

RED LAKE WATERSHED DISTRICT

April 25, 2019

Agenda
9:00 a.m.

9:00 a.m.	Call to Order	Action
	Review and approve agenda	Action
	Requests to appear	Information
	April 11, 2019 Minutes	Action
	Financial Report dated April 24, 2019	Action
	Unity Bank Pledge Release	Action
	Clearwater County Great Lakes Gas Transmission Settlement	Information
	ESRI - Arc GIS Yearly Maintenance Agreement	Info./Action
	Black River Impoundment, RLWD Project No. 176-Update	Information
	Improvement to Polk Co. Ditch 39, RLWD Ditch 17, RLWD Project No. 179-Findings of Fact & Order	Info./Action
9:30 a.m.	Ditch 16, RLWD Project No. 177-Plans and Specifications	Action
	Thief River Falls West Side FDR Project, RLWD Project No. 178 Appraisal	Information Info./Action
	Proposed Water Management District Schedule Hearing Date	Info./Action Action
	RLWD Impoundment Update	Information
	Permits: No. 19007-19009, 19011, 19012	Action
	Data Request Policy Update	Information
	Legal Counsel Update	Information
	Managers' updates	Information
	Adjourn	Action

UPCOMING MEETINGS

May 9, 2019	RLWD Board Meeting, 9:00 a.m.
May 21, 2019	RRWMB Meeting, 9:30 a.m.
May 23, 2019	RLWD Board Meeting, 9:00 a.m.

DRAFT

RED LAKE WATERSHED DISTRICT
Board of Manager's Minutes
April 11, 2019

President Dale M. Nelson called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. at the Red Lake Watershed District Office, Thief River Falls, MN.

Present were: Managers Terry Sorenson, Gene Tiedemann, Brian Dwight, Dale M. Nelson, Allan Page, and LeRoy Ose. Absent: Les Torgerson. Staff Present: Myron Jesme and Tammy Audette and Legal Counsel Sparby.

The Board reviewed the agenda. A motion was made by Dwight, seconded by Ose, and passed by unanimous vote that the Board approve the agenda. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed the March 28, 2019 minutes. Motion by Sorenson, seconded by Tiedemann, to approve the March 28, 2019 Board meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed the April 4, 2019 Special Board meeting minutes. Motion by Ose, seconded by Tiedemann, to approve the April 4, 2019 Special Board meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed the Financial Report dated April 10, 2019. Motion by Tiedemann, seconded by Page, to approve the Financial Report dated April 10, 2019 as presented. Motion carried.

Staff member Arlene Novak reviewed the General Fund Budget as of March 31, 2019.

Discussion was held on the continuation of the yearly audit by Brady Martz and Associates. Staff member Arlene Novak stated that in the past, the District had signed a three-year contract with Brady Martz for completion of the yearly audit which has since expired. It was the consensus of the Board, to request a proposal for continuation of the District's audit from Brady Martz for a three-year term.

The Board reviewed an agreement between the District and the Thief River Falls School District for the River Watch Program. Motion by Tiedemann, seconded by Dwight, to approve agreement between the District and the Thief River Falls School District for the River Watch Program. Motion carried.

Engineer Nate Dalager, HDR Engineering, Inc. and Deb Walchuk, NRCS appeared before the Board to discuss the Pine Lake Project, RLWD Project No. 26. Dalager referred to the meeting held with MnDNR on March 15, 2019. Following is a list of potential next steps of the project as developed by a group consensus from that meeting: Site E alternatives, Pine Lake levels and operation, conduct stream gaging measurements in 2019, and regulatory hurdles. Discussion was had amongst the Board on what are the tangible next steps, and associated costs. Walchuk

asked what the potential of the project is. The NRCS agreement expires the end of September 2019. The NRCS could grant a one-year extension. If the District decides to cease planning, the NRCS will close out the agreement and the District will need to write a written statement of the information that was gathered, and the obstacles that were encountered. Walchuk stated that the Retention Authority could write a letter of support to the NRCS. Manager Dwight discussed his concern of moving forward with the project, and the hurdles that the MnDNR has laid out. Manager Sorenson made reference to the handout presented at the meeting with the MnDNR, where the MnDNR listed 12 items of consideration. Dalager estimates an additional \$20,000 in costs to gather the additional information. It was the consensus of the Board to call a meeting of the Pine Lake Project Work Team in the near future and report back to the Board.

Deb Walchuk, NRCS, stated that the District did submit written confirmation to close out the agreement for the Four-Legged Lake Project, RLWD Project No. 102A. Walchuk stated that there is additional documentation that will need to be completed.

