

Serving the counties of Turner, Clay & McCook

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

CHAIRMAN: Robin Dykstra - Area 5, Marion
VICE-CHAIRPERSON: Bob Iverson - Area 1, Vermillion
SECRETARY: Sarah Chadima - Area 2, Vermillion
Arden Abild - Area 3, Wakonda
Wayne Davey - Area 4, Hurley
Steve Gordon - McCook County

STAFF: Brad Preheim- Manager/Treasurer

**MINUTES
VERMILLION BASIN WATER DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT
MAY 15, 2024**

The Vermillion Basin Water Development District (VBWDD) convened at 3:00 p.m. for a regular meeting in the McCook County courthouse in Salem, South Dakota, on Wednesday, May 15, 2024.

DIRECTORS PRESENT

Arden Abild, Area 3
Sarah Chadima, Area 2
Wayne Davey, Area 4
Bob Iverson, Area 1
Robin Dykstra, Area 5
Steve Gordon, McCook Co

Commission
Engineering

DIRECTORS ABSENT

None

OTHERS PRESENT

Brad Preheim - Staff
Fred Butzke - MCCD
Jay Gilbertson- EDWDD
Chuck Mehlbrech - McCook
Trent Bruce - DGR

Dean Koch - McCook Commission
Steve Watkins - Swan Lake Assoc
Kevin Spaans - McCook Wildlife

Chairman Dykstra called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The Board reviewed the agenda for the meeting. There being no changes, Director Chadima moved to approve the agenda. Seconded by Director Iverson. Motion passed unanimously.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Chairman Dykstra asked if any Directors had a conflict of interest regarding any agenda item. No conflicts were noted.

APPROVAL OF MARCH MEETING MINUTES

Chairman Dykstra asked for any additions or corrections pertaining to the Board of Directors meeting minutes from March 20, 2024. There being none, Director Iverson moved to approve those minutes. Seconded by Director Abild. Motion passed unanimously.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Outstanding bills include: Tim & Kim Eide \$325.00 - April rent & utilities, Tim & Kim Eide \$325.00 - May rent & utilities, Century Business Products \$50.00 - copier lease, Century Business Products \$50.00 - copier lease, Fort Randall Telephone \$83.47 - phone, internet, Fort Randall Telephone \$89.47 - phone, internet, Broadcaster Press \$94.03 - publishing, Clay Rural Water System \$10,000.00 - grant, City of Centerville \$7,500.00 - grant, Town of Chancellor \$7,500.00 - grant, Town of Chancellor \$7,500.00 - grant, Jordan Merrigan \$120.00 - web maintenance, Brad Preheim \$731.48- wages, phone, Brad Preheim \$1,040.20 - travel, wages, phone, US Treasury \$805.70 - payroll taxes, SDUI \$23.81 - 1st quarter payroll taxes, VISA \$513.66 - travel, television , First Quarter Board Payroll/Mileage: Wayne Davey \$276.43, Robin Dykstra \$323.33, Steve Gordon \$230.87, Arden Abild \$265.71, Bob Iverson \$292.51, Sarah Chadima \$271.07, Fred Butzke \$84.42.

Following discussion, motion made by Director Iverson, seconded by Director Abild to approve the financial report and pay the bills. Motion passed unanimously. The report was placed in the district files.

PROJECT ASSISTANCE REQUESTS

1. SDSU Community Water Values Survey - South Dakota State University is partnering with the Water Development Districts of eastern South Dakota to collaborate on how to better understand current perceptions of South Dakota residents and their communities' needs as they relate to water resource management.

Small towns and cities in rural, remote areas of the region struggle to connect with resources and are challenged in managing the natural and built water systems that impact them. This survey will provide an opportunity for residents across the region to express how they value and use water. The results will then help water districts and other organizations prioritize funding and resources to meet the needs of communities.

The survey responses will be gathered during the spring and

summer of 2024 and will have a cost of \$50,000.00. Members of SDSU were not able to attend the meeting but the presentation has previously been given to the EDWDD. Manager Jay Gilbertson discussed this program and answered questions.

