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JAMES RIVER WATER DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES  
MAY 13, 2021

The James River Water Development District (JRWDD) Board of Directors convened at 9:00 A.M. for its regular meeting on Thursday, May 13, 2021 by way of Zoom.

ROLL CALL: The following persons were in attendance:

DIRECTORS PRESENT

Dan Koupal – Mitchell  
Dan Klimisch – Yankton  
Randy Stanley – Groton  
Mike Wiese – Aberdeen  
Frank Amundson – Huron  
Carol Millan – Mitchell  
Robert Braun - Aberdeen  
LeRoy Braun – Mellette  
Clinton Bauer - Freeman

DIRECTORS ABSENT

STAFF PRESENT

Dave Bartel, District Manager  
Shane Deranleau, Watershed Coordinator  
Rocky Knippling, Watershed Coordinator

OTHERS PRESENT: Kris Dozrk, Tanner Clausen & Barry McLaury – SD DANR, Chuck Pyle – USFWS, Karen Lambert – Sanborn County Conservation District Supervisor, Ted Dickey – NECOG, Matt Leidholdt, Thomas Ullrich and Susan Stewart – Green Acres Association, Darin Swartz – City of Wessington, Rich Kemmis – MaGuire Iron, Randy Meidinger – Ducks Unlimited, Mike Sedlacek – Yankton County Highway Department, Jay Gilbertson – EDWDD

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: **Motion** by Director Wiese, seconded by Director L. Braun to approve the agenda as printed. **Motion passed on a roll call vote.**

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

- Director Dan Koupal has a conflict of interest with Agenda Item #9i and will abstain
- Director Dan Klimisch has a conflict of interest with Agenda Items #9f and 9g and will abstain

The following was disclosed at the January 21, 2021 annual meeting and is ongoing until otherwise disclosed:

The following Directors shared the following information:

- Director Robert Braun is currently employed by the City of Aberdeen
- Director Mike Wiese is currently a Brown County Commissioner
- Chairman Dan Klimisch is currently a Yankton County Commissioner

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

APPROVAL OF MARCH 18, 2021 MINUTES: **Motion** by Director Wiese, seconded by Director R. Braun to approve the Minutes as printed. **Motion passed on a roll call vote.**

UPDATE ON CENTRAL GRAZING MANAGEMENT PLAN: Chuck Pyle provided a slideshow on the James River Watershed Grazing Management Project which started in Fall of 2017 and was completed in December of 2020. The goal of the project was to promote grassland management through wildlife production, erosion reduction and improved water quality. The project originally planned on completing 15 projects and 2,500 acres. The project was able to complete 16 projects and 2,888 acres.

SOUTH DAKOTA RIPARIAN BUFFER INITIATIVE: Barry McLaury and Tanner Clausen with SD DANR provided information on the SD Riparian Buffer Initiative.

SANBORN COUNTY DRAINAGE BOARD – RESTORING DRAINAGE DITCH 14: No representation was present to provide further information. Karen Lambert, representing Sanborn Conservation District Board of Supervisors, was present to convey her concerns on the project and would like the Sanborn County Drainage Board to provide additional development before funding is granted. **Motion** by Director Koupal, seconded by Director Wiese to table the request. **Motion passed on a roll call vote (Absent: Bauer).**

*It was noted at this time that Director Bauer was having technical issues and could not be heard, therefore his votes could not be heard or recorded.*

GREEN ACRES ASSOCIATION – ABOVE GROUND WATER STORAGE TANKS: Ted Dickey, Susan Stewart, Matt Leidholdt and Thomas Ulrich were present to request project assistance funds in the amount of \$34,626.50 for constructing three 4,000 gallons above ground water storage tanks. These tanks will replace an existing underground water storage reservoir which will be demolished for safety concerns. Total cost of the project is estimated at \$103,723.89. **Motion** by Director Wiese, seconded by Director L. Braun to authorize cost-share assistance up to a maximum of \$34,626.50, not to exceed 50% of the costs to Green Acres Association for constructing three 4,000 gallons above ground water storage tanks. **Motion passed on a roll call vote (Nay: Amundson & Koupal)(Absent: Bauer).** These funds will expire on May 13, 2023.

