

# WEST DAKOTA WATER DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT

## Meeting Minutes - March 17, 2010

### Members

**Present:** Lavern E. Koch, Orland Paulsen, Dwight W. Peterson and J. Foster Sawyer

### Members

**Absent:** James R. Hawke, Gale Holbrook, R.J. Inskeep and H. Edward Yelick

### Guests

**Present:** Brittney Molitor, Pennington County; Robert Ellis, City of Rapid City; Jared Oswald, RESPEC; Dan Driscoll, U.S. Geological Survey

### Staff

**Present:** Blaise Emerson, Denise Livingston and Lola Lincoln

With the absence of Chairman Holbrook, Vice-Chairman Sawyer called the regular meeting of the West Dakota Water Development District to order at 2:05 P.M. Roll call was taken, and a quorum was not present. The meeting continued on an informational basis until the arrival of Member Koch, at which time a quorum was declared present taking into consideration a board vacancy.

### REPORTS (Out of Sequence)

None

### OLD BUSINESS (Out of Sequence)

Update on Public Relations Plan - Staff Member Livingston called attention to a sheet in the Board Members' packets of information providing quotations from three companies (Bernard Marketing, Ross Johnson Design and TDG) for proposed design work on West Dakota's logo, along with samples of logos each had designed for other businesses. Bernard Marketing did the design work for the Black Hills Council and came in with the lowest bid at \$450; Administrative Manager Emerson advised they charge \$70 an hour for updates.

Ms. Livingston then reviewed her mockup of a sample brochure and asked for comments, questions and input as to what should be included. She suggested focusing on what a water development district is, projects done by West Dakota and an explanation of the hydrologic cycle. The general feeling was that "informational flyer" brochures could focus on other topics at a later date and might cover septic tank maintenance, water pollution, etc., and could, perhaps, be done in partnership with Rapid City, Pennington County and/or other entities.

When asked about the charge to West Dakota for Black Hills Council's Staff time in putting the publications together, Mr. Emerson said the work would be done as part of the service provided to West Dakota.

Concerning her sample mission statement, Ms. Livingston asked Board Members to give it consideration and come back to the next West Dakota Meeting with ideas and/or suggestions for its refinement.

Update on Pennington County's Onsite Wastewater Treatment Ordinance - Ms. Molitor updated Board Members on the meetings taking place regarding the Ordinance, with Member Paulsen saying many attendees seemed to take issue with the science behind it and questioned whether it was a matter of "*...information not being distributed, that the public didn't want to understand or just had a problem with it.*" Mr. Driscoll asked if it would be helpful to have a representative from the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) in attendance at the meetings as an unbiased resource concerning scientific methodologies used in reporting. Ms. Molitor said that would be appreciated.

Mr. Emerson called attention to the West Dakota Resolution Supporting Pennington County's Onsite Wastewater Treatment Ordinance included in the Board's packets of information, and Vice-Chairman Sawyer asked for board action.

**MEMBER PAULSEN MOVED TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT AS PRESENTED; MEMBER PETERSON SECONDED, AND THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

With the arrival of Member Koch and his anticipated early departure from the meeting, items requiring board action were moved as follows:

#### **MINUTES (Out of Sequence)**

**MEMBER PETERSON MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FOR THE BOARD'S JANUARY 20, 2010 MEETING AS PRESENTED; MEMBER KOCH SECONDED, AND THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

#### **ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS (Out of Sequence)**

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

**MEMBER PAULSEN MOVED TO APPROVE PAYMENT OF BILLS FOR THE MONTH OF MARCH IN THE AMOUNT OF \$22,037.37 AND AUTHORIZE THE TRANSFER OF FUNDS NECESSARY FOR PAYMENT; MEMBER KOCH SECONDED, AND THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

#### **NEW BUSINESS (Out of Sequence)**

Upper Spring Creek 319 Program - Mr. Emerson reported West Dakota had been working with Pennington County and a host of other agencies (Cities of Rapid City and Hill City, Black Hills RC&D, Department of Game, Fish and Parks and Forest Service) in putting together a 319 Nonpoint Source Pollution Program grant application for \$320,000, which was approved by the Board of Water and Natural Resources at its January Meeting, and was 60 percent grant with a 40 percent match

required. The study will be used for monitoring; developing a storm water management plan for Hill City, which will be done by Dr. Scott Kenner from the School of Mines; nutrient identification and problem remediation. He asked Board Members for a motion to approve \$20,000 over the next two years (2010-2011 fiscal years) toward the Upper Spring Creek 319 Program.

