

**EAST DAKOTA WDD  
KEY ACTIVITIES & PROGRAMS**

**Dakota Water Watch** - A citizen-based, volunteer water quality monitoring program that provides District residents with the tools, training and support needed to examine the condition of their lakes, streams and rivers.

([www.eastdakota.org/dakotawaterwatch](http://www.eastdakota.org/dakotawaterwatch))

**Children's Water Festivals** - Each year, 4<sup>th</sup> grade students from within the District are invited to an interdisciplinary one-day water festival. The students apply their water education knowledge from the classroom to "real life" situations in a fun, interactive environment. The Big Sioux Water Festival is held in Brookings ([www.bigsixwaterfestival.org](http://www.bigsixwaterfestival.org)), and the Sioux Empire Water Festival is held in Sioux Falls.

**Ground Water Protection** - Shallow aquifers are the primary drinking water source in the District. The District has long supported efforts to better define the extent and nature of these resources, and then apply this information to the development of protective strategies. As a result, these critical water resources are protected for both current and future District residents at a level rarely encountered elsewhere.

**Watershed Assessments & Restoration** - Full use and enjoyment of South Dakota's public waters means meeting designated water quality standards. Assessment studies better define conditions, identify the likely cause(s) of any impairment, and develop best management practices (BMPs) for addressing problems and to establish appropriate total maximum daily loads (TMDLs). Restoration projects implement these recommendations and BMPs through voluntary cooperative efforts with land owners and cost-share assistance, with support from other natural resource agencies.

**Engineering Studies** - Cost-share assistance to public utilities to evaluate the condition of their drinking water, waste water and storm water management systems. The District strongly supports local efforts to identify infrastructure problems and solutions before they become critical (and costly).

**EAST DAKOTA  
WATER DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT**

**Board of Directors**

Lois Brown, Sioux Falls  
Curt Eggers, Renner  
Roger Scheibe, Brookings  
Vincent Flemming, Florence  
Martin Jarrett, Madison  
Mary Ellen Connelly, Sioux Falls  
Kay Kassube, Sioux Falls  
Jerry Soholt, Sioux Falls  
John Weidler, Howard

*Meetings of the Board of Directors are typically scheduled for the morning of the third Thursday of each month. Contact the District office for meeting times and locations.*

**Staff**

Jay Gilbertson, Manager/Treasurer  
[edwdd@brookings.net](mailto:edwdd@brookings.net)  
Deb Springman, Senior Project Specialist  
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Kristi Thielen, Administrative Assistant  
[edwdd1@brookings.net](mailto:edwdd1@brookings.net)

**District Office**

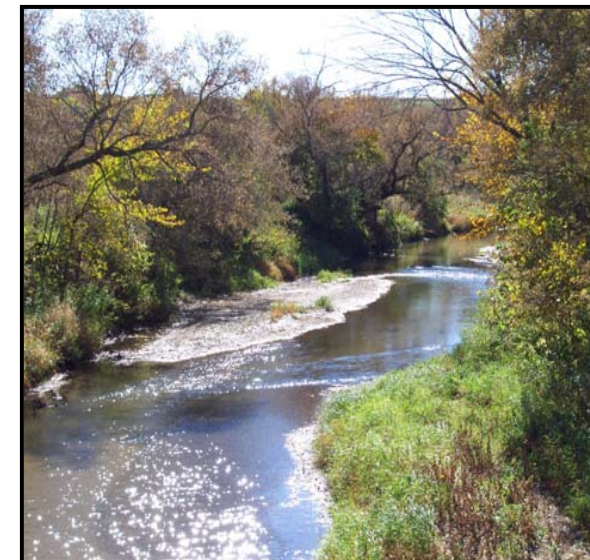
132B Airport Avenue  
Brookings, South Dakota 57006  
(605) 688-6741  
(605) 688-6744 FAX

**Website**

<http://www.eastdakota.org>

# East Dakota Water Development District

*Water Resource Information,  
Education & Protection*



## WHAT IS WATER DEVELOPMENT?

Water development can include economic development, irrigation, water conservation, domestic water supplies, lake restoration, recreation, flood control, watershed management, erosion control, drainage, water quality, and water supplies. All of these areas are interrelated with many other economic and social factors necessary to build or maintain a healthy rural and business climate in South Dakota.