Following discussion, Director Chadima moved to grant \$10,000.00 towards the SDSU Water Values Survey. Seconded by Director Iverson. Motion passed unanimously.

2. McCook County Wildlife Club - The Board reviewed a financial assistance request letter from McCook County Wildlife Club President Jim Anderson. Club member Kevin Spaans was also in attendance to discuss their problems and answer questions.

The current building in which the club operates out of has had well problems for the past 5 years. The situation now requires water to be hauled to the facility. This is a strain on the Club and really hinders their operations. They are a thriving club and the building is used for multiple events. They are seeking a rural water hook-up with either TM Rural Water District or Kingbrook Rural Water System.

Both water systems are being looked at and some decisions still need to be made. They are seeking some funding answers at this time so they get an idea of what they will be facing when they make those decisions. They anticipate their costs in either situation to be roughly \$25,000 once they move forward with a plan.

The Board discussed the situation and despite final numbers and plans still being undetermined, we would like to commit something to them so they can move forward.

Following discussion, Director Abild moved to grant the McCook County Wildlife Club 40% of their rural water hook-up costs up to a total of \$10,000.00. Seconded by Bob Iverson. Motion passed unanimously.

3. Swan Lake Association - The VBWDD previously granted the Swan Lake Association \$7,650.00 towards a DGR Engineering study to develop an operational plan. However shortly after that grant was awarded an existing Operational Plan was discovered that had been prepared by Arens Engineering in 2005.

The Swan Lake Association has now shifted their focus and the next step is contract with DGR to do a survey to determine the

current status of the holding ponds and facilitate the cleanout/rehab necessary. In addition, they will make the calls to the regulatory agencies to get everything in line with them so they can proceed when desired. Once the information is gathered a plan will be put in place for current and future maintenance that should be able to be followed without going through these processes again.

DGR's new proposal to implement the Operational Plan is \$14,300.00. The Swan Lake Association has money set aside for maintenance so they are seeking financial assistance for the DGR Engineering costs.

Following discussion, Director Iverson moved to change the amount granted to the Swan Lake Association from \$7,650.00 to \$14,300.00 to cover the costs of the latest DGR proposal. Seconded by Director Davey. Motion passed unanimously.

4. River Appreciation Day - This annual event will take place September 12th in Clay County Park. It is an excellent outreach and education event for area 6th graders. A similar event geared towards families will be held on June 9th.

Following discussion, Director Chadima moved to grant \$500.00 towards these activities. Seconded by Director Davey. Motion passed unanimously.

PROJECT UPDATES

Manager Preheim updated the Board on projects the District has supported in Chancellor and Centerville.

OTHER BUSINESS

1. Director Elections - Directors Chadima (Area 2) and Davey (Area 4) were the only petition filers for their respective Areas and will run unopposed.
2. New Director Area Boundaries - A draft map of potential new Director Areas for the expansion from 5 to 7 Directors was reviewed. The boundaries don't pose any conflicts with the current seated Directors. Once the new Areas are approved the additional Directors should be able to be seated this fall.
3. Expansion Timeline - Portions of Lake, Miner and Kingsbury counties were moved from the EDWDD to the VBWDD during the 2024 legislation session. This boundary change becomes official July

1, 2024. As previously mentioned, the Board Members from these areas won't be seated until the fall of 2024. Tax monies will not be collected from the new portions of the District until 2025. However, budgeting for 2025 will take place in August of 2024. In order to make sure the newly added territory has representation before the Director Area changes become official, an invitation will be sent to those three counties welcoming them to appoint a temporary "Ex Officio Non-Voting Member" that can participate in Board meetings immediately.

4. Correspondence - Various items of interest were shared with the Board.

5. April Meeting - Due to the lack of timely business, Director Iverson moved to cancel the June meeting. Seconded by Director Chadima. Motion passed unanimously.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

1. VBWDD Regular Meeting - July 17th, 6:30 p.m. Centerville
2. VBWDD Regular Meeting - August 28th, 6:30 p.m. Centerville

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Director Chadima moved to adjourn the meeting at 4:55 p.m. Seconded by Director Iverson. Motion passed unanimously.

ROBIN DYKSTRA

CHAIR