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JAMES RIVER WATER DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 11, 2025

The James River Water Development District (JRWDD) Board of Directors convened at 9:00 AM. for its regular meeting and budget hearing on Thursday, September 11, 2025 at the Best Western Ramkota Hotel Huron, SD.

ROLL CALL: The following people were in attendance:

DIRECTORS PRESENT

Carol Millan – Mitchell
LeRoy Braun – Mellette
Pat Cerny – Yankton
John Rubendall – Mitchell
Randy Stanley – Groton
Mike Wiese – Aberdeen
Dan Klimisch – Utica (via ZOOM)

DIRECTORS ABSENT

Robert Braun - Aberdeen
Dennis Bennett – Huron

STAFF PRESENT

Judy McDonald, CFO & Associate Manager
Dave Bartel, District Manager
Rocky Knipling, Watershed Coordinator

OTHERS PRESENT: Sign-In Sheet attached

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

2026 BUDGET HEARING: Chair Wiese opened the public hearing on the 2026 JRWDD proposed operations budget at 9:00 a.m. The District published a copy of the proposed budget and notices of the hearing in the official District newspapers as required by SD Codified Law 46A-3E-10. No written or verbal comments have been received prior to the meeting regarding the 2026 proposed operations budget. Chair Wiese invited public comments on the 2026 proposed budget as advertised and presented. No comments were received. Chair Wiese declared the public meeting closed.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST: Chair Wiese asked if any Directors had a conflict of interest regarding any agenda item. No conflicts were noted for the current agenda. 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 JULY 10, 2025 MINUTES: Motion by Director Millan, seconded by Director L. Braun to approve the Minutes as printed. **Motion carried.**

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

YANKTON COUNTY – STEVE BROCKMUELLER : Steve Brockmueller, landowner in Yankton County, is requesting project assistance funds in the amount of \$5,529.75 to repair a dam in Mayfield Township. This dam controls erosion and enhances wildlife. The total cost to repair the dam is \$7,373. **Motion** by Director Cerny, seconded by Director Klimisch to authorize cost-share assistance up to a maximum of \$5,529.75, not to exceed 75% of the total project costs, to Steve Brockmueller to repair a dam in Yankton County. **Motion carried.** These funds will expire on September 11, 2027.

PRESENTATION ON PFAS: Stephen Acquario, Esq was not available to provide his presentation until 11:00 AM. **Motion** by Director L. Braun, seconded by Director Stanley to defer the presentation until the next meeting. **Motion carried.**

DISCUSSION ON LAKE MITCHELL:

- City Commission meeting scheduled for September 15 to address dam structural integrity and drainage capabilities.
- Board members noted:
 - No drainage will occur in 2025.
 - Project permit with the Army Corps of Engineers is still under review.
 - Additional studies are required, including a study on the dam itself.
- Joe Schroeder, Public Works Director/City Engineer from the City of Mitchell, reported:
 - Additional analysis underway, likely including a maximum flood breach analysis.
 - Permits remain under review.
- JRWDD has a broader, regional perspective of the project beyond just Davison County.
- Any future questions or concerns regarding the project should be directed to Joe Schroeder.

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

- Four feedlots discussed: Will be getting drone footage soon
- Successful grazing project near the Aurora County line received a grazing award.
- Approached by State NRCS in June regarding a potential \$20 million RCPP funding for feed lots in next five years; with \$1 million allocated for salaries
- Staff met with Brad Preheim regarding the Vermillion project, which was discontinued earlier this spring due to budget constraints; JRWDD would be reimbursed for salaries when working on these projects.
- Apply for 319 funds in December, application is due at the end of September. Letter signed by Chair to submit applications. **Motion** by Director Millan, seconded by Director Stanley to authorize Chair to sign the letters. **Motion carried.**
- Apply for the State Water Plan to be eligible for \$1 million in State Revolving Funds.
- Sampling continues: About 40% of the streams are flowing and some areas are experiencing low water flow due to recent weather conditions. The water sampling grant is coming to an end in September but another grant is being written for next year.

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
- Upcoming projects: Creek cleanout in Spink County, Dam project tin Marshall County
- September 16: Meeting at Diversion dam near Huron
- October 15: 2025 Eastern SD Water Conference in Brookings

- Director Millan: Proposed that most meetings be held in the District office in Huron and rotating meetings in Aberdeen, Mitchell and Yankton to reduce travel expenses. Director Millan will present a schedule to consider at the November meeting.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE: Directors were provided with employee evaluations to be completed on Judy McDonald and Dave Bartel within the next two weeks and returned to Chair Wiese.

ADOPTION OF 2026 BUDGET: Chair Wiese asked for board input on the proposed 2026 budget, which incorporates the allowed 2.9% CPI and 1% growth rate. **Motion** by Director Cerny, seconded by Director L. Braun to adopt the 2026 James River Water Development District Operations Budget as presented. **Motion carried.**

FY 2026 BUDGET

CASH FLOW

Board of Directors \$40,835
Administration & Technical \$282,490
Professional Fees \$15,000
Capital Outlay \$50,000
Project Assistance \$735,963
Contingency \$25,000
Balance for Long Term Debt \$74,500

Total FY 2026 Appropriations \$1,223,788

MEANS OF FINANCE

Tax Revenue \$1,200,188
Misc. Tax Revenue \$1,600
Misc. Revenue \$22,000

Total FY 2025 Revenue \$1,223,788

ADOPTION OF 2026 TAX LEVY: Resolution 2025-03 needs to be approved which states that a tax be assessed and levied on all taxable property in the James River Water Development District. The resolution covers the District's property tax collections for fiscal year 2025, payable in 2026. The resolution is part of the package of material sent to all county auditors and/or treasurers in the District, as well as the SD Dept of Revenue, on or before October 1. **Motion** by Director Stanley, seconded by Director Cerny to approve Resolution 2025-03. **Motion passed.**

TREASURERS REPORT: The Board reviewed the June 2025 financial reports. **Motion** by Director Millan, seconded by Director L. Braun to approve the June 2025 financials as discussed and printed. **Motion carried.** The Board reviewed the July 2025 financial reports. **Motion** by Director Cerny, seconded by Director Stanley to approve the July 2025 financials as discussed and printed. **Motion carried.**

BOARD OF DIRECTOR AND STAFF REIMBURSEMENTS: **Motion** by Director Stanley, seconded by Director Cerny to approve Staff and Director expenses. **Motion carried.**

NEXT MEETING: The next meeting will be held November 13 in Huron, SD at 9:00 AM.

ADJOURN: Being no further business, Chair Millan declared the meeting adjourned at 9:45 AM.

Respectfully submitted:



Secretary