

WEST DAKOTA WATER DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT

Meeting Minutes - November 17, 2010

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

Members Absent: R.J. Inskeep

Guests Present: Brittney Molitor, Pennington County, Joanne Noyes, South Dakota Geological Survey and Ev Hoyt, South Dakota Parks and Wildlife Foundation

Staff Present: Blaise Emerson and Lola Lincoln

Chairman Holbrook 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 declared present.

MINUTES

MEMBER PETERSON MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FOR THE SEPTEMBER 15, 2010 MEETING OF THE BOARD AS PRESENTED; MEMBER YELICK SECONDED, AND THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

REPORTS

Update on Pennington County's Wastewater Treatment Ordinance - Ms. Molitor reported that 155 notices had gone to property owners; 56 systems have been permitted to date and nine permits issued for new systems. Fifty-nine major repairs were reported, 37 outhouses identified, 10 leaking tanks, two cesspools, seven steel tanks, one property had sewage surfacing, and two were using 55-gallon barrels. She advised Rapid City Planning and Zoning held its second meeting on Monday night with the City Council, and the ordinance was now going up for public notice. Mr. Emerson said what the City did was to establish much the same requirements as the County so there was no confusion between the two entities. Member Sawyer commended Ms. Molitor for her efforts under very difficult circumstances.

Funding Programs for Upgrades to Septic Systems - Mr. Emerson said Board Members had asked about setting up an assistance program for very low income people having to do major repairs on their septic systems. He reported on the 504 Home Repair Loan and Grant Program through USDA Rural Development calling attention to the handout outlining eligibility, rates and terms, restrictions, etc., of the program. A main caveat was that it would only assist people living outside the city limits of Rapid City and had very low income requirements (family of four with \$28,850 of yearly income). He and Ms. Molitor are researching other potential programs, and he will speak with the other Water Development Districts and Mr. Tim Potts of Rural Development before publishing an advertisement.

After discussion,

MEMBER YELICK MOVED THAT STAFF PREPARE AN ADVERTISEMENT FOR PLACEMENT IN THE RAPID CITY JOURNAL TO MAKE THE PUBLIC AWARE OF POSSIBLE ASSISTANCE FOR SEPTIC SYSTEM REPAIRS FOR LOW-INCOME INDIVIDUALS; MEMBER KOCH SECONDED, AND THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Board Members asked Administrative Manager Emerson to check with the State of South Dakota to explore the possibility of the State instituting a program to address this issue.

Update on Campus West Interpretative Center Displays - Mr. Ev Hoyt, who is chairing the fundraising efforts for this effort, gave Board Members a detailed presentation on the Outdoor Learning Center's goals, challenges, site features, etc., saying *"It will be a landscape changing facility for Rapid City."* The 30-acre site (appraised at \$1.9 million) is located adjacent to Rapid City's Wilderness Park, so both will be integrated into a 60-acre area for outdoor trails, recreation and instruction. The facility will be Game, Fish and Parks staffed, operated and maintained and funded in the future with license fees collected. The South Dakota Parks and Wildlife Foundation expects to keep at least \$200,000 in reserve for future exhibits, as well as refreshing the current ones.

Chairman Holbrook asked that Members Yelick and Paulsen meet with Mr. Emerson to look at funding sources to determine whether West Dakota can make a pledge of \$25,000. After further discussion,

MEMBER YELICK MOVED THAT HE AND MEMBER PAULSEN MEET WITH ADMINISTRATIVE MANAGER EMERSON TO REVIEW FUNDING SOURCES, VERIFY THE AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS AND AUTHORIZE THE EXPENDITURE OF \$25,000 FOR THE OUTDOOR LEARNING CENTER; MEMBER PAULSEN SECONDED, AND THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Mr. Emerson advised the funds would have to come out of reserves.

Canyon Lake Update - Mr. Emerson asked Mr. Hoyt to update Board Members on the Canyon Lake Project, saying funding to redo the dam was funded in the last round of Vision 2012, but it didn't include dredging of Canyon Lake. West Dakota has previously made a commitment of \$100,000 to be used for dredging the Lake, and if the City doesn't do the dredging, Mr. Emerson said West Dakota would have to consider using those funds on other projects until such time as the dredging project moves forward.

Mr. Hoyt reported that Game, Fish and Parks put in \$400,000, Black Hills Flyfishers \$20,000 and Rapid City \$330,000 to build the bypass facility saying that *"It turned out to be a very expensive project, but the tragedy of it all is that the bypass facility will be of absolutely no use if they don't maintain the Lake; it'll never be used if they don't use it to divert the flow of the creek while they maintain the body of the Lake!"*

Update on Game, Fish and Park's Program for Sheridan Lake Study - Because of the recent retirement of Mr. Ron Koth of Game, Fish and Parks, this project is on hold. Mr. Emerson said he would contact Mr. Bill Thompson, District Ranger for the area, to see if he will come to the Board's January Meeting with an update.

NEW BUSINESS

Pending Director Area Vacancies 2, 5, 7 and 9 - Member R.J. Inskeep filed his petition for District Two, but because of the uncertainty about his status on the West Dakota Board, his district could be vacant along with Districts 5, 7 and 9. After discussion,

MEMBER KOCH MOVED TO DECLARE VACANACIES IN DISTRICTS 5, 7 AND 9 AND AUTHORIZE STAFF TO ADVERTISE THE VACANCIES; MEMBER PETERSON SECONDED, AND THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Mr. Emerson will provide Board Members with a map depicting a better definition of those districts as soon as possible.

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

Payment of Bills and Transfer of Funds -

MEMBER PAULSEN MOVED TO APPROVE PAYMENT OF BILLS FOR THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER IN THE AMOUNT OF \$15,930.84 AND AUTHORIZE THE TRANSFER OF FUNDS NECESSARY FOR PAYMENT; MEMBER SAWYER SECONDED, AND THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

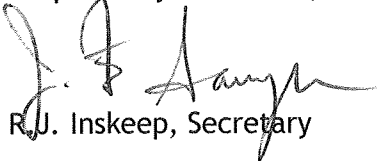
Next Meeting Date - The next meeting date will be December 22, 2010.

Directors-at-Large - In speaking with other district directors about the redistricting process and the upcoming redistricting process because of new census data, Mr. Jay Gilbertson, East Dakota Water Development District, said he faces the same situation as West Dakota inasmuch as they have to divide Sioux Falls in many different ways, as we do Rapid City. He and Mr. Emerson discussed the possibility of determining whether there is any interest in supporting a bill whereby directors-at-large would be seated instead of the current, by-districts process. He said if Board Members were open to such a discussion, he would speak with Mr. Chris Nelson, Secretary of State, concerning his thoughts about whether or not it is plausible--as such a move would require a change in state law. Board Members expressed no objection to exploring the possibility.

ADJOURNMENT

MEMBER HAWKE MOVED FOR ADJOURNMENT AT 3:30 P.M.; MEMBER KOCH SECONDED, AND THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Respectfully submitted,


R.J. Inskip, Secretary

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