



JAMES RIVER WATER DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES  
JULY 13, 2023

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The James River Water Development District (JRWDD) Board of Directors convened at 9:00 a.m. for its regular meeting on Thursday, July 13, 2023 at the Best Western in Yankton, SD.

ROLL CALL: The following persons were in attendance:

DIRECTORS PRESENT

Dan Koupal – Mitchell  
Randy Stanley – Groton  
LeRoy Braun – Mellette  
Carol Millan – Mitchell  
Robert Braun – Aberdeen  
Dan Klimisch – Utica  
Pat Cerny – Yankton

DIRECTORS ABSENT

Dennis Bennett – Huron  
Mike Wiese - Aberdeen

STAFF PRESENT

Judy Smoyer, CFO & Associate Manager  
Dave Bartel, District Manager  
Shane Deranleau, Watershed Coordinator

OTHERS PRESENT: Brad Preheim – Vermillion Basin Water Development District, Gary Vetter – Yankton County, Reece Treeby – City of Hecla, Jim Lane – Yankton resident, Jay Gilbertson – East Dakota Water Development District (via phone)

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: **Motion** by Director L. Braun, 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 MAY 11, 2023 MINUTES: Motion by Director R. Braun, seconded by Director Cerny to approve the Minutes as printed. **Motion passed.**

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Jim Lane landowner in Yankton County was present to express his concerns with the safety of individuals at bridges during the ongoing construction in Yankton County. Mr. Lane is asking the District for their public support to create safe recreational access' to these bridges during construction. It was recommended that Mr. Lane approach the Yankton County Commission to get their support.

**DAKOTA MAINSTEM REGIONAL WATER SYSTEM:** At the May meeting, Jay Gilbertson shared with the Board efforts to address the long-range water needs of South Dakota. Dakota Main Stem RWS formally became an entity in South Dakota on May 22. Dakota MainStem RWS has engaged the services of an attorney and are developing the by-laws for the organization. To continue to move forward the Dakota MainStem RWS will need financial resources for startup activities, data collection and engineering. To date, the East Dakota WDD and Vermillion Basin WDD have pledged \$50,000 and \$10,000, respectively. They are asking for \$50,000 from James River WDD. **Motion** by Director Cerny, seconded by Director Koupal to award \$30,000 in cost-share assistance to the Dakota MainStem RWS for startup activities, data collection and engineering. **Motion passed.** These funds will expire on July 13, 2025. The board encouraged Mr. Gilbertson to re-apply for the additional \$20,000 if the organization needs additional funding.

**CITY OF HECLA: SANITARY SEWER IMPROVEMENTS:** Reece Treeby, Assistant Council President with the City of Hecla was present to request project assistance funds in the amount of \$50,000 for costs associated with repair a 14' to 16' section of sanitary sewer line that collapsed in May of 2023. The city has been bypass pumping the sanitary sewer above the ground around the collapse. Prior to the sewer line collapse the city had begun planning for the replacement of most of the lines in town and have been placed on the State Water Plan and have submitted an application in the amount of \$4,000,000 to SD DANR for Phase 1 of a 3 Phase project totaling \$12,000,000. The funding will not be in place prior to winter and the city needs to fix the collapsed portion before winter. The total cost of the collapsed portion is \$151,744.48. **Motion** by Director Stanley, seconded by Director L. Braun to authorize cost-share assistance up to a maximum of \$50,000, not to exceed 50% of the total costs, to City of Hecla for repairing the collapsed portion of the sanitary sewer line. **Motion passed.** These funds will expire on July 13, 2025.

**HUTCHINSON COUNTY – DANIEL ULMER:** Daniel Ulmer, landowner in Hutchinson County, is requesting project assistance funds in the amount of \$24,919.50 to repair a dam in Sweet Township. The total cost to repair the dam is \$33,507. **Motion** by Director Klimisch, seconded by Director Cerny to authorize cost-share assistance up to a maximum of \$24,919.50, not to exceed 75% of the total project costs, to Daniel Ulmer to repair a dam in Hutchinson County. **Motion passed.** These funds will expire on July 13, 2025.

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

- Firesteel Creek is ongoing.
- Staff will put together a video to present at the next meeting with some of the projects that have been completed or that are in progress.
- Staff is working with the new 319 guidelines.
- Water sampling continues; some sites are not being sampled due to low or no flows.

**POLICY COMMITTEE UPDATE:** The policy committee will be meeting July 13. Any changes to the policy document will be emailed out to the Directors and any proposed amendments will be considered by the Board at the September meeting.

**PERSONNEL COMMITTEE UPDATE:** The personnel committee will report at the September meeting.

**PRELIMINARY 2024 BUDGET:** Committee Chair L. Braun went over the preliminary 2024 budget. The District will take the allowed CPI for taxes payable in 2024 which has been set at 3% (\$32,352). The District will not take the allowed growth percentage for 2024.

**SET THE 2024 BUDGET HEARING:** The Board needs to establish the time and place for the 2024 public budget hearing. It is suggested that the 2024 budget hearing be held at the September 14 Board meeting in Aberdeen at 9:30 a.m. **Motion** by Director Cerny, seconded by Director Klimisch to hold the public hearing on the District's Financial Year 2024 budget on Thursday, September 14, 2023, at 9:30 a.m. during the Board of Directors meeting to be held at the Best Western Ramkota in Aberdeen, SD and to authorize publication of the draft budget and necessary public notices in the official newspapers of the District. **Motion passed.**

**DISTRICT UPDATE:** Staff and Directors reported on the following activities of the District:

- The 2022 audit is ongoing.
- On September 9, 2021, the Board approved cost-sharing assistance up to \$\$29,294.25 to Dan Hauck to build a dam and \$32,429.25 to Verlyn Hauck to build a dam in Yankton County. These funds have not been used and will expire on September 9, 2023. **Motion** by Director Klimisch, seconded by Director R. Braun to extend the cost-sharing assistance to Dan Hauck and Verlyn Hauck until December 31, 2023. **Motion passed.**
- Director Klimish reported on the MSAC annual meeting he attended and the preliminary flood maps being updated by FEMA.
- Director Cerny handed out an article from the USA Today on tap water
- Discussion was held on the recent finding of zebra mussel at Sand Lake National Refuge in Brown County.

**TREASURERS REPORT:** The Board reviewed the April 2023 financial reports. **Motion** by Director Koupal, seconded by Director L. Braun to approve the April 2023 financials as discussed and printed. **Motion passed.** The Board reviewed the May 2023 financial reports. **Motion** by Director R. Braun, seconded by Director Sanley to approve the May 2023 financials as discussed and printed. **Motion passed.**

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

**NEXT MEETING:** The next meeting will be held September 14 in Aberdeen at 9:00 a.m.

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

Respectfully submitted:

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Secretary

JAMES RIVER WATER DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT

\*\*\* Sign-In Sheet \*\*\*

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING: July 13-2023

| NAME            | REPRESENTING   | EMAIL ADDRESS         |
|-----------------|----------------|-----------------------|
| Reeco Treeby    | City of Hecla  | treebyfarm@gmail.com  |
| Gary Vetter     | Yankton County | gary@co.yankton.sd.us |
| BRAD Preheim    | VBWDD          |                       |
| JIM LANE        | —              |                       |
| Shane Deranbean | South Central  |                       |
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