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JAMES RIVER WATER DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 14, 2024

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

ROLL CALL: The following persons were in attendance:

DIRECTORS PRESENT

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

DIRECTORS ABSENT

STAFF PRESENT

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

OTHERS PRESENT: June Nusz – landowner, Ted Dickey – NECOG, Brandon Smid – Helms Engineering, Dalin Fast – Foster Township, Zach Haddix – USACE and Matt Hayes – Davison Conservation District

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

CONFLICT OF INTEREST: Chairman Wiese 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 JANUARY 10, 2024 MINUTES: Motion by Director Millan, seconded by Director Cerny to approve the Minutes as printed. **Motion passed.**

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

UPDATE FROM US ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS ON UPSTREAM RESERVOIRS AND 2024 RELEASES: Zachary Haddix, Hydraulic Engineer from US Army Corps of Engineers gave an update on the upstream reservoirs and 2024 releases. A low flow year is predicted, as designated in the Water Control Manual for Jamestown and Pipestem reservoirs. The maximum combined releases from Jamestown and Pipestem reservoirs will be at 200 cfs and releases will be adjusted based on spring and summer rainfall. The Pipestem Reservoir is on the 2022 State of ND 303(d) list of impaired waterbodies requiring a TMDL. Water quality samples will be taken throughout 2024.

CITY OF NORTHVILLE – WATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS: Ted Dickey with NECOG was present to request project assistance funds in the amount of \$50,000 for the City of Northville's water system improvement project. This

project will provide a new underground storage tank that will be able to store 40,000 gallons for peak daily usage which will allow Northville to serve its residents with water as needed. The project will also include replacing lines which will increase water pressure and water quality for the residents. **Motion** by Director Millan, seconded by Director Cerny to authorize cost-share assistance up to a maximum of \$20,000, not to exceed 50% of the total project costs, to the City of Northville for water system improvement project. **Motion passed.** These funds will expire on March 14, 2026. The City of Northville will request funding from DANR. Additionally, the board encouraged the city to re-submit an application up to \$30,000 should additional resources be required.

DAVISON CONSERVATION DISTRICT TREE SHREDDER/CUTTER: Matt Hayes, Davison Conservation District Manager was present to request project assistance funds in the amount of \$10,000 for a new mechanical tree shredder/cutter in an effort to provide conservation assistance to address woody encroachment concerns in the Davison, Hanson, Sanborn and other counties in the JRWDD for the life of the machine. The total cost of the machine is \$37,995. **Motion** by Director Koupal, seconded by Director Cerny to authorize cost-share assistance up to a maximum of \$10,000, not to exceed 50% of the total project costs, to the Davison Conservation District for costs associated with purchasing a tree shredder/cutter. **Motion passed.** These funds will expire on March 14, 2026

FOSTER TOWNSHIP – BANK STABILIZATION: Dalin Fast with Foster Township was present to request project assistance funds in the amount of \$18,600 for bank stabilization at a water structure replacement site in Beadle County. The total cost of the project is \$201,410. **Motion** by Director R. Braun, seconded by Director Stanley to authorize cost-share assistance up to a maximum of \$18,600, not to exceed 50% of the total project costs, to Foster Township for costs associated with bank stabilization. These funds will expire on March 14, 2026

HUTCHINSON COUNTY – JUNE NUSZ: June Nusz, landowner in Hutchinson County, is requesting project assistance funds in the amount of \$48,615.31 to repair a dam in Sweet Township. The dam is approximately four-miles above the James River and will hold nearly 30-acre feet, which will slow the runoff greatly. The total cost to repair the dam is \$64,820.41. **Motion** by Director Klimisch, seconded by Director Bennett to authorize cost-share assistance up to a maximum of \$48,615.31, not to exceed 75% of the total project costs, to June Nusz to repair a dam in Hutchinson County. **Motion passed.** These funds will expire on March 14, 2026.

YANKTON COUNTY – DANIEL AUCH: Daniel Auch, landowner in Yankton County, is requesting project assistance funds in the amount of \$46,410.93 to build a dam in Odessa Township. The dam will be built 2-3 miles south of the James River and will slow down the runoff and reduce erosion. The total cost to repair the dam is \$61,881.24. **Motion** by Director Klimisch, seconded by Director Cerny to authorize cost-share assistance up to a maximum of \$46,410.93, not to exceed 75% of the total project costs, to Daniel Auch to build a dam in Yankton County. **Motion passed.** These funds will expire on March 14, 2026.

E. COLI TESTING: Director Klimisch updated the board on high levels of E. coli in Yankton County at the September 2023 meeting. He would like the District to purchase some testing kits to have on hand. The board directed the manager to purchase a limited number of E. coli testing kits. The budget for these kits was capped at \$1,000.

2024 TREE PLANTING SUPPORT TO CONSERVATION DISTRICTS: The District office received several letters from the local Conservation Districts for continued support to help producers within the District with tree planting efforts. Discussion was held regarding Marshall County only being a partial County in the District. **Motion** by Director Klimisch, seconded by Director Millan to authorize cost-sharing assistance to the Conservation Districts as follows; Beadle, Brown, Davison, Hanson, Hutchinson, Sanborn, Spink, and Yankton Conservation Districts will be awarded \$15,000 each; Marshall Conservation District will be awarded \$8,000 and Aurora Conservation District will be awarded \$7,500 to help producers with tree planting efforts in the amount of \$135,500. **Motion passed.** These funds will expire on December 31, 2024.

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

- Firesteel Creek is ongoing.
- Staff is working with Tanner Clausen on the Riparian Buffer Initiative.

- Staff is applying for additional RCPP funds
- Water sampling will start in May

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.
- The manager allocated \$500 to Hutchinson Conservation District for their Arbor Day Festival.
- The manager allocated \$1,850 to Walsh Township for bank stabilization.
- Diversion Dam site visit is scheduled for April 10.
- The terms of office for Directors in areas 2, 4, 6 and 8 expire at the end of 2024. Petitions need to be filed by March 26 with the SD Secretary of State. Each petition needs 25 valid signatures.
- Director Klimisch provided an update on Marshall and Aurora Conservation District and funding for their 2024 tree plantings. 75% of Marshall County is in the JRWDD and 55% of Aurora County is in the JRWDD. Additional monies will be allocated to Marshall and Aurora at the May meeting.
- Magnetic name badges need to be ordered for all Directors.
- Business cards need to be ordered for the following Directors: Klimisch, Bennett, Cerny

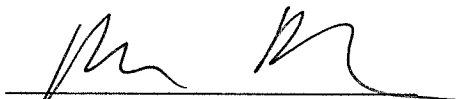
TREASURERS REPORT: The Board reviewed the January 2024 financial reports. **Motion** by Director Millan, seconded by Director Cerny to approve the January 2024 financials as discussed and printed. **Motion passed.**

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

NEXT MEETING: The next meeting will be held May 9 in Mitchell at 9:00 a.m.

ADJOURN: Being no further business, Chairman Wiese declared the meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted:



Secretary