



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
MAY 9, 2024

The James River Water Development District (JRWD) Board of Directors convened at 9:00 A.M. for its regular meeting on Thursday, May 9, 2024 at the Davison County North Office Building in Mitchell, SD.

ROLL CALL: The following persons were in attendance:

DIRECTORS PRESENT

Dan Koupal – Mitchell
LeRoy Braun – Mellette
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: Randy Meidinger – Ducks Unlimited, Ryan Alley, Heidi Rients, Jeff Hyett - NRCS

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 MARCH 14, 2024 MINUTES: Motion by Director Klimisch, seconded by Director Stanley to approve the Minutes as printed. **Motion passed.**

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

PRESENTATION FROM NRCS ON THE WATERSHED & FLOOD PREVENTION OPERATIONS PROGRAM (WFPO): Dan Ostrem, agricultural engineer for NRCS, presented the project to the board in an effort to have JRWD sponsor the project. The program requires local sponsors that have taxing authority to help back the work. No financial commitment at this stage is being sought as NRCS is fully paying for the engineering and the planning, which is expected to take about two years. Parts of the watershed required to be sponsored aren't part of the JRWD, including parts of Aurora County and all of Jerald

County. **Motion** by Director Cerny, seconded by Director Millan to table the discussion until the July meeting. **Motion passed.**

DAKOTA MAINSTEM REGIONAL WATER SYSTEM: At the July 2023 JRWDD meeting, the Board authorized \$30,000 to the Dakota Mainstem RWS; and they are now requesting an additional \$20,000. The board was concerned about some of the expenses and budget items such as logo creation and airfare as well as lack of involvement from other communities that will benefit the most. **Motion** by Director Klimisch, seconded by Director Millan to award an additional \$5,000 in cost-share assistance to the Dakota Mainstem RWS for startup activities, data collection and engineering. **Motion passed.** These funds will expire on May 9, 2026.

DUCKS UNLIMITED – RESTORE WETLANDS IN HANSON COUNTY: Randy Meidinger with Ducks Unlimited was present to request project assistance funds in the amount of \$50,000 to restore and expand hydrology to 5 drained wetland basins by building an earthen dam and 4 ditch plugs. A total of 45 surface acres will be restored on the project; having over 60 acre-feet of water storage capacity. These drained wetlands currently empty in the James River, located less than 1.5 miles west. Restoring these wetlands will help to reduce downstream and overland flooding, reduce sediment, and improve water quality. The total cost to restore the wetlands is \$125,000. **Motion** by Director Cerny, seconded by Director L. Braun to authorize cost-share assistance up to a maximum of \$30,000, not to exceed 50% of the total project costs, to Ducks Unlimited for restoring wetlands in Hanson County. **Motion passed.** These funds will expire on May 9, 2026.

GAYVILLE-VOLIN SCHOOL DISTRICT: DRAINAGE ISSUES: Alison Larson, Committee Member, was present (via phone) to request project assistance funds for drainage issues and running water issues for their outdoor wellness park that will be available to the entire community and surrounding area. The total cost to fix the drainage and running water issues is \$7,500. **Motion** by Director Klimisch, seconded by Director Stanley to authorize cost-share assistance up to a maximum of \$4,000 to Gayville-Volin School District. **Motion passed.** These funds will expire on May 9, 2026.

YANKTON COUNTY – STEVE NIELSON DAM: Steve Nielson, landowner in Yankton County, is requesting project assistance funds in the amount of \$15,550.92 to build a dam in Jamesville Township. This site is located less than a mile above the James River and sits against Highway 46. The landowner is proposing to build an 11-foot berm on the fence line with a tube draining into the existing culvert. The total cost to build the dam is \$20,734.56. **Motion** by Director Klimisch, seconded by Director Cerny to authorize cost-share assistance up to a maximum of \$15,550.92, not to exceed 75% of the total project costs, with prior approval from SD DOT, to Steve Nielson to build a dam in Yankton County. **Motion passed.** These funds will expire on May 9, 2026.

2024 TREE PLANTING SUPPORT TO AURORA & MARSHALL CONSERVATION DISTRICTS: At the January 2024 meeting, the District awarded \$135,500 to the Conservation Districts. To ensure a fair distribution based on the proportion of townships within each partial county, the Board awarded additional funds for tree planting efforts in 2024. **Motion** by Director R. Braun, seconded by Director Stanley, to award an additional \$3,250 to Marshall Conservation District and an additional \$750 to Aurora Conservation District for 2024 tree planting efforts. **Motion passed.** These funds will expire on December 31, 2024.

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

- Firesteel Creek is ongoing.
- Water sampling will start next week
- Staff received \$1.3 million of 319 Funds. **Motion** by Director Stanley, seconded by Director R. Braun to authorize the Chairman to sign the contract when received. **Motion passed.**

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.
- SD Legislative Audit has authorized ELO Prof to perform the 2023 audit of the District; ELO has started the 2023 audit

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

The Board reviewed the March 2024 financial reports. **Motion** by Director R. Braun, seconded by Director Cerny to approve the March 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 July 11 in Yankton at 9:00 a.m.

ADJOURN: Being no further business, Chairman Wiese declared the meeting adjourned at 11:17 a.m.

Respectfully submitted:



Secretary

