



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
JULY 11, 2024

The James River Water Development District (JRWDD) Board of Directors convened at 9:00 A.M. for its regular meeting on Thursday, July 11, 2024 at the Best Western Kelly Inn in Yankton, 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

DIRECTORS ABSENT

Mike Wiese - Aberdeen
LeRoy Braun - Mellette

STAFF PRESENT

Judy McDonald, CFO & Associate Manager
Shane Deranleau, Watershed Coordinator

OTHERS PRESENT: Daniel Ostrem – NRCS, Ryan Wood – DGR Engineering, Roy Hull – Town of Gayville, Matthew Wurtz & Jason Waldner – Jamesville Colony, Joe Schroeder – City of Mitchell, Randy Dokendorf – Press and Dakotan

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: **Motion** by Director Klimisch, seconded by Director Stanley 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 9, 2024 MINUTES: Motion by Director Bennett, seconded by Director R. Braun to approve the Minutes as printed. **Motion passed.**

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Representatives from Jamesville Colony, Matthew Wurtz and Jason Waldner, attended the meeting to request support for building dikes to combat the slow-moving water on their land. The District is unable to provide direct aid and advised the colony to explore federal and state funding options.

TOWN OF GAYVILLE-ENGINEERING FOR WASTEWATER PROJECT: Ryan Wood with DGR Engineering and Gayville councilman Roy Hull were in attendance to request project assistance funds in the amount of \$50,000 for engineering costs associated with their sanitary sewer improvement project. The project will include replacement of collection mains, lining of the same and improvements to its treatment lagoons. **Motion** by Director R. Braun, seconded by Director Klimisch to authorize cost-share assistance up to a maximum of \$50,000, not to exceed 50% of the total project costs, to the Town of Gayville. **Motion passed.** These funds will expire on July 11, 2026.

PRESENTATION FROM NRCS ON THE WATERSHED & FLOOD PREVENTION OPERATIONS PROGRAM (WFPO): Dan Ostrem, agricultural engineer for NRCS and Joe Schroeder, P.E., Public Works Director-City Engineer with the City of Mitchell, were in attendance to provide an update on and answer question regarding potential sponsorship of the WFPO. The Board will consider approval or disapproval of the WFPO sponsorship at its meeting on September 12, 2024.

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

- Firesteel Creek is ongoing.
- Water sampling is ongoing
- Working on feedlots
- Working with Tanner Clausen with SD DANR on the Riparian Buffer initiative

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

- Chair Millan thanked Director Cerny for lining up the tour at Gavins Point Dam
- 2023 audit is ongoing
- Discussion of the e. Coli problem in Yankton County; Director R. Braun collected samples in the area and is waiting for the results.
- Upcoming requests: WEB Water Development Association, Dave Huber dam in Hutchinson County, Mike Brezina dam in Hutchinson County and SDGF&P signage for zebra mussels.
- Reports from the budget & personnel committees will be provided at the September meeting; the policy committee meets every other year.

UPCOMING VACANCY FOR DIRECTOR AREA 4: The term of office for Director Area 4, currently held by LeRoy Bruan, will expire at the end of the year, December 31, 2024. No valid petitions were filed for the position during the nominating period earlier in the year, therefore the position will be vacant as of January 1, 2025. The pending vacancy will be advertised in the Huron Plainsman, Sanborn Weekly Journal and Redfield Press. The vacancy will be filled by appointment by the District Board of Directors at their meeting in January 2025. Any petition to be considered at that meeting must be received at the JRWDD office no later than 5:00 p.m. on December 31, 2024. If no qualified nominating petitions have been filed by that date, the Board will continue to accept nominating petitions until one or more is received. The Board will fill the vacancy by appointment at a subsequent meeting, provided that the petitions are received at least five working days prior to the meeting. The appointed Director will serve until December 31, 2028. **Motion** by Director Cerny, seconded by Director R. Braun to authorize publication of the Notice of Vacancy; to require that all applicants for the vacancy submit their petitions to the JRWDD office no later than 5:00 p.m. on December 30, 2024; and to set the January 2025 Board meeting as the initial time to consider all valid petitions and to appoint a Director for Area 4. **Motion passed.**

Director Klimisch left the meeting at 10:00 am.

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

SET THE 2025 BUDGET HEARING: The Board needs to establish the time and place for the 2025 public budget hearing. It is suggested that the 2025 budget hearing be held at the September 12 Board meeting in Aberdeen at 9:30 a.m. **Motion** by Director Cerny, seconded by Director Stanley to hold the public hearing on the District's Financial Year 2025 budget on Thursday, September 12, 2024, 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.**

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 September 12 in Aberdeen at 9:00 a.m.

ADJOURN: Being no further business, Chair Millan declared the meeting adjourned at 10:08 a.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Secretary

DRAFT