CITY OF WESSINGTON – WATER TOWER REPAIR: Ted Dickey, Darin Swartz and Rich Kemmis were present to request project assistance funds in the amount of \$33,626 to repair a leak in their water tower by installing a new expansion joint, riser pipe and frost jacket. Total cost of the project is estimated at \$67,252. **Motion** by Director R. Braun, seconded by Director Amundson to authorize cost-share assistance up to a maximum of \$33,626, not to exceed 50% of the costs to City of Wessington to repair their water tower. **Motion passed on a roll call vote (Absent: Bauer).** These funds will expire on May 13, 2023.

DUCKS UNLIMITED – RESTORING 11 WETLANDS IN SANBORN COUNTY: Randy Meidinger, Ducks Unlimited Regional Biologist, was present to request project assistance funds in the amount of \$32,000 to restore hydrology to 11 drained wetland basins by building earthen ditch plugs a minimum of 50 feet long and removing one drain tile pipe. A total of 33 surface acres will be restored having over 50 acre-feet of water storage capacity. Total cost of the project is estimated at \$64,000. **Motion** by Director R. Braun, seconded by Director Amundson to authorize cost-share assistance up to a maximum of \$32,000,

not to exceed 50% of the costs to Ducks Unlimited to restore 11 wetlands in Sanborn County. **Motion passed on a roll call vote (Absent: Bauer).** These funds will expire on May 13, 2023.

HUTCHINSON COUNTY HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT FOR RIPRAP AT 6 BRIDGE SITES: Joel Baumiller, Highway Superintendent, is requesting project assistance funds in the amount of \$15,000 to riprap at the following bridge sites; 34-140-226, 34-075-220, 34-104-020, 34-147-090, 34-126-010, and 34-244-140. Total cost of the project is estimated at \$30,500. **Motion** by Director Millan, seconded by Director Koupal to authorize cost-share assistance up to a maximum of \$15,000, not to exceed 50% of the costs to Hutchinson County Highway Department to riprap at six bridge sites. **Motion passed on a roll call vote (Absent: Bauer).** These funds will expire on May 13, 2023.

YANKTON COUNTY HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT – BRIDGE REPLACEMENT: Mike Sedlacek, Highway Superintendent, was present to request project assistance funds in the amount of \$50,000 for costs associated with engineering and riprap on replacing bridge 64-147-138 in Yankton County. Total cost to replace the bridge is \$97,597. **Motion** by Director Millan, seconded by Director Amundson to authorize cost-share assistance up to a maximum of \$48,798, not to exceed 50% of the total project costs, to Yankton County Highway Department for engineering and riprap on replacing bridge 64-147-138 in Yankton County. **Motion passed on a roll call vote (Absent: Bauer) (Abstain: Klimisch).** These funds will expire on May 13, 2023.

YANKTON COUNTY HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT – BRIDGE REPLACEMENT: Mike Sedlacek, Highway Superintendent, was present to request project assistance funds in the amount of \$50,000 for costs associated with engineering and riprap on replacing bridge 68-137-088 in Yankton County. Total cost to replace the bridge is \$175,500. **Motion** by Director Wiese, seconded by Director Koupal to authorize cost-share assistance up to a maximum of \$42,000, not to exceed 50% of the total project costs, to Yankton County Highway Department for engineering and riprap on replacing bridge 68-137-088 in Yankton County. **Motion passed on a roll call vote (Absent: Bauer) (Abstain: Klimisch).** These funds will expire on May 13, 2023.

