



PO Box 849  
Huron SD 57350  
Ph: 605-352-0600  
Fax: 605-352-0606  
TF: 800-99-RIVER

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

The James River Water Development District (JRWD) Board of Directors convened at 9:00 A.M. for its regular meeting on Thursday, March 13, 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  
Randy Stanley – Groton  
Dan Klimisch – Utica  
Pat Cerny – Yankton  
Randy Stanley – Groton

DIRECTORS ABSENT

Carol Millan – Mitchell  
Robert Braun – Aberdeen

STAFF PRESENT

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Craig Maloney

OTHERS PRESENT via ZOOM: Zach Haddix – US Army COE, Lori Stevens – Brown Conservation District, Jean Fagerland – Marshall Conservation District & Ivy Pazour, Spink Conservation District

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: **Motion** by Director Cerny, seconded by Director [redacted] approve the agenda as printed. **Motion passed.**

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

APPROVAL OF JANUARY 9, 2025 MINUTES: Motion by Director Klimisch, seconded by Director L. Braun to approve the Minutes as printed. **Motion passed.**

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

UPDATE FROM US ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS ON UPSTREAM RESERVOIRS AND 2025 RELEASES: Zachary Haddix, Hydraulic Engineer from US Army Corps of Engineers gave an update on the upstream reservoirs and 2025 releases. A low-medium flow year is predicted, as designated in the Water Control Manual for Jamestown and Pipestem reservoirs. The maximum combined releases from Jamestown and Pipestem reservoirs will be at 750 cfs and releases will be adjusted based on spring and summer rainfall.

2025 TREE PLANTING SUPPORT TO CONSERVATION DISTRICTS: The District office received several letters from the local Conservation Districts for continued support to help producers within the District with tree planting efforts. Discussion was held regarding increasing the grant; the last increase was in 2018. **Motion** by Director Klimisch, seconded by Director L. Braun to authorize cost-sharing assistance to the Conservation Districts as follows; Beadle, Brown, Davison, Hanson, Hutchinson, Sanborn, Spink, and Yankton Conservation Districts will be awarded \$18,000 each; Marshall Conservation District will be awarded (75%) \$13,500 and Aurora Conservation District will be awarded (55%) \$10,000 to help producers with tree planting efforts in the amount of \$167,500. **Motion passed.** These funds will expire on December 31, 2025.

DAVISON COUNTY – JIM RIVER RIDGE FARMS: Jim River Ridge Farms, landowner in Davison County, is requesting project assistance funds in the amount of \$50,000 to repair a dam in Mitchell Township. The total cost to repair the dam is \$60,894.72. Discussion was held regarding improving the auxiliary spillway, tree removal, riprap, fencing. **Motion** by Director Cerny, seconded by Director L. Braun to authorize cost-share assistance up to a maximum of \$30,000, not to exceed 75% of the total project costs, with the following stipulations: clean auxiliary spillway, remove trees and fence off the berm, to Jim River Ridge Farms to repair a dam in Davison County. **Motion passed.** These funds will expire on March 13, 2027.

HUTCHINSON COUNTY – J&T FAMILY LLP: J&T Family, landowners in Hutchinson County, are requesting project assistance funds in the amount of \$23,700 to build a dam in Wittenberg Township. The total cost to repair the dam is \$31,600. **Motion** by Director L. Braun, seconded by Director Stanley to authorize cost-share assistance up to a maximum of \$23,700, not to exceed 75% of the total project costs, to J&T Family LLP Jerome Kotalik to build a dam in Hutchinson County. **Motion passed.** These funds will expire on March 13, 2027.

HUTCHINSON COUNTY – CRAIG WOLLMAN : Craig Wollman, landowner in Hutchinson County, is requesting project assistance funds in the amount of \$37,668 to repair 2 dams in Kassell Township. The total cost to repair the dams is \$50,206. **Motion** by Director Klimisch, seconded by Director Stanley to authorize cost-share assistance up to a maximum of \$9,000, not to exceed 75% of the total project costs, to Jerome Kotalik to repair a dam in Hutchinson County. **Motion passed.** These funds will expire on March 13, 2027.

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

- Funding for current programs remains secure.
- The project's low administrative overhead (10%) was highlighted, emphasizing its efficiency and potential for increased funding opportunities.
- Increased activity was reported due to frozen USDA program funds and associated uncertainty.
- Progress on the Mitchell SRF program (Firesteel Creek) was discussed, including remaining funds.
- Progress on Segment 2 of the current project was reviewed, confirming adherence to spending and project goals.
- Water sampling will likely be the same as 2024



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.
- The office received a late request from the City of Volin; Dave will continue to work with them.
- 2024 audit has started.

TREASURERS REPORT: The Board reviewed the January 2025 financial reports. **Motion** by Director Bennett, seconded by Director Cerny to approve the January 2025 financials as discussed and printed. **Motion passed.**

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

NEXT MEETING: The next meeting will be held May 8 in Mitchell at 9:00 a.m.

ADJOURN: Being no further business, Chairman Wiese declared the meeting adjourned at 10:15 a.m.

Respectfully submitted:

---

Secretary

DRAFT