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JAMES RIVER WATER DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES  
JANUARY 9, 2025

The James River Water Development District (JRWD) Board of Directors convened at 9:00 A.M. for its annual meeting on Wednesday, January 9, 2025 at the District Office Huron, SD.

ROLL CALL: The following persons were in attendance:

DIRECTORS PRESENT

Mike Wiese - Aberdeen  
LeRoy Braun – Mellette  
Dennis Bennett – Huron  
John Rubendall – Mitchell  
Robert Braun – Aberdeen  
Dan Klimisch – Utica (ZOOM)  
Pat Cerny – Yankton  
Randy Stanley – Groton (ZOOM)

DIRECTORS ABSENT

Carol Millan – Mitchell

STAFF PRESENT

Judy McDonald, CFO & Associate Manager  
Dave Bartel, District Manager  
Matt Cavenee, Watershed Coordinator  
Rocky Knippling, Watershed Coordinator

OTHERS PRESENT: Members of Southeast Dakota Prescribed Burn Association & Joe Schroeder – City of Mitchell

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

DIRECTOR AREA 4 APPOINTMENT: LeRoy Braun turned in a valid petition for office of Director Area 4. **Motion** by Director R. Braun, seconded by Director Bennett to appoint LeRoy Braun to serve as the Director Area 4 representative through the end of December 2029. **Motion passed.**

OATH OF OFFICE: The oath of office was administered to Directors Robert Braun, LeRoy Braun, John Rubendall and Pat Cerny by Judy McDonald.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST: Chairman Wiese asked if any Directors had a conflict of interest regarding any agenda item. No conflicts on current agenda items. 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
- Director Dennis Bennett is currently employed by the City of Huron

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER 14, 2024 MINUTES: **Motion** by Director Millan, seconded by Director R. Braun to approve the Minutes as printed. **Motion passed.**

**TREASURERS REPORT:** The Board reviewed the October 2024 financial reports. **Motion** by Director L Braun, seconded by Director Cerny to approve the October 2024 financials as discussed and printed. **Motion passed.**

The Board reviewed the November 2024 financial reports. **Motion** by Director Bennett, seconded by Director Cerny to approve the November 2024 financials as discussed and printed. **Motion passed.**

The Board reviewed the December 2024 financial reports. **Motion** by Director L. Braun, seconded by Director Cerny to approve the December 2024 financials as discussed and printed. **Motion passed.**

**2024 CLOSEOUT:** The District needs to encumber 2024 financial obligations that remain unpaid; this will give the District spending authority for these items in 2024. The amount to carry forward is \$331,065.95. **Motion** by Director Bennett, seconded by Director R. Braun to approve Resolution #2025-01. **Motion passed.**

**ELECTION OF OFFICERS:** Chairman Wiese indicated that officers need to be elected for the office of Chair, Vice-Chair and Secretary. **Motion** by Director Cerny, seconded by Director L. Braun to retain the current officers for 2025 as follows:

- Chair – Director Mike Wiese
- Vice-Chair – Director Carol Millan
- Secretary – Director Robert Braun
- Treasurer – Director Dennis Bennett

**Motion passed.**

**APPOINTMENT OF 2025 COMMITTEES:** Chair Wiese appointed the following committees for 2025:

- Policy Committee: Directors Millan (Chair), Klimisch and Cerny
- Personnel Committee: Directors R. Braun (Chair), Rubendall and Wiese
- Finance Committee: Directors L. Braun (Chair), Stanley and Wiese

**DESIGNATION OF OFFICIAL NEWSPAPERS:** **Motion** by Director L. Braun, seconded by Director R. Braun to designate the Aberdeen Insider, Britton Journal, The Courier (Freeman), Huron Plainsman, Mitchell Daily Republic, The Redfield Press, Yankton County Observer, and Yankton Press and Dakotan, as the official newspapers of the District. **Motion passed.**

**DESIGNATION OF LOCAL DEPOSITORY:** The District's current depository is with First National Bank in Woonsocket, South Dakota. In addition, two signatures are needed to sign all checks, drafts, and other withdrawal orders for normal operations of the organization; all other matters of the organization are signed by two, one of which must be a Director. **Motion** by Director Cerny, seconded by Director Bennett to approve Resolution 2025-02, designating First National Bank in Woonsocket, SD as the District's local depository and that any two signatures are needed to sign all checks, drafts, and other withdrawal orders for normal operations of the organization; all other matters of the organization are signed by two, one of which must be a Director. Authorized signers on the account will be Judy McDonald, David Bartel, and Dennis Bennett. **Motion passed.**

**SPONSORSHIP REQUEST FROM NRCS ON THE WATERSHED & FLOOD PREVENTION OPERATIONS PROGRAM (WFPO):** The District received legal counsel's opinion on the WFPO agreement with the City of Mitchell. The opinion concluded the agreement does not create any financial obligation or liability for the District without future, specific approvals. Following this review, **Motion** by Director Cerny,

seconded by Director R. Braun, to authorize the Chair to sign the planning phase proposal for the PL 566 project. **Motion carried.**

YANKTON CONSERVATION DISTRICT: 2024 TREE GRANT EXTENSION: Staff is requesting an extension of the \$15,000 in 2024 tree grant funds allocated to the Yankton Conservation District. Recent staff changes within the Yankton Conservation District have delayed the submission of their project request. Judy McDonald will meet with the Yankton Conservation District to facilitate the submission of their required documentation. **Motion** by Director Klimisch, seconded by Director Cerny to extend the grant funds until March 31, 2025. **Motion passed.**

SOUTHEAST DAKOTA PRESCRIBED BURN ASSOCIATION (SDPBA): SDPBA members were present to request project assistance to help with the costs to acquire various equipment, tools, and vehicles that would allow them to safely and competently apply prescribed fire to widespread areas of the James River Watershed adversely affected by the invasion of Eastern Red Cedar. **Motion** by Director Klimisch, seconded by Director Cerny to authorize a one-time payment of \$30,000 to SDPBA to help with startup costs. **Motion passed.**

SOUTH CENTRAL WATERSHED PROJECT UPDATE: The James River Water Development District is committed to continue the implementation of Best Management Practices (BMPs), which have been successful in the South Central Watershed Implementation Project. **Motion** by Director R. Braun, seconded by Director L. Braun to authorize \$115,000 in cost-sharing assistance for the South Central Watershed Project for 2025. **Motion passed.** These funds will expire on December 31, 2025.

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

- Firesteel Creek is ongoing.
- Working on feedlots.
- Staff is working with Tanner Clausen on the Riparian Buffer Initiative.

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.

BOARD OF DIRECTOR AND STAFF REIMBURSEMENTS: Motion by Director L. Braun, seconded by Director Bennett to approve staff and Director expenses. **Motion passed.**

NEXT MEETING: The next meeting will be held March 13 in Huron at 9:00 a.m.

ADJOURN: Being no further business, Chairman Wiese declared the meeting adjourned at 11:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

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Secretary