Engineer Tony Nordby, Houston Engineering, Inc., reviewed the impacts of moving the west boundary of the potential wetland banking site to the summer 25-year, 24-hour event, peak water elevation of 1015.3 for the proposed Black River Impoundment, RLWD Project No. 176. Nordby stated that normal operation of the project would not cause inundation to the proposed wetland banking site that is outside the allowable guidelines referenced in Technical Paper 1 for acceptable bounce on wetlands. Nordby further stated, that by moving the west boundary from the 100-year elevation to the 25-year elevation, the District would be able to capture an additional 6-7 acres of potential wetland credits and an overall additional banking area of approximately 65 acres, which has the ability to get credited at a lesser rater. It was the consensus of the Board, to proceed with moving the west boundary of the wetland banking site to the approximate 25-year elevation as referenced.

Discussion was held on the estimated market value (EMV) of property for the Thief River Falls West Side FDR Project, RLWD Project No. 178. It was the consensus of the Board, to offer the highest of the EMV multiplied by 1.2, to landowners along the project area. Nate Dalager, HDR Engineering, Inc., stated that the next project coordination meeting will be held on April 15th at 1:30 p.m. at the HDR office. Dalager stated that the railroad will not cost share in the bridge removal near TH#32 and Greenwood Street intersection but will remove material from the bridge. Pennington County has scheduled a hearing for the County Ditch 70 system.

At 10:00 a.m., President Dale M. Nelson recessed the general meeting and called the Preliminary Hearing for Ditch 17, RLWD Project No. 179 to order. President Nelson briefly addressed the audience concerning the purpose and format of the hearing and its process. The hearing was videotaped and is available for viewing at the RLWD office. It was noted that the appropriate notices as required by statute had been given. Jerry Pribula and Nick Pribula, Pribula Engineering, engineers for the project, presented the Engineers Preliminary Survey Report for the project and entertained questions from the Board and the audience. The MN DNR Director's Advisory was read into the record. It was noted that the MN BWSR Advisory Report was available for all in attendance and was placed as part of the record. There was considerable discussion had, concerning the need for the improvement to continue through Polk County

Highway #20 into Section 14, Keystone Township. There was also considerable discussion of waters leaving Polk County Highway #66 and flowing west to Polk County Ditch #39. After all in attendance were given a chance to ask questions and/or make comments, the preliminary hearing was closed for public comment. Nelson then opened the hearing up for Board questions. Discussion was held on the potential of extending the improvement farther east to capture waters from PCD #66 or to extend the improvement south one-half mile along west side of Polk County Highway #20. After considerable discussion by the Board, a motion was made by Tiedemann, seconded by Page, to approve the Engineers Preliminary Survey Report, with inclusion for a potential alternative to better capture waters presently draining into the proposed RLWD Ditch No. 17, RLWD Project No. 179. Motion carried. Legal Counsel Sparby explained the next steps and statutory requirements of the project. Motion by Tiedemann, seconded by Ose, to appoint viewers consisting of three disinterested residents of the state to complete a Viewer's Report for the Project and authorize the Engineer to complete the Detailed Survey Report for RLWD Ditch 17, RLWD Project No. 179. Motion carried. Administrator Jesme noted that the he will work with the Petitioner's to increase the bond amount.

Discussion was held on the process to move forward with Ditch 16, RLWD Project No. 177. Motion by Ose, seconded by Dwight, to issue the order for the Engineer to proceed with the completion of the Plans and Specifications for the construction of Ditch 16, RLWD Project No. 179. Motion carried. Legal Counsel Sparby presented the Detailed Findings and Order, which includes all statutory findings for Ditch 16, RLWD Project No. 177. Motion by Tiedemann, seconded by Sorenson, to approve the Detailed Findings and Order for signature and filing, as presented, for Ditch 16, RLWD Project No. 177. Motion carried. The Board reviewed a Cooperative Construction Agreement between the District and Minnesota Department of Transportation for replacement of a box culvert in Trunk Highway No. 220 for construction of Ditch 16, RLWD Project No. 177. Motion by Sorenson, seconded by Ose, to authorize President Nelson and Secretary Sorenson, the authority to sign the Cooperative Construction Agreement with the Minnesota Department of Transportation for Ditch 16, RLWD Project No. 177. Motion carried. Discussion was held on funding the project and the need for Polk County to complete a bond sale to assist in the construction of Ditch 16, RLWD Project No. 177. Motion by Tiedemann, seconded by Page, to authorize Administrator Jesme to contact Polk County, requesting the county to complete a bond sale for construction of Ditch 16, RLWD Project No. 177. Motion carried.

