

# WEST DAKOTA WATER DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT

## Meeting Minutes – March 16, 2011

**Members Present:** Sandra Beshara, George Ferebee, Gale Holbrook, Lavern E. Koch, Orland Paulsen, Dwight W. Peterson and J. Foster Sawyer

**Guests Present:** Mark Anderson, Dan Driscoll and Andy Long, U.S. Geological Survey (USGS); Brittney Molitor, Pennington County; Joanne Noyes, SD DENR Geological Survey and Janie Holbrook, visitor

### **Staff**

**Present:** Blaise Emerson, Ali DeMersseman and Lola Lincoln

Chairman Holbrook called the regular meeting of the West Dakota Water Development District to order at 2:10 P.M. Roll call was taken, and a quorum was declared present.

### **MINUTES**

**MEMBER PETERSON MOVED FOR APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FOR THE BOARD'S JANUARY 19, 2011 MEETING AS PRESENTED; MEMBER PAULSEN SECONDED, AND THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

### **ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEM**

Administrative Manager Emerson advised **Acceptance of Petitions for Director Area Two** should be added as a New Business item.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

**Acceptance of Petition for Director Area Two** – Mr. Emerson reported that a petition had been received from George W. Ferebee for the Director Area Two vacancy and that, after the review as to its accuracy, it was a valid and correct petition.

**MEMBER PAULSEN MOVED FOR ACCEPTANCE OF THE DIRECTOR AREA TWO PETITION FROM GEORGE W. FEREBEE AS FILED; MEMBER PETERSON SECONDED, AND THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**Oaths of Office** – Administrative Manger Emerson advised it was time for new directors Beshara and Ferebee to sign their Oaths of Office swearing “...*that having been elected as members of the Board of Directors for the West Dakota Water Development District, Rapid City, South Dakota, they did solemnly swear that they would support the Laws and Constitution of the United States and the State of South Dakota and faithfully perform the duties associated with the Water Development District Board of Directors,*” which was done by Ms. Beshara and Mr. Ferebee by affixing their signatures to their individual Oath of Office.

**Resolution Transferring West Berry Trails Funds** – Mr. Emerson reported that an amount of approximately \$25,832.90 remained in the District’s savings account for the possible removal of silt fences remaining on private properties as part of the mitigation process for the West Berry Trails Fire. He said no requests had been received from any landowner in more than 10 years for fence removal and suggested taking that amount out of an encumbered status and transferring it into the General Reserve Fund.

**MEMBER PAULSEN MOVED TO APPROVE THE TRANSFER OF ENCUMBERED FUNDS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$25,832.90 FROM THE DISTRICT’S SAVINGS ACCOUNT INTO THE GENERAL RESERVE FUND; MEMBER KOCH SECONDED, AND THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**Proposal for Possible Funding of Septic System Repairs** – Staff Member DeMersseman reported on the avenues explored in addressing this subject before reviewing with Board Members her handout outlining potential program elements including eligibility, income and application requirements. After considerable discussion about the elements, the general consensus was to keep it simple, use a 4-person family for the income standard and to possibly fund the program at a \$50,000 level with the money coming from West Dakota’s Reserve Fund. Member Peterson expressed the opinion that it was important to have the program clearly defined so Staff could expend funds without having to get Board approval for each transaction. Depending on response to the program, Mr. Emerson recommended possibly applying for funding through the South Dakota Department of Environment and Natural Resources should additional funds become necessary in the future.

**MEMBER PETERSON MOVED FOR CONTINUANCE OF THIS ITEM TO THE BOARD’S MAY 18, 2011 MEETING, AT WHICH TIME STAFF WILL PROVIDE MEMBERS WITH A MORE REFINED OUTLINE OF THE PROGRAM’S REQUIREMENTS/PARAMETERS; MEMBERS SAWYER AND KOCH SECONDED, AND THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**Microgravity Methods Progress Report** – Chairman Holbrook asked Dr. Long to provide a brief overview of this project for the benefit of the Board’s newest members. In short, he said “...gravity was being measured at a very accurate level using advancements in technology that help get more information out of groundwater without having to drill more wells.” Mr. Driscoll added that “...this has been a pilot project to address the complex setting in the Black Hills (multiple aquifers stacked in a vertical sequence) so at any given location, you may not be sure where all the change in storage may be occurring.”

In continuing with his report, Dr. Long advised the USGS was concentrating its study on the recharge areas of the outcrops of the Madison and Minnelusa Aquifers in order to gather information for groundwater modeling. He said they have determined spatial differences in the effective porosity and that there are vertical differences, which “...is something they have never been able to do before with any other method.”

**Groundwater Flow in Madison and Minnelusa Aquifers** – Mr. Anderson called attention to his concept paper included in the meeting information packets. He said the City of Rapid City has budgeted funds to help support the model and that the U.S. Forest

Service is considering a contribution of \$15,000 this year, which brought up the issue of leveraging. If those funds (federal) go to a local entity like West Dakota, the USGS could match them. Additionally, Lawrence County and the City of Spearfish are interested in the model. In closing, Mr. Anderson said he was not requesting funds at this time, but as the project went forward, *"...he would come back with a suggestion on how this would work over the years and then go on from there."*

**2011 Western South Dakota Hydrology Conference** – Mr. Emerson announced the Hydrology Conference date was April 28<sup>th</sup> and that all Board Members would be registered. He encouraged them to attend and said additional information would be forthcoming as the agenda was finalized.

### **ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS**

**Pennington County Voter Lists** – Because of the considerable number of pages in this list for the vacant director areas, Mr. Emerson said anyone interested in viewing them by computer could make arrangements to come to the office at a convenient time, a CD could be provided for those members wishing the information in that form, or it could be transmitted electronically.

### **Payment of Bills and Transfer of Funds -**

**MEMBER PAULSEN MOVED TO APPROVE PAYMENT OF BILLS FOR THE MONTH OF MARCH IN THE AMOUNT OF \$58,293.46 AND AUTHORIZE THE TRANSFER OF FUNDS NECESSARY FOR PAYMENT; MEMBER KOCH SECONDED, AND THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**Next Meeting Date** – The next meeting date will be May 18, 2011.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

**MEMBER PETERSON MOVED TO ADJOURN AT 3:10 P.M.; MEMBER BESHARA SECONDED, AND THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Respectfully submitted,



Dwight Peterson  
Secretary