



Draft Minutes for meeting on **December 11, 2017**

*An audio recording was not made for this meeting.*

**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 6:00 pm by leading the Pledge of Allegiance. Director Deurloo gave an opening prayer. Directors present: Dan Bjerke (District 2), Mike Mueller (District 3), Nathan Gjovik (District 4), Robert Akers (District 5), Robert Williams (District 6), Ken Steinken (District 7), James Bialota (District 8), Jeanette Deurloo (District 9).

Director(s) absent: Kenn Moss (District 1). A quorum was declared.

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

Others in attendance: Joanne Noyes (SD Geological Survey), Scott Kenner (SD School of Mines & Technology), Barry Muxen (Clean Water Alliance / Dakota Rural Action), Tim Bjork (Black Hills Fly Fishers), Jason Phillips (SDSMT), John Carreiro (SD Game, Fish & Parks), Bill Eldridge (USGS), Alvis Lisenbee (SDSMT), Gena Parkhurst (citizen).

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA** – Moved by Deurloo and seconded by Bialota to approve the agenda. Motion passed unanimously.

**APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES** – Moved by Bjerke and seconded by Bialota to approve minutes from the October 10, 2017 meeting. Motion passed 7-0. Williams abstained.

#### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

Akers presented the Treasurer's Report. Moved by Deurloo and seconded by Bjerke to approve report as presented. Motion passed unanimously

#### **SDSM&T HILL CITY QUADRANGLE PAYMENT**

Lisenbee gave an update on request for payment of \$15,878.00 to fulfill terms of Agreement 08-04 with South Dakota School of Mines in 2009. In a recent review of its books, SDSMT discovered that WDWDD had never paid the funding which it approved. Lisenbee reported that SDSMT had change in personnel at that time and billing apparently fell through the cracks. Lisenbee said the work was done and results available at [www.aquifers.sdsmt.com](http://www.aquifers.sdsmt.com). Ewert reported WDWDD also had a personnel change at that time. He also stated that he had reviewed check stubs during that time period and discovered no check issued to SDSMT for Agreement 08-04. Moved by Bjerke and seconded by Akers to pay bill. Motion passed unanimously.

#### **FINANCE POLICY SUBCOMMITTEE (Continued)**

Bialota presented changes proposed by the committee which included assigning a three-year reverse lien on grants related to “real property and tangible assets.” Steinken expressed concern about applying the lien to the On-site Wastewater Grant program. Akers felt adding a lien to a property could create unnecessary complications. Directors offered suggestions to change wording of the policy. Chair Mueller asked that the committee have the county review the policy to be sure that it was workable from its perspective and report back at the next meeting.

### **SD ASSOCIATION OF RURAL WATER PRESENTATION**

Mike Moeller gave a short presentation about the services offered to members of the SDARW, which WDWD has been in the past. He answered questions about the feasibility of WDWD using its Future Use Permit for water from the Missouri River including the possibility of using existing pipelines. He stated that water from Mni Wconi pipeline reaches as far west as Wall. He added that this past summer the pipeline was running at full capacity and couldn't keep up. Water from south line reaches to Red Shirt, but is 30 days old by the time it gets there. It may be possible to get a Rural Development grant and low interest loans to build a pipeline. But Rural Development will set specific standards to be met and require a specific number of hook ups which must be arranged in advance.

Moeller also offered some details about the SDARW Conference in Pierre on January 9. Bjerke and Deurloo expressed interest in going to conference and the concurrent Water District Legislation Day.

Moved by Akers and seconded by Steinken to pay \$525 SDARW membership fee. Motion passed unanimously.

### **SDSM&T ANALYSIS OF RAPID CREEK, PACTOLA & DEERFIELD RESERVOIRS**

Mines professor and head of Civil and Environmental Engineering Kenner reported that as a result of two multi-agency meetings addressing issues related to the Rapid Creek Watershed a need was identified to develop a modeling project that would seek to predict, prepare for and respond to the effects of climate variability on the use of water from Rapid Creek. The 18-month project would include stakeholder meetings, a final report to document the results and stakeholder access to models developed by the project for their use to evaluate and operate the Rapid Valley Water System. (See December 11, 2017 Board Packet for project details.)

