



Draft Minutes for meeting on **May 9, 2017**

An audio recording is available for this meeting at westdakotawater.com.

CALL TO ORDER: The West Dakota Water Development District convened for its regular board meeting at West River Electric, 3250 SD Hwy. 44 Rapid City, SD. Chairperson Mueller called the meeting to order at 6:02 pm by leading the Pledge of Allegiance. Director Deurloo gave an opening prayer. Directors present: Kenn Moss (District 1), Dan Bjerke (District 2), Mike Mueller (District 3), Robert Akers (District 5), Robert Williams (District 6), Ken Steinken (District 7), James Bialota (District 8), Jeanette Deurloo (District 9).

Director(s) absent: Nathan Gjovik (District 4). A quorum was declared.

Employees present: Emily Martinez (Administrative Manager), Leon Ewert (Parliamentarian).

Others in attendance: Jerome Wright (PhD student SDSMT), David Bender (USGS), Bill Eldridge (Citizen), Joanne Noyes (SD Geological Survey), Galen Hoogestraat (USGS), Barry Muxen (Clean Water Alliance), Dan Richer (Citizen), George Ferebee (Citizen).

APPROVAL OF AGENDA – Moved by Steinken and seconded by Bjerke to approve the agenda. Motion passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES – Moved by Akers and seconded by Biolata to approve minutes from the March 14, 2017 meeting with a change noting that a recording of the meeting is available online. Motion passed unanimously.

TREASURERS REPORT

Akers presented the Treasurer's Report indicating significant bills paid which included a \$150,000 payment to the Canyon Lake Dredging Project and a final payment of \$15,916.88 to SDSMT for the Didymo study.

Moved by Moss and seconded by Bjerke to approve Treasurer's Report as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

Moved by Deurloo and seconded by Moss to reimburse Ewert for cost of shredding WDWDD check blanks with incorrect mailing address (\$6.39) and software for recording meetings (\$34.99). Motion passed unanimously. Biolata recommended not paying for check shredding in the future as it is a free service offered by some banks.

Moved by Akers and seconded by Bjerke to pay annual dues of \$100 to Black Hills Multiple Use Coalition. Motion failed 4- 4. Mueller, Biolata, Moss and Williams opposed.

TAX LEVY REQUEST

Moved by Akers and seconded by Biolata to check “Estimated max tax dollars available” on the 2017 Tax Levy Request and to submit prior to deadline. Motion passed unanimously.

2016 ANNUAL REPORT

Moved by Deurloo and seconded by Bjerke to accept the 2016 Annual Financial Report as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

H2E ADMINISTRATION CONTRACT

Moved by Bjerke and seconded by Moss to accept terms for one-year renewal as proposed by H2E for the administration and management of West Dakota Water Development District effective August 1, 2017. H2E offered to provide the same services as previous years for the reduced lump sum of \$63,400, a \$10,180 reduction from the original contract amount of \$73,580. Motion passed unanimously.

USGS CANYON LAKE/RAPID CREEK STUDY FUND REQUEST – Second vote

Hoogestraat reported that USGS had refined some lab details in the proposal. He also stated that USGS had taken the first samples (potentially at their own expense) on Monday, May 8 in order to coordinate with the samples taken by H2E and DENR for DNA and pathogenicity studies. Williams asked if there were plans to test for heavy metals. Hoogestraat said there were no plans at this time to test for heavy metals.

Moved by Bjerke and seconded by Williams for the second vote to grant USGS \$20,000 per year for 2 years to be paid in quarterly installments as routine expenditures for the proposed “Water Quality Monitoring of Canyon Lake, 2017-2018” study. Motion passed unanimously.

USGS STREAMFLOW GAGING STATIONS CONTINUATION PROJECT

David Bender of USGS presented background information about the Dakota Water Science Center South Dakota Gaging Network. The presentation (which can be viewed at westdakotawater.com/agendasminutes.html) included maps of stream gage locations across the state and around the Black Hills, a cross-section illustration of the hydrologic setting of the Black Hills, along with graphs and charts created from data collected by the Castle Creek and Rhoads Fork streamflow gages over a period of 30 or more years. He explained that the funding request remained the same as the previous year’s request with USGS providing \$11,725 of the \$26,150 annual cost to operate and maintain the two stream gages.

Moved by Akers and seconded by Steinken to continue to grant \$14,785 to fund the operation and maintenance of Castle Creek and Rhoads Fork streamflow gages from October 1, 2017 to September 30, 2018 for the Dakota Water Science Center Water Resources Investigations project as outlined in the Joint Funding Agreement submitted by USGS.

George Ferebee stated that he believed the USGS had also requested that Pennington County Commission fund the same stream gages and asked that the board consider waiting until next meeting to make a decision to ensure that the USGS was not “double dipping.”

Bender stated that only WDWDD and USGS were funding the Rhoads Fork and Castle Creek streamflow gages. He added that there also may be precipitation gages at those locations that the Pennington County Emergency Management funds.

Moved by Moss and seconded by Biolata to table motion until next meeting. Motion failed, 4-4. Bjerke, Akers, Steinken and Deurloo opposed.

Chair Mueller called for a vote on the motion to continue to fund Rhoads Fork and Castle Creek streamflow gages from October 1, 2017 to September 30, 2018. Motion passed 6-2. Moss and Biolata opposed.

2018 HYDROLOGY CONFERENCE KEYNOTE SPEAKER FUNDING REQUEST

South Dakota Geological Survey staff Joanne Noyes requested the WDWDD board to continue to fund the John T. Loucks Keynote speaker for the 2018 Western South Dakota Hydrology Conference.

Moved by Deurloo and seconded by Biolata to grant \$2,000 to fund the John T. Loucks Keynote Speaker for the 2018 Western South Dakota Hydrology Conference. Motion passed unanimously.

New Items/Business

CONSERVATION OF WATER THROUGH USE OF COMPOST - Funding Request:

SDSMT PhD student Jerome Wright presented information from his draft research proposal to study “The conservation of irrigation water through the use of compost as a soil amendment.” Wright conducted a demonstration showing the different absorption rates of three soil samples with 10 percent, 5 percent and no compost. Wright also answered questions concerning his project budget. (See [5/9/2017 Board Packet](#) for details.)

Moved by Bjerke and seconded by Steinken to grant \$25,000 to fund a portion of “The conservation of irrigation water through the use of compost as a soil amendment” study as requested in Wright’s proposal. Motion failed 6-2. Moss, Mueller, Biolata, Akers, Williams and Deurloo opposed.

CHAIRMAN’S COMMENTS - none

ITEMS FROM DIRECTORS - none

ITEMS FROM ADMINISTRATION

KOTA-TV taped DNA water sampling of Rapid Creek and conducted interviews on Monday, May 8 and Tuesday, May 9. A story about the testing will air some time in the future.

ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC – The floor was opened to the public. Former WDWDD director and treasurer Dan Richer apologized to the board and Martinez for his actions and comments at the last meeting he attended in January. He asked that his apology be entered into the public record.

Barry Muxen of the Black Hills Clean Water Alliance announced that BHCWA meets the second Saturday of the month at 9 am at Rapid City Public Library. Currently the main issue they are dealing with is proposals for mining uranium near Edgemont and other locations around the Black Hills. More information about BHCWA is available at www.blackhillscleanwateralliance.com.

Meeting adjourned at 8:51 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ken Steinken, Secretary