



**Draft minutes for regular board meeting on July 08, 2025, 3 PM**

*An audio recording for this meeting is available at [www.westdakotawater.com](http://www.westdakotawater.com) (Note time in lower right corner of the video is 24-hour format and is Mountain Time zone.)*

**CALL TO ORDER:** The West Dakota Water Development District (WDWDD) convened for a regular board meeting at the Rapid Valley Sanitary District, Rapid City, SD. Chair Mack called the meeting to order at 3:00 PM (Mountain Time).

**AGENDA ITEM 1. Pledge of Allegiance. (Chair) (3:00 PM)**

**AGENDA ITEM 2. Roll Call of Members. (Admin) (3:01 PM)**

Directors present: Ron Koth (Area 1), Roy Boschee (Area 2), Dan Driscoll (Area 3), Scott McGregor (Area 4), Dan Mulally (Area 5), William Young (Area 6), Thomas Mack (Area 7), Mark Kline (Area 8), Craig Kjar (Area 9).

A quorum was declared.

Administration present: Larry Stetler (Program Administrator)

**Others in attendance** (as per sign-in sheet): Barry Muxen (CWA, BHEC, Sierra Club), Kristen Conzet (WDRWS), Eva Chase (Pennington Conservation District), Scott Anderson (City of Rapid City), Jim Hayward.

**AGENDA ITEM 3. Approval of Agenda** (The board cannot take official action on any item not on the agenda) (Chair)

**Motion 1** by Driscoll second by Kline to approve agenda (with the following addition): Remove agenda item 8 due to conflict of presenter.

**Motion 1** carries unanimously on a voice vote.

**AGENDA ITEM 4. Conflict of interest disclosure. (Admin)**

0 conflicts stated.

**AGENDA ITEM 5. Approval of minutes** from May 13, 2025 meeting. (chair)

**Motion 2** by McGregor second by Kjar to approve minutes from May 13, 2025 meeting.

**Motion 2** carries unanimously on a voice vote.

**AGENDA ITEM 6. Treasurer's report (Koth)**

a) Ledger report

b) Projects report

**Motion 3** by Koth second by Mulally to approve the treasurer's report. 3:18 PM

**Motion 3** carries unanimously on a voice vote.

**AGENDA ITEM 7. Preliminary 2026 budget discussion**

a) Pennington County tax levy request

- b) Approval of preliminary 2026 budget and the 2025 Pennington County Tax Levy
- c) Authorization to publish

Tax levy discussion:

Koth explained there could be one motion or three motions.

**Motion 4** by Mulally second by Driscoll to approve the tax levy and budget as presented in the packet. 3:21

Discussion: Koth explained levy and budget. Discussion discovered an error in the budget notice for publication. Correction to page 11 notice for publication needs to be changed from \$335,668.97 to \$289,002.3

Mulally stated start of the year funds are clearly trending higher and our balance is approaching \$1 million so taking the total levy possible might not have good optics. Koth stated reducing the levy request would reset the request to a lower level moving forward noting the levy is unchanged and the increase if due to new taxable properties.

**Substitute Motion 4** by Mulally second by Kline to not accept the 2025 levy request of \$274,359 and remain at 2024 level of \$264,775. 3:37 PM

Discussion that the amount of money currently obligated is over \$600,000 and projected expenditures plus possibility of cuts by other entities to our cost share projections indicate we do not have a large surplus of money. Several directors expressed concerns regarding our balance, but noted that we expect our future spending rate to increase substantially with some of our planned projects such as the Section 319 project.

**Substitute Motion 4** failed on voice vote. 4:48 PM

**Motion 4a** by Mulally second by Kjar for a roll-call vote.

**Motion 4a** passed on voice vote to conduct roll-call vote. **Substitute Motion 4** roll-call vote results: 2 votes in favor (Kline, Mulally), 7 votes against (Koth, Boschee, Driscoll, McGregor, Young, Mack, Kjar).

