

WEST DAKOTA WATER DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT

Meeting Minutes - May 27, 2009

Members Present: James R. Hawke, Gale Holbrook, Lavern E. Koch, Orland Paulsen, Dwight W. Peterson and H. Edward Yelick

Members Absent: R.J. Inskeep and J. Foster Sawyer

Guests Present: Dr. Alvis Lisenbee, SDSM&T; Brittney Hand and Aaron Olson, Pennington County Planning; Ron Koth, South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks; Bob Thompson, U.S. Forest Service; Joanne Noyes, South Dakota Geological Survey; Dan Driscoll and Janet Carter, U.S. Geological Survey

Staff Present: Blaise Emerson, Van A. Lindquist and Lola Lincoln

Chairman Holbrook called the regular meeting of the West Dakota Water Development District to order at 2:00 P.M. Roll call was taken, and a quorum was declared present.

MINUTES

MEMBER YELICK MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FOR THE BOARD'S MARCH 18, 2009 MEETING AS PRESENTED; MEMBER PETERSON SECONDED, AND THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

REPORTS

2009 Western South Dakota Hydrology Conference (Out of Sequence) - Ms. Carter reported the Conference had hosted the largest number of attendees and presentations in its history, advising there were 355 attendees and 48 presentations. Additionally, there were 12 vendors, the maximum allowed by the Civic Center, which helped defray the cost for the general public and students who were not charged.

Next year's conference will be take place April 20th through the 24th and will be held in conjunction with the Rocky Mountain GSA Group; they will be in charge of the operation, registration, etc., with the School of Mines heavily involved.

Hill City Quadrangle Vulnerability Analysis (Out of Sequence) - Dr. Lisenbee advised he would be providing a review of the major concept of what the analysis covered, where the study was going when the project was started and, finally, what might be needed going forward. After publication of the Black Hills Water Atlas, it was evident that more detail was needed in specific areas around Rapid City, especially to the west where development is taking place and groundwater is being recharged in the same area where urbanization is occurring.

In the identified quadrangles, the first step was to locate where the major aquifers (Minnelusa, Madison and Inyan Kara) are exposed at the surface and to define the recharge areas. The next step was to determine the character/susceptibility of the aquifers within those quadrangles (how good are the rocks at absorbing water and/or other fluids). In the Hill City Quadrangle, Dr. Lisenbee advised that any water not in the alluvium along a creek is going to be in a crack, and he pointed out areas on the susceptibility map where there are between 40 and 70 septic tanks per square mile, with the question being: how many of them are potentially posing a problem?

He said concentration did not necessarily mean there was a problem, but it did identify target areas in which there is a concentration of homes.

In summary regarding the next step, Administrative Manager Emerson said potential vulnerabilities had been defined and Pennington County and Rapid City were taking additional steps to minimize those vulnerabilities from the onsite wastewater systems; however, we are not sure what the long-term effects of a concentration of septic systems might play in those areas. He suggested continuing work with the USGS to determine if there is a time when we need to say there are too many septic systems and as a consequence look at other methods of treatment.

Mr. Lindquist reiterated his opposition to the State of South Dakota's position of one-size-fits-all regulation for septic systems. He advised that the people that have the regulatory authority are the ones that have to be convinced to address the issue and adopt more stringent regulations at the local level.

Mr. Emerson said that at the Board's July Meeting, he would be presenting the 2010 Budget and suggested discussing a line item to explore reviewing the existing state regulations for onsite wastewater systems and possible amendment thereof at the local level.

Additional Funding for Web Base Geological and Vulnerability Information (Out of Sequence) - Dr. Lisenbee reported that across a period of five years, the mapping on the GIS System was done on a somewhat different scale making it necessary for Ms. Tessa Kroeger to make those adjustments and define a uniform filing system thereby establishing a protocol for the labeling of the files so anyone using the geologic quadrangles in the Aquifer Vulnerability Study could put them together. A CD has been developed for the atlas, but it needs fine tuning, and a rough draft has been started on an outline of what will be included in the atlas in layman's terms. Ultimately, 10 quadrangles will fit together.

He said \$5,000 to \$8,000 will be left over from the projects, and he proposed finishing this project and adding one more quadrangle. After further discussion about funds, Dr. Lisenbee was asked to bring forward a proposal outlining funding and how it will be used. Mr. Emerson asked that he also prepare a draft proposal for 2010 projects and get it to him as soon as possible for consideration in preparing West Dakota's 2010 Budget.

At this time, Chairman Holbrook announced he would have to leave the meeting at 3:45 P.M., and asked if there was any opposition to Member Yelick conducting the remainder of the meeting inasmuch as the Vice-Chairman and Secretary were absent. Members concurred.

Overall Review of West Dakota-Supported Gauging Stations and Those Critical to the Validity of the Hydrology Study - Mr. Lindquist called attention to a map depicting the gauging stations that were put into place for the Black Hills Hydrology Study, advising that when the Study was completed, a move was started to disassemble the entire network. When it became clear this was not prudent, a decision was made to identify the gauges absolutely critical to being maintained for the future.

