



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
NOVEMBER 9, 2023

The James River Water Development District (JRWDD) Board of Directors convened at 9:00 a.m. for its regular meeting on Thursday, November 9, 2023 at the District Office in Huron, SD and by way of Zoom.

ROLL CALL: The following persons were in attendance:

DIRECTORS PRESENT

Dan Koupal – Mitchell
Randy Stanley – Groton
Dennis Bennett – Huron
Carol Millan – Mitchell
Robert Braun – Aberdeen
Dan Klimisch – Utica (via ZOOM)
Pat Cerny – Yankton
Mike Wiese – Aberdeen

DIRECTORS ABSENT

LeRoy Braun – Mellette

STAFF PRESENT

Judy Smoyer, CFO & Associate Manager
Dave Bartel, District Manager
Shane Deranleau, Watershed Coordinator
Rocky Knippling, Watershed Coordinator
Matt Cavenee, Watershed Coordinator
Blain Hieb, Watershed Coordinator

OTHERS PRESENT: Chuck Pyle – US Fish and Wildlife Service

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Move Item 9d up on the agenda; after Item 6. **Motion** by Director Klimisch, seconded by Director Cerny to approve the agenda as amended. **Motion passed.**

CONFLICT OF INTEREST: Chair Wiese asked if any Directors had a conflict of interest regarding any agenda item.

- None

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 SEPTEMBER 14, 2023 MINUTES: Motion by Director Koupal, seconded by Director Cerny to approve the Minutes as printed. **Motion passed.**

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

UPDATE FROM US FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE ON THE RANGELAND MANAGEMENT PROJECT: Chuck Pyle with the US Fish and Wildlife Service provided the Board an update on the rangeland management project. To date over five projects are obligated utilizing this partnership over four counties within the James River Watershed District. Projects are expected to be completed this fall.

HUTCHINSON COUNTY –MARK ROTH: Mark Roth, landowner in Hutchinson County, is requesting project assistance funds in the amount of \$42,805.59 to repair a dam in Clayton South Township. The total cost to repair the dam is \$57,074.12. **Motion** by Director Millan, seconded by Director R. Braun to authorize cost-share assistance up to a maximum of \$42,805.59, not to exceed 75% of the total project costs, to Mark Roth to repair a dam in Hutchinson County. **Motion passed**. These funds will expire on November 9, 2025.

USGS GAGING STATIONS (Agreement 24NTJFA0008): 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 three gages is \$45,790. They are asking for assistance in the amount of \$26,560 (\$9,370 Stratford, \$7,820 Redfield, and \$9,370 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 \$25,280. They are asking for assistance in the amount of \$17,080 (\$8,540 Yankton and \$8,540 Huron). **Motion** by Director Cerny, seconded by Director Bennett 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 \$43,640. **Motion passed on a roll call vote**. These funds will expire on September 30, 2024.

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 Cerny, seconded by Director Stanley to authorize an additional \$10,000 in cost-sharing assistance for the South Central Watershed Project for 2023. **Motion passed**. These funds will expire on December 31, 2023. Funding for the South Central Watershed Project for Fiscal Year 2024 will be on the January 2024 agenda.

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

- Firesteel Creek is ongoing.
- Staff showed a video with several projects that have been completed or are being worked on.
- Staff will provide an update on the 2023 water sampling in 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.
- First National Bank of Omaha will be closing the branch in Huron, SD effective December 29, 2023. The District will continue to use First National Bank of Omaha and will use the branch in Woonsocket, if necessary.
- Terms for Directors R. Braun, L. Braun, Koupal, and Cerny will expire December 31, 2024.

TREASURERS REPORT: The Board reviewed the August 2023 financial reports. **Motion** by Director Millan, seconded by Director Stanley to approve the August 2023 financials as discussed and printed. **Motion passed**. The Board reviewed the September 2023 financial reports. **Motion** by Director Bennett, seconded by Director R. Braun to approve the September 2023 financials as discussed and printed. **Motion passed**.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Motion by Director Cerny, second by Director R. Braun to enter into executive session to discuss personnel. **Motion passed**. Chairman Wiese came out of executive session. **Motion**

by Director R. Braun, seconded by Director Cerny to provide David Bartel and Judy McDonald a 4% raise for 2024. The board directed Manager Bartel to adjust the 2024 salaries of the SCWP Staff.

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

NEXT MEETING: The next meeting will be held January 10 in Pierre.

ADJOURN: Being no further business, Chair Wiese declared the meeting adjourned at 10:48 a.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Secretary

DRAFT