**Amendment to motion 4** by Mulally second by Driscoll to correct the 2026 project budget (p11) from \$335,668.97 to \$289,002.30. 3:52 PM

**Motion 4** as amended carries unanimously on a voice vote. 3:56 PM

**Motion 5** by Young second by Boschee to approve the publishing of the preliminary 2026 budget. 3:56 PM

**Motion 5** carries unanimously on a voice vote.

**AGENDA ITEM 8. Keystone project update** (Mulally). Removed (see Agenda Item 3) from the agenda. Rescheduled for the August meeting.

**AGENDA ITEM 9. WDWDD liability insurance** (Executive Committee/Admin). McGregor stated ongoing efforts to solicit quotes for various scenarios of liability insurance for WDWDD projects.

**AGENDA ITEM 10. ECC report** (ECC Committee), address ExComm letter – information

- a) Discuss funding of up to \$5,000 for collaborative erosion-control project with Cornerstone Mission. (Driscoll and E-C committee)
- b) Discuss funding of up to \$25,000 for collaborative erosion-control project with SD Mines. (Driscoll and E-C committee)

- c) Discuss additional funding of \$25,000 for continuation of our Star Village erosion control project with the City of Rapid City and Tzadik Property Management. (Driscoll and E-C committee)  
*(Note: there are separate proposals for each of the two property owners; however, we've always handled it with a single agenda item because it is treated as a single collaborative effort.)*

Driscoll discussed the status of the 3 listed potential projects and identified potential partners for each by either phone calls during the meeting or in-person presenters. The discussion was summarized by the following stated needs for future project initiation: 1) establish WDWDD liability insurance needs, 2) identify other (larger) groups that would manage the projects with WDWDD funding, 3) continuous future site monitoring for needed repairs, and 4) specifying the upcoming 319 grant that will provide the resources to alter how these erosion projects are managed with WDWDD supplying partial funding and expertise under a contractual agreement with an operator.

Koth stated that future project agreements need to specify 1) clear project goals, 2) responsibilities of each party involved, 3) cost-sharing obligation of the partners, 4) benefits of sediment reduction, and 5) impacts of each project site on the receiving water as a function of distance.

Other contributors to this discussion: Site a) Jim Jones, Cornerstone facilities director; site b) Dr. Heidi Sieverding (Asst Prof CEE) and Dr. Julia Loshelder (Asst Prof CEE); site c) Scott Anderson (City of Rapid City).

#### **AGENDA ITEM 11. Discuss volunteer expenses**

Motion was made by McGregor second by Kjar to reimburse Driscoll for volunteer appreciation expenses not to exceed \$550.

**Motion 6** was made by Koth second by McGregor to defer previous motion to the August meeting and include it on the agenda as a voting item.

**Motion 6** carries unanimously on a voice vote. 5:14 PM

#### **AGENDA ITEM 12. Discuss proposed bylaw changes (Driscoll).**

Suggested revisions from other Directors to be submitted to Driscoll by COB July 13.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 13. Pennington Conservation District report (Mack)**

Brief presentation by Eva Chase of Pennington Conservation District about recent work funded by WDWDD. She will investigate why fencing was not installed to eliminate future cattle damages. It was stated that there are no further projects that fall under the grant. McGregor suggested the account be zeroed.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 14. BOR WaterSMART grant update (Koth)**

Report on the recent efforts in modeling of the Deerfield and Pactola dam operations.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 15. Chair's comments.**

Chairman Mack has visited the Star Village erosion control site. He has also contacted persons about the status of the 319 grant.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 16. Items from directors.**

Mulally commented on water use in RV and noted that Green Valley project costs have increased. Young is taking a field trip on July 19 (meet at 9:30 AM at Dakota Angler) to Green's Gulch and Silver Creek.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 17. Items from admin.**

Admin noted that the 'westdakotawater.com' domain has been transferred to Hover for the next 4 years. A .gov domain does not appear to be used outside of federal and state offices. A change of office hours from the current Monday 1-5PM to 10AM-2PM requires a policy change and notification to Directors, which was accomplished by Chairman Mack at the meeting.

**AGENDA ITEM 18. Items from public.**

None

**AGENDA ITEM 19. Adjournment.** Meeting was adjourned at 5:56PM.

DRAFT