Vice-Chairman Sawyer asked if the expenditure was included in West Dakota's 2010 Budget. Mr. Emerson said funds would come out of reserves for 2010, because the budget had been acted upon prior to receipt of this project. He assured Members there were adequate funds in the Reserve Fund for this commitment.

**MEMBER KOCH MOVED TO COMMIT TO A TOTAL EXPENDITURE OF \$20,000 (\$10,000 IN 2010 AND \$10,000 IN 2011) OVER THE NEXT TWO YEARS WITH THE FUNDS FOR 2010 COMING FROM WEST DAKOTA'S RESERVE FUND; MEMBER PETERSON SECONDED, AND THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

#### **OLD BUSINESS (Continued)**

**2010 Elections** - Members were reminded of the time constraints in completing their petitions and urged to get them to Staff as soon as possible, preferably by March 23, 2010.

#### **NEW BUSINESS (Continued)**

**Onsite Wastewater Regulation Proposal** - Vice-Chairman Sawyer reported that he, Dr. Kenner and Mr. Emerson had discussed possibly putting together a proposal that would dovetail with other things under consideration, particularly the 319 Proposal for Upper Spring Creek, saying "*...it was an opportune time to be looking at such things as a reassessment of water quality, soils and geology, reviewing various regulations from surrounding states in our region and putting thought into implementation.*"

Additionally, a meeting was recently held regarding a potential 104G Grant Proposal through the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS). Under the program, USGS funds can go to universities for research, with the main thrust of the program being to encourage research collaboration between the universities and local USGS programs. Because the application is due the end of the month, a project of national relevance must be put together as soon as possible. Mr. Driscoll reported he had talked with Drs. Kenner, Sawyer and Lisenbee regarding a proposal from the School of Mines that could dovetail in with USGS' work such as the agency's program with the City of Rapid City looking at bacteria concentrations in the Arrowhead drainages to address urban storm water quality. "*Another possible consideration that would tie in is the question of human influence and septic systems within bedrock groundwater systems,*" said Driscoll. The upper limit of funding is \$210,000 over three years with about six or eight grants being awarded each year.

**U.S. Geological Survey Future Projects** - Mr. Driscoll called attention to his handout in the Board's packets of information addressing potential study topics for collaborative work between the USGS and West Dakota, advising this was something Administrative Manager Emerson had requested in terms of a five-year plan. Considerable discussion ensued relative to his second point, "Additional

studies to provide scientific information relevant to on-site wastewater treatment system issues," which ties in with the 104G process discussed earlier.

After discussion regarding whether to use a formal motion or to entertain a proposal to partner with the School of Mines and USGS in the 104G Grant Program,

MEMBER PAULSEN MOVED TO ENTERTAIN A FORMAL PROPOSAL FROM THE U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY OUTLINING SPECIFICS OF A PARTNERSHIP WITH THE SCHOOL OF MINES AND THE U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY IN THE SURVEY'S 104G GRANT PROGRAM; MEMBER PETERSON SECONDED, AND THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

In summary, Administrative Manager Emerson said it was his plan to *"come up with a five-year strategic plan of the projects we (West Dakota) want to take a look at from a regional standpoint (both surface and groundwater issues) that impact everyone."*

Senate Bill 184 - After updating Board Members on this item, which will allow county commissions by three-quarters of a vote to place on the ballot whether or not to withdraw or add into a water development district (West Dakota could work with other county commissions to expand its district), Mr. Emerson advised the bill had passed but had not yet been signed by Governor Rounds.

#### ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

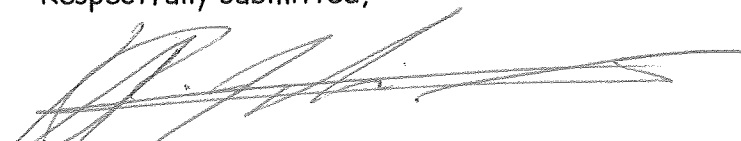
2010 Black Hills Hydrology Conference - Mr. Emerson advised all Board Members had been registered for this conference for April 22<sup>nd</sup>. The talk at the noon luncheon will be called the John E. Loucks Lecture Series for this and all future conferences, and he suggested allotting an amount of money to help sponsor speakers for this series in West Dakota's future budgets.

Next Meeting Date - The next meeting date will be May 19, 2010.

#### ADJOURNMENT

With no formal motion to adjourn, the meeting concluded at 3:20 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,



R.J. Inskip, Secretary