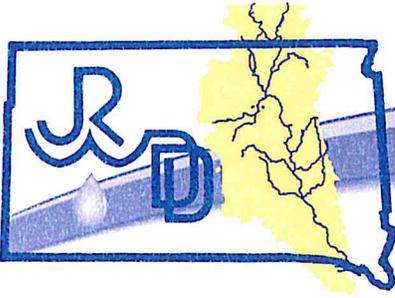


James River Water Development District



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JAMES RIVER WATER DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES NOVEMBER 13, 2025

The James River Water Development District (JRWDD) Board of Directors convened at 9:00 AM. for its regular meeting On Thursday, November 13, 2025 at the District Office in Huron, SD.

ROLL CALL: The following people were in attendance:

DIRECTORS PRESENT

Carol Millan – Mitchell
LeRoy Braun – Mellette
Mike Wiese – Aberdeen
Dennis Bennett – Huron
John Rubendall – Mitchell
Randy Stanley – Groton

DIRECTORS ABSENT

Robert Braun - Aberdeen
Pat Cerny – Yankton
Dan Klimisch – Utica

STAFF PRESENT

Judy McDonald, CFO & Associate Manager
Dave Bartel, District Manager
Rocky Knipling, Watershed Coordinator
Matt Cavanee, Watershed Coordinator

OTHERS PRESENT: Jay Gilbertson, EDWDD and Stephen Acquario, HYSAC (via ZOOM)

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Motion by Director Stanley, seconded by Director L. Braun, to approve the agenda as printed. **Motion carried.**

CONFLICT OF INTEREST: Chair Wiese asked if any Directors had a conflict of interest regarding any agenda item. No conflicts were noted for the current agenda. The following is ongoing until otherwise disclosed:

- Director Mike Wiese is currently a Brown County Commissioner
- Director Dan Klimisch is currently a Yankton County Commissioner

APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 11, 2025 MINUTES: Motion by Director Bennett, seconded by Director L. Braun to approve the Minutes as printed. **Motion carried.**

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

DAVISON COUNTY – ENHANCED CRP PROJECT: Allen Jenks, landowner in Davison County, submitted a request for project assistance funds for Enhanced CRP program in the amount of \$751.63. **Motion** by Director Millan, seconded by Director L. Braun to authorize cost-share assistance up to a maximum of \$751.63 to Allen Jenks for Enhanced CRP in Davison County. **Motion carried.**

USGS GAGING STATIONS: The USGS is asking for joint funding for operation and maintenance of three stream flow gaging stations on the James River near Redfield, Stratford, and Yankton. Total annual costs of operating and maintaining these gages is \$46,930. They are asking for assistance in the amount of \$27,640 (\$9,760 Stratford, \$8,120 Redfield, and \$9,760 Yankton). The USGS is also asking for joint funding for water quality collection (nitrate) at Yankton and Huron. The total annual costs of operating these gages are \$26,400. They are asking for assistance in the amount of \$18,200 (\$9,100 Yankton and \$9,100 Huron). **Motion** by Director Stanley, seconded by Director L. Braun to authorize cost-sharing assistance to USGS for operation and maintenance of three stream flow gaging stations and two water quality collection stations in the amount of \$45,540. **Motion passed.**

PRESENTATION ON PFAS: Stephen Aquario, Esq., attorney from New York, provided an update on PFAS contamination issues affecting South Dakota and other states. Mr. Aquario explained that PFOA and PFOS are now regulated at 4 parts per trillion and are linked to significant adverse health effects, including cancer.

Mr. Aquario reviewed known sources and impacts of PFAS, noting:

- Chemicals have been in use since the 1950s.
- Commonly used in firefighting foam and can be found on military bases, airports and in a range of industrial coatings and treatments.
- PFAS chemicals are not biodegradable and seeps into groundwater.
- Technology to remove is very expensive.
- Testing typically costs \$250–\$300.

Mr. Aquario encouraged water districts to remain informed on state and federal regulatory developments and seek reimbursement for cleanup and mitigation efforts.

SOUTH CENTRAL WATERSHED AND WATER QUALITY MONITORING UPDATE: Rocky Knippling provided the following updates on the South Central Watershed Project:

- Five feedlots discussed: Currently getting drone footage on a couple.
- RCPP (5-year) funding: \$20 million allocated for feedlots.
- 319 funding: expected allocation approx. \$1.6 million.
- Resolution 2025-04 is an amendment to the 319 funds allocating an additional \$150,000.
Motion by Director Stanley, seconded by Director Bennett to authorize the Chairman to sign the resolution. **Motion passed.**
- Water sampling was completed in September and DANR will be providing a new grant for the future.

DISTRICT UPDATE: Staff and Directors reported on the following activities of the District:

- Included in the board packet, by Dave Bartel, was a log of meetings attended, project site visits and other items he has been working on
- District Manager Dave Bartel announced that he will be retiring effective December 31, 2025. Mr. Bartel shared that he would be interested in continuing with the District on a part-time basis, if needed, to assist with follow-up on past projects and new projects as needed.

2026 MEETING DATES: The Board reviewed the proposed 2026 meeting schedule as presented by Director Millan. All meetings will begin at 9:30 AM. The tentative 2026 meeting dates and places are as follows: January 15 (Huron) – March 12 (Huron) – May 14 (Huron) – July 9 (Mitchell) – September 10 (Huron) – November 12 (Huron).

TREASURERS REPORT: The Board reviewed the August 2025 financial statements. **Motion** by Director Bennett, seconded by Director L. Braun to approve the August 2025 financials as presented. **Motion carried.** The Board reviewed the September 2025 financial statements. **Motion** by Director Bennett, seconded by Director L. Braun to approve the August 2025 financials as presented. **Motion carried.**

BOARD OF DIRECTOR AND STAFF REIMBURSEMENTS: The board packet included staff travel expense submissions, provided for informational purposes and to allow for any questions from the Board. Directors reported on the meetings and activities for which reimbursement is being submitted for. All reimbursement requests are administered in accordance with established District policy.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE – EXECUTIVE SESSION: **Motion** by Director Stanley, seconded by Director Millan to enter Executive Session to discuss personnel. **Motion carried.** Chair Wiese declared the Board out of Executive Session. **Actions Out of Executive Session:**

- The board acknowledged and accepted Dave Bartel's resignation, effective December 31, 2025.
- **Motion** by Director L. Braun, seconded by Director Bennett to appoint Rocky Knippling as Interim Acting Director for a 6-month period from January 1, 2026 through June 30, 2026. **Motion carried.**
- Staff will support Mr. Knippling in preparing the information and documentation needed for Board review in December.
- The Board will review and update the by-laws, policy documents and job descriptions as needed.
- The Board will hold a special meeting in December 2025 to finalize the transition.

ADJOURN: Being no further business, Chair Wiese declared the meeting adjourned at 11:52 AM.

Respectfully submitted:



Secretary