

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 14, 2024

The James River Water Development District (JRWDD) Board of Directors convened at 9:00 A.M. for its regular meeting on Thursday, November 14, 2024 at the District Office in Huron, SD.

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
Pat Cerny – Yankton
LeRoy Braun – Mellette

DIRECTORS ABSENT

Mike Wiese - Aberdeen

STAFF PRESENT

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Dan Johnson and Jim Pearson – Southeast Dakota Prescribed Burn Association & Joe Schroeder – City of Mitchell

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

CONFLICT OF INTEREST: Chair Millan 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 SEPTEMBER 12, 2024 MINUTES: Motion by Director Klimisch, seconded by Director Stanley, to approve the Minutes as printed. **Motion passed.**

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

SPONSORSHIP REQUEST FROM NRCS ON THE WATERSHED & FLOOD PREVENTION OPERATIONS PROGRAM (WFPO): The committee of Director Millan, Cerny, Klimisch & R. Braun presented a draft sponsorship letter for the Board's consideration. **Motion** by Director Cerny, seconded by Director Klimisch to postpone the approval of the sponsorship at this time. The District will have its legal counsel review the draft letter of support, along with a letter from the City of Mitchell confirming their acceptance of all financial responsibilities of the program. **Motion passed.**

SOUTHEAST DAKOTA PRESCRIBED BURN ASSOCIATION (SEDPBA): SEDPBA is actively working to combat the growing threat of Eastern Red Cedar woody encroachment. Members Dan Johnson and Jim Pearson are highlighting the benefits of prescribed burning as a safe and effective method to slow the spread of woody plants and preserve vital grasslands in the Missouri, James, and Vermillion River watersheds. The association will request funding at the January meeting to support their ongoing efforts.

USGS GAGING STATIONS (Agreement 25NTJFA0024): 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 \$46,280. They are asking for assistance in the amount of \$27,050 (\$9,550 Stratford, \$7,950 Redfield, and \$9,550 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 \$26,000. They are asking for assistance in the amount of \$17,800 (\$8,900 Yankton and \$8,900 Huron). **Motion** by Director R. Braun, seconded by Director Klimisch 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 \$44,850. **Motion passed.** These funds will expire on September 30, 2025.

HUTCHINSON COUNTY – DAVID SAYLER: David Sayler, landowner in Hutchinson County, is requesting project assistance funds in the amount of \$5,998.18 to repair a dam in Capital Township. The dam was damaged from the large spring and early rains and was confined to the emergency spillway and did not damage the existing berm. The total cost to repair the dams is \$7,997.57. **Motion** by Director R. Braun, seconded by Director Klimisch to authorize cost-share assistance up to a maximum of \$5,998.18, not to exceed 75% of the total project costs, to David Sayler to repair a dam in Hutchinson County. **Motion passed.** These funds will expire on November 14, 2026.

HUTCHINSON COUNTY – AUSTIN HERRBOLDT: Austin Herrboldt, landowner in Hutchinson County, is requesting project assistance funds in the amount of \$21,150.28 to repair a dam in Capital Township. The dam was damaged from the large spring and early rains and damage was confined to the berm. The total cost to repair the dam is \$28,200.37. **Motion** by Director Bennett, seconded by Director Stanley to authorize cost-share assistance up to a maximum of \$21,150.28, not to exceed 75% of the total project costs, to Austin Herrboldt to repair a dam in Hutchinson County. **Motion passed.** These funds will expire on November 14, 2026.

YANKTON COUNTY – TODD HERTZ: Todd Hertz, landowner in Yankton County, is requesting project assistance funds in the amount of \$24,755.06 to repair a dam in Odessa Township. This dam is utilized to slow runoff and serves as a sediment collection area before it hits the James River. The total cost to repair the dam is \$33,006.74. **Motion** by Director Cerny, seconded by Director Klimisch to authorize cost-share assistance up to a maximum of \$24,755.06, not to exceed 75% of the total project costs, to Todd Hertz to repair a dam in Yankton County. **Motion passed.** These funds will expire on November 14, 2026.

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

- Firesteel Creek is ongoing.
- Working on feedlots.
- Working with Tanner Clausen with SD DANR on the Riparian Buffer initiative.
- Water sampling is completed for the year. Staff will prepare a presentation for the January meeting, comparing data from the past 5 and 10 years, if available.

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.
- Director R. Braun attended the 2024 Eastern SD Water Conference on October 16 in Brookings.
- The board recognized Director Dan Koupal for his dedicated service from 1985-2024. Director Koupal chose not to seek re-election. Chair Millan presented him with a plaque in appreciation of his many contributions.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE UPDATE: At 10:50 AM Chair Millan called for an executive session to review staff evaluations completed by board members. The board met individually with Judy McDonald and Dave Bartel to discuss their evaluations. The board emerged from executive session at 11:08 AM. **Motion** by Director R. Braun, seconded by Director Cerny to increase the 2025 salary of both Judy McDonald and Dave Bartel by \$3,000. **Motion passed.**

TREASURERS REPORT: The Board reviewed the August 2024 financial reports. **Motion** by Director Koupal, seconded by Director R. Braun to approve the August 2024 financials as discussed and printed. **Motion passed.** The Board reviewed the September 2024 financial reports. **Motion** by Director Bennett, seconded by Director L. Braun to approve the September 2024 financials as discussed and printed. **Motion passed.**

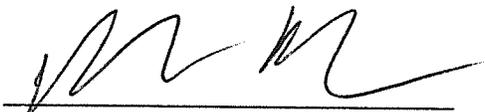
2025 MEETING DATES: The tentative 2025 meeting dates and places are as follows: January 9 (Huron) – March 13 (Huron) – May 8 (Mitchell) – July 10 (Yankton) – September 11 (Aberdeen) – November 13 (Huron).

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

NEXT MEETING: The next meeting will be on January 9 at 9:00 AM in Huron.

ADJOURN: Being no further business, Chair Millan declared the meeting adjourned at 11:19 AM.

Respectfully submitted:



Secretary