<http://www.westdakotawater.com/pdf/2017/Rapid%20Creek%20Systems%20Model%20Proposal-12-4-2017.pdf>

Total budget for the 18-month project is \$72,000. The proposal requests \$25,000 from WDWD, \$25,000 from City of Rapid City, \$12,000 from SDSMT and \$5,000 from Black Hills Fly Fishers.

Moved by Bialota and seconded by Bjerke to approve funding for the “Deerfield, Pactola and Rapid Creek Systems Analysis Modeling Project” as presented by Kenner if the graduate student associated with the project is from South Dakota.

Moved by Steinken and seconded Deurloo to amend the motion to state “with priority given to a highly qualified South Dakota student.” Amendment passed 7-1. Bialota opposed. Motion passed 5-3. Bialota, Gjovik and Williams opposed.

## **GREEN ROOF RESEARCH**

SDSMT graduate student Phillips presented the background and rationale for the “Green Roof Research and Development for the Semi-Arid Upper Great Plains Region” project proposal. The project was made possible by the decision of the Rapid City Regional Airport to reinstall a 2,200 square foot green roof on the terminal building and to draw on SDSMT’s expertise and experience in green roof research to overcome the initial green roof’s failure due to lack of region-specific information. Project objectives include determination of irrigation regimens for the semi-arid upper Great Plains that will ensure long-term survivability of the plants and the green roof. (See board packet for additional proposal details)

[http://www.westdakotawater.com/pdf/2017/WDWDD\\_Green%20Roof%20presentation.pdf](http://www.westdakotawater.com/pdf/2017/WDWDD_Green%20Roof%20presentation.pdf)

The total amount requested from WDWDD is \$26,000; \$23,000 for the first year, which will help pay for the research equipment, the initial set up, and the first round of water quality testing; \$3,000 for the second year will cover water quality testing expenses. The \$26,000 request over two years represents 11.5% of the total project budget. Additional funding for the project will come from the airport, SDSMT and grants.

Moved by Williams and seconded by Steinken to approve funding as proposed by Phillips. Motion passed 5-3. Bialota, Gjovik and Akers opposed.

## **ITEMS FROM DIRECTORS**

### **Uranium Letter**

Bialota circulated a copy of the letter addressing concerns over the proposed Dewey-Burdock uranium mines request to inject wastewater into the Inyan Kara aquifer that he was asked to compose at the October meeting.

Moved by Bialota and seconded by Deurloo to provide a single letter and make it available to board members for each to sign if they wish. Motion passed 6-2. Bjerke and Steinken opposed.

A discussion followed concerning the possibility that such a letter could give the appearance of WDWDD being involved in a political activity.

Moved by Gjovik and seconded by Williams to create an individual form letter that makes no mention of WDWDD in the body of the letter that each director may sign and send if they so choose. Signature may include mention that the letter is from an Area Director, but must be clear that the letter is being submitted by an individual and does not represent an official action or position of WDWDD. Motion passed 6-2. Bialota and Steinken opposed.

### **Administration hire**

Mueller reported that the Administration Search committee had created an announcement and Request for Proposal to replace H2E. With input from the directors it was determined that the announcement would be posted in WDWDD’s three officially designated newspapers, on the WDWDD website, on the SD Department of Labor website, in the SDRWA magazine, through

other Water Development Districts in the state and on Craig's List. The announcement will run once in December and once in January with a submission deadline of February 15, 2018.

#### **ITEMS FROM ADMINISTRATION**

Martinez reported that the **Canyon Lake dredge** had been purchased and spring is set as the target date to begin the long-awaited dredging project.

Ewert advised that it was time to post **Legal Notice for Vacancies** of directors for Areas 1, 3, 5, 7 and 9, whose terms expire in December, 2018. The board agreed that the notices should appear in the three officially designated publications once each in December and January and twice in March.

The board decided to take no action on the **Pennington County Commission's request** for a WDWDD representative to attend its December 19 meeting and provide an explanation of why WDWDD did not fund the Castle Creek and Rhoads Fork stream gages.

Martinez reported that West River Electric **meeting room was not available** for WDWDD regularly scheduled meeting on the **second Tuesday of January**. Board members suggested looking into the availability of the WREA meeting room on Tuesday, January 16 or Monday, January 8 and schedule the January meeting accordingly with appropriate public notice given for the meeting time and place.

Meeting adjourned at 10:11 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ken Steinken, Secretary