President Nelson turned the meeting over to Vice President Tiedemann.

Manager Page discussed the closure of gates on the Schirrick Dam, RLWD Project No. 25.

Administrators Report:

- Jesme and Manager Ose will attend the RRWMB meeting April 16, 2019 at the District office.
- Included in the packet is the MAWD legislative update and a letter from the RRWMB to Collin Peterson.

- Jesme participated in a Red Lake River 1W1P Planning Workgroup telephone conference on April 10th. The intent of the meeting was to review the existing Work Plan and incorporate new projects that have surfaced since the plan was approved.
- There will be a Thief River 1W1P Policy Committee meeting on April 17th at 9:00 a.m. at the District office. The meeting will focus on Section 4 review.
- Jesme will attend a Local Roundtable Workgroup and BWSR Clean Water Team meeting in St. Cloud on April 12th. The meeting will cover items such as overview of watershed-based funding, assurance measures, watershed-based funding policy, desired outcomes and various other agenda items.
- Jesme will attend the Pennington County Township Association meeting on April 15th, to discuss the Thief River Falls Westside FDR Project and the Black River Impoundment project.
- Jesme attended a meeting at the Roseau River Watershed District to assist in the meeting with several potential viewers for northern Minnesota.

Staff member Loren Sanderson discussed water levels on District impoundments and ditches. The Parnell, Euclid East and Brandt Impoundment gates were all closed on April 6, 2019. All three have similar operating plans, with trigger elevations at East Grand Forks and Crookston. One foot of water has been going over the Lateral 2 weir on Parnell Impoundment, which regulates water that goes south from the Parnell Impoundment to Judicial Ditch 60. The east pool of the Parnell Impoundment is beginning to fill, with approximately 11 feet of water on the west end. There is currently 8 feet of water by the structure of the Euclid East Impoundment. The Brandt Impoundment has approximately 14.5 feet of water at the structure. The District's Gate Tender will continue to monitor all three impoundments. Inspection of the dams will take place after the water recedes. Gates on the Schirrick Dam were closed on April 10th. The Schirrick Dam takes the peak off the crest of Crookston or East Grand Forks. Closure of the structure needs to be done 60 hours in advance of the crest. When closed, two county roads are inundated.

Motion by Dwight, seconded by Ose, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

Terry Sorenson, Secretary

RED LAKE WATERSHED DISTRICT
Financial Report for April 24, 2019

Ck#	Check Issued to:	Description	Amount
online	EFTPS	Withholding for FICA, Medicare, and Federal taxes	4,092.77
online	MN Department of Revenue	Withholding taxes	723.71
online	Public Employees Retirement Assn.	PERA contributions	2,622.39
online	EFTPS	Withholding for FICA, Medicare, and Federal taxes	377.04
online	EFTPS	Withholding for FICA, Medicare, and Federal taxes	54.90
37422	Biffs Kitchen	Meals for RRWMB meeting (reimbursable)	200.00
37423	Elroy Aune	Thief River 1W1P mileage	55.10
37424	Beltrami County Auditor-Treasurer	2019 Real estate taxes	0.65
37425	Beltrami SWCD	Thief River 1W1P reimbursement	415.80
37426	Cenex Credit Card	Gas for vehicles	356.94
37427	Delta Dental	Dental insurance premium	409.75
37428	Digi Key	Cable converter	32.89
37429	Mike Drangsveit	Thief River 1W1P mileage	23.20
37430	Further	FSA Account fees	8.85
37431	Garden Valley	Telephone maintenance	125.25
37432	HDR, Inc.	* See below-engineering fees	80,639.56
37433	Houston Engineering, Inc.	** See below-Engineering fees	11,927.25
37434	Marco	MS Office 365 monthly charge	175.00
37435	Northwest Beverage, Inc.	H2O for office	36.75
37436	Pennington County Treasurer	2019 Real estate taxes	6,796.00
37437	Polk County Administrator	2019 Real estate taxes	3,116.87
37438	Red Lake County Treasurer	2019 Real estate taxes	222.88
37439	TD Ameritrade Trust Company	Deferred Compensation	819.61
37440	Gene Tiedemann	Mileage	464.58
online	Aflac	Staff paid insurances	920.19
online	Cardmember Services	***See below for explanation	2,410.66
	Payroll		
	Check #11641-11649		<u>12,690.44</u>
	Total Checks		\$ 129,719.03

***HDR, Inc.**

Proj. 26 Pine Lake	1,812