Mr. Driscoll reviewed with Board Members the various gauges, their sponsors and length of service. He noted he was asked at the Board's last meeting to address what was really needed in terms of gauging. He said Box Elder Creek was one of the more complicated systems and that there was a gauge in Black Hawk by the old dog track that the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) continued to fund after completion of the Hydrology Study, but it was one he felt they may be looking at discontinuing within the next year or two. He suggested that if DENR discontinued support, West Dakota look at the concept of revisiting what the loss rate is along Box Elder Creek by making a series of follow-up measurements in a year when there is flow in that stream instead of operating a full-time gauge.

OLD BUSINESS

Inlet and Outlet Gauging Stations in Spring Creek - Mr. Driscoll noted that at West Dakota's March Meeting, a question had been raised relative to the possible need for gauging on Spring Creek in the vicinity of Sheridan Lake. He reported that the U. S. Geological Survey's work with Game, Fish & Parks was to develop a hydrologic budget for the Sheridan Lake area, Spring Creek in and out of Sheridan Lake and also a hydrologic model using that information in evaluating the feasibility of possible management alternatives for releases from Sheridan Lake. After considerable discussion about study findings, Mr. Driscoll said, *"It's fairly intuitive that for a release of seven cubic feet per second and drawdown up there in the range of 12 to 13 feet, it is probably more than what's feasible."*

Mr. Koth updated Board Members on the valve system relative to the various cooperators, success in preserving a very viable fishery during the big-water-period of the 1990s and the need to begin getting information out to the public to allow people to try and understand what it means in terms of their particular interests and then see whether or not it will help, particularly the Forest Service whose decision it is in the end to change or modify flows above Sheridan Lake to provide some supplemental water under certain scenarios. Member Hawke noted there was some hard data to back up the fact that we have a potential of allowing some water to come out of Sheridan Lake without really disturbing the Lake, and Mr. Koth agreed it could be a win-win situation.

At this time, Mr. Emerson, asked that Board Members address the payment of bills while a quorum was still present.

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS (Out of Sequence)

Payment of Bills

MEMBER PETERSON MOVED TO APPROVE PAYMENT OF BILLS FOR THE MONTH OF MAY IN THE AMOUNT OF \$39,323.74 AND AUTHORIZE THE TRANSFER OF FUNDS NECESSARY FOR PAYMENT; MEMBER KOCH SECONDED, AND THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

OLD BUSINESS (Continued)

New Director Districts - Mr. Emerson said the State had created nine districts but that two Board Members would be lost inasmuch as Members Paulsen and Yelick are in the same district as are Members Hawke and Sawyer. Draft rules will be coming out probably next week, and Mr. Emerson will email those to members upon receipt. The Board of Water and Natural Resources will be taking action on them at its June 25th Meeting.

Acting Chairman Yelick suggested that even though a quorum was not present, a motion should be made to commend staff for coordinating the Rockerville Meeting, which will be the template for future meetings to provide the public with information on water quantity and quality issues, aquifer susceptibility in recharge areas and protecting recharge areas to ensure a safe quality of drinking water.

MEMBER HAWKE SAID HE WOULD BE VERY HAPPY TO MAKE THAT MOTION, AND MEMBER PAULSEN SECONDED.

Mr. Emerson said he would be meeting with Dr. Lisenbee to make some modifications to his presentation for the different areas so if he is unavailable, staff could handle the meetings in-house.

Concerning the payments of bills already acted upon, Mr. Lindquist wanted Board Members to know that the construction of the water quality feature with Rapid City (\$25,000) had previously been set aside in the Capital Reserve Fund.

Mr. Emerson called the Board's attention to an application to the State of South Dakota for funding for evaluating microgravity methods in the bedrock aquifers of the Black Hills, advising there was too much Federal match so additional local match would be necessary, thus the reason for the lack of a signed agreement. This is a three-year project and will be reflected in the 2010 Budget.

NEW BUSINESS

Additional Funding for Web Base Geological and Vulnerability Information - This item was addressed under the Reports Section.

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

Next Meeting Date - The next meeting will be July 15, 2009, at 2:00 P.M.

ADJOURNMENT

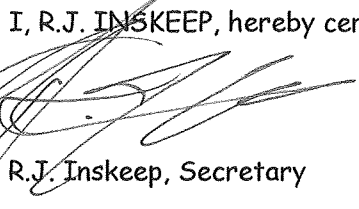
There being no quorum present to act upon a formal motion to adjourn, the meeting concluded at 4:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,



R.J. Inskip, Secretary

I, R.J. INSKIP, hereby certify that the minutes were sent to the *Rapid City Journal* as the official newspaper.



R.J. Inskip, Secretary

BE/II

7/9/09

WDWDD\MinutesMay27-2009.doc