YANKTON COUNTY – JAMES FITZGERALD DAM REPAIR: James Fitzgerald, landowner in Yankton County, is requesting project assistance funds in the amount of \$18,849.60 to repair a dam in Walshtown Township. This dam sits less than a mile west of the James River and has been severely damaged over the past years due to heavy rain. Total cost to repair the dam is \$25,132.80. **Motion** by Director Wiese, seconded by Director R. Braun to authorize cost-share assistance up to a maximum of \$18,849.60, not to exceed 75% of the total project costs, to James Fitzgerald to repair a dam in Yankton County. **Motion passed on a roll call vote (Absent: Bauer).** These funds will expire on May 13, 2023.

DAVISON COUNTY – JIM REC SEDIMENT DAM REPAIR: Jim Rec Ag, landowner in Davison County, is requesting project assistance funds in the amount of \$1,147.50 to repair a sediment dam. Total cost to repair the sediment dam is \$1,530. **Motion** by Director R. Braun, seconded by Director Wiese to authorize cost-share assistance up to a maximum of \$1,147.50, not to exceed 75% of the total project costs, to Jim Rec Ag to repair a sediment dam in Davison County. **Motion passed on a roll call vote (Absent: Bauer) (Abstain: Koupal).** These funds will expire on May 13, 2023.

BANK STABILIZATION PROGRAM: The manager would like to propose a program to help with costs associated with riprap and placement of riprap to cut down on erosion and sediment entering the James River. No action was taken at this time.

**SOUTH CENTRAL WATERSHED PROJECT UPDATE:** Rocky Knippling updated the Board on the South Central Watershed Project.

- Continue working with City of Mitchell on the Firesteel Creek project
- Water sampling continues
- Working on the RCPP grant. A confidentiality agreement needs to be signed by the Chairman that the District will not release any private information. **Motion** by Director Wiese, seconded by Director R. Braun to authorize Chairman Klimisch to sign the confidentiality agreement for the South Central Watershed Project. **Motion passed on a roll call vote. (Absent: Bauer).**

**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.

**APPROVAL OF UPDATED BY-LAWS:** The following changes were made to the by-laws that were presented at the March meeting:

- Under Article II Regular meetings: There shall be six regular meetings of the Board each year. These meetings shall be generally held during the months of January, March, May, July, September, and November, at a place and time to be specified by the Board during the November meeting, **the Board** may cancel or add any regular meeting or change the place, date or time of such meeting.
- Under Article III – VOTES AND PROXY: Remove the words “AND PROXY”

**Motion** by Director R. Braun, seconded by Director L. Braun to approve the updated by-laws as presented at the March 2021 meeting with the two changes above. **Motion passed on a roll call vote. (Absent: Bauer).**

**APPROVAL OF UPDATED POLICY DOCUMENT:** The Board reviewed the updated policy document and provided some changes. The updates will be distributed to the Board for approval at the next meeting.

**TREASURERS REPORT:** The Board reviewed the February 2021 financial reports. **Motion** by Director Wiese, seconded by Director R. Braun to approve the February 2021 financials as printed. **Motion passed on a roll call vote (Absent: Bauer).**

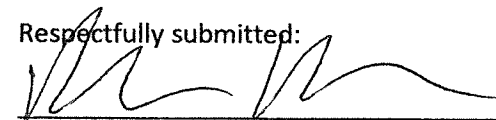
The Board reviewed the March 2021 financial reports. **Motion** by Director Wiese, seconded by Director Amundson to approve the March 2021 financials as printed. **Motion passed on a roll call vote (Absent: Bauer).**

**BOARD OF DIRECTOR AND STAFF REIMBURSEMENTS:** **Motion** by Director R. Braun, seconded by Director Amundson to approve staff and Director expenses. **Motion passed on a roll call vote. (Absent: Bauer)**

**NEXT MEETING:** The next meeting will be held July 8, 2021 in Huron at 9:00 am. Zoom will be available for persons interested in participating remotely.

**ADJOURN:** Being no further business, Chairman Klimisch declared the meeting adjourned at 12:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted:



Secretary