Big Sioux River near Bruce. Motion carried unanimously.

2008 Fiscal Audit Report

Paul East, CPA, and Janice Shaeffer, CPA, with East Vander Woude, Grant and Company, reviewed the Final Audit Report of the District finances during 2008. Copies of the final audit report were distributed to Board members. In general, there were no substantial accounting errors or significant problems. He noted that all of the recommendations suggested at the conclusion of the 2007 audit had been implemented by District staff. The report had been submitted to the State Department of Legislative Audit and had been accepted.

Motion by Todd, seconded by Jarrett to accept and approve the 2008 fiscal audit report. Motion carried unanimously.

Big Sioux River TMDL Project Update

City of Sioux Falls - Bob Kappel, with the City of Sioux Falls Public Works Department, presented the Board with an update on the activities of the Sioux Falls Total Maximum Daily Load Assessment Project. The project involves an assessment of water quality in the Big Sioux River and development of total maximum daily load (TMDL) reports for several river segments currently considered impaired. Specifically, the goals of this project are to: (1) assess the historic and existing health of the Big Sioux River from near Dell Rapids to just upstream of Brandon; (2) identify and allocate loads to the primary stressors that have led to the impairment of these reaches and listing in the *2008 South Dakota Integrated Report for Surface Water Quality Assessment* (IR); (3) develop TMDL reports for these reaches to specify the existing load,

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load capacity, and current departure from load capacity for the pollutants of concern, (4) identify best management practices (BMPs) that will restore beneficial uses in these reaches; and (5) provide information to the public and key stakeholders to increase watershed awareness and provide training sessions to appropriate management personnel.

Mr. Kappel noted that the City's consultant, RESPEC, had reviewed all available historical data, including information collected as part of the EDWDD-sponsored Central Big Sioux River Watershed Assessment Project. RESPEC and DENR staff had installed water quality sampling stations and stage recorders at various locations on the river and select tributaries, including storm water out falls. Sampling and stage and discharge measurements began in March, and continued through the end of October.

Mr. Kappel gave a brief summary of the preliminary results of there work. Total suspended solids (TSS) levels measured at sampling sites, including storm water system out falls, were largely below the applicable water quality standard. The lone exception was a storm water site in the northern part of the City where storm drain best management practices have not been installed. Conversely, bacteria (*E. coli*) levels measured all tended to exceed the immersion recreation standard. However, it was noted that the true measure of the problem would require determination of actual pollutant loadings.

Mr. Kappel stated that at this point, a few general conclusions could be made. First, the Big Sioux River is currently not listed as impaired for TSS, and the Project results strongly support this. Further, it would appear that the City's storm water management plan was working quite well in regard to this parameter. Second, bacteria remains a problem for the river. Source identification is yet to be completed, but it appears that Skunk Creek and the storm water out falls are large contributors. He concluded with thanking the Board for their continued technical and financial assistance, and looked forward to return next year for a final summary.

Dewey C. Gevik Outdoor Conservation Learning Center

Harley Shafer, District Manager for the Minnehaha County Conservation District briefed the Board on the Dewey C. Gevik Outdoor Conservation Learning Center (Center). The Center is being developed as an interpretive educational experience open to the public. This learning area will emphasize conservation practices, their design, function and beneficial relationship to the environment. Through the information presented, individuals will reach a greater understanding and appreciation for wildlife, the environment, and the need for conservation of our natural resources for future generations. Conservation practices established at the learning area are: grassed waterway with rock weir structure, shelter-belt plantings, native grass plantings, and a natural wetland. These practices have been built and will be maintained to give the general public a better understanding of the benefits of conservation.

Mr. Shafer noted that one of the last elements in the development of the Center is construction of an elevated walkway. The walkway would extend out into the on-site wetland, providing visitors with non-disruptive access and observation opportunities. The walkway would be large enough to accommodate small groups. He then presented the Board with a request for cost-share assistance to build the walkway. The projected cost is \$10,000, of which the Conservation District has secured \$4,000. **Motion** by Jarrett, seconded by Kassube, to provide District cost-share assistance for sixty percent (60%), up to a cap of \$6,000, for the completion of the walkway. Motion carried unanimously, with Chairman Eggers abstaining.

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Project Updates

Public Outreach & Water Quality Monitoring - Deb Springman gave the updates on the Big Sioux water Festival and the Dakota Water Watch volunteer monitoring program. Registration for the 2010 Water Festival closed on November 1st. 33 schools with 55 classes registered— total 1095 kids. Reservations have been made for catering and facilities for the next festival. The BSWF committee met the end of Oct in preparation for the 2010 festival. The theme will be “Critters Need Clean Water”, chosen in honor of Dave German since this is his last year before retirement. Watershed Tour Kits are being stocked and readied to take to the 18 classes participating in the Quiz Bowl. The Cranbrook Institute of Science in Bloomfield Hills, MI contacted EDWDD regarding the BSWF. They are putting together a guidebook about community water festivals to help plan more water-focused events throughout the Great Lakes region. The "Guide to a Great Lakes Water Festival" is a grant-funded project through Wayne County, MI National Rouge River Wet Demonstration Project. The BSWF will be one of 5 festivals being featured in the guide.

The sampling season for Dakota Water Watch drew to a close at the end of October. Volunteers for the season totaled 64, up from 46 last year. They collected information from 100 sites, an increase of 16 from 2008. The second season update was sent out to all volunteers. In the next few weeks “thank you’s” will be going out to all who volunteered during the 2009 season. A season booklet is being prepared which will contain general information about DWW, monitored parameters, and a collection of data from 2009.

Ms. Springman is also working with Dr. Nels Troestrup, a professor in the Biology Department at SDSU. He is developing a macroinvertebrate voucher database. EDWDD will be compiling a listing of all voucher specimens collected during the various Big Sioux River area watershed assessment projects the District has sponsored. This will help Dr. Troestrup identify any missing vouchers.

Central Big Sioux River Watershed (Implementation) Project - Roger Strom, Project Coordinator, provided a summary of activities. Final action(closing) on the Johnson Family Trust riparian easement has been delayed pending resolution of the ownership of a small land parcel. Easement offers have been sent to the owners of the Beare and Hanson properties in Hamlin County, and final execution of the agreements is expected before the end of the year. Efforts have begun to place portions of City of Sioux property along Slip Up Creek in Minnehaha County under permanent easements. The properties are part of the land obtained for a water supply project that is no longer under consideration. The effort could bring up to 150 acres into the program. Two riparian area managements (RAM) contracts are in development in Moody County. Work proceeds on the Dorus Ravenhurst, Gerhold Dairy and Jared Hanisch animal waste management systems, with substantial construction activities completed at the Ravenhurst and Hanisch facilities. Mr. Strom offered to take any interested Board members, and any other interested persons, on a tour of the Hanisch operation after the meeting.

Adjournment

There being no further District business, Chairman Eggers declared the meeting adjourned at 12:55 p.m.

Doug Feten, Secretary

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