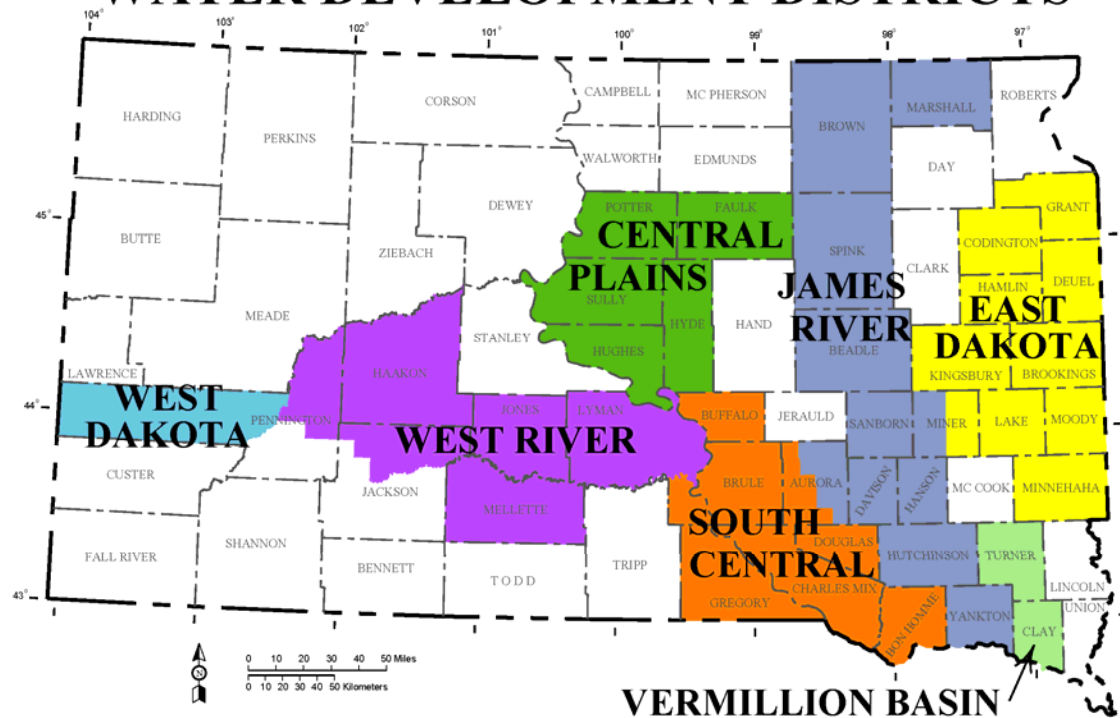
## WHAT IS A WATER DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT AND WHAT DO THEY DO?

A water development district is a political subdivision of the State. South Dakota Codified Laws, Chapters 46A-3A through 46A-3E, provide the legal basis and mandate for these entities. Water development districts promote conservation, development, and proper management of district water resources according to district priorities. They provide technical, organizational, and financial assistance to prospective and existing projects. While sharing many common efforts, each water development district has developed programs and expertise designed to address those issues most important to their area.

## HOW IS A WATER DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT MANAGED AND SUPPORTED?

Each District is governed by an elected Board of Directors, consisting of 5, 7 or 9 members, depending on the population of the District. Directors serve staggered, four-year terms. The Board hires staff as necessary to meet the needs of the district. Water development districts have a limited taxing authority, being able to levy a tax of no more than thirty cents per thousand dollars of taxable valuation (0.3 mill). They also pursue external grant support for priority activities.

# WATER DEVELOPMENT DISTRICTS



## HOW TO GET HELP FROM A WATER DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT

If an organization has a project that needs technical, organizational, or financial assistance, contact the water development district in which the activity is located. District staff have extensive experience in developing and supporting projects. They can assist an organization in preparing an application to include a project on the State Water Plan, an important step if a project needs state or federal assistance. They can also help project sponsors obtain funds from other sources.

## WHAT OTHER BENEFITS ARE AVAILABLE FROM WATER DEVELOPMENT DISTRICTS?

Water development districts have worked closely with the South Dakota Department of Environment and Natural Resources, and other state and federal

natural resource agencies, to examine a variety of major water issues. Activities have included addressing drinking water, waste water and storm sewer problems; non-point source pollution management, drainage, aquifer identification and hydrology studies, environmental education and general water planning studies. The information and experience derived from these efforts can be used to predict future needs, develop long-term protection strategies and/or be applied toward local water resource concerns.

Water development districts have been very active in getting many water projects off the ground. Over the years, they have provided millions of dollars in financial support and provided technical assistance to make water development a successful reality in South Dakota. These districts have become a vital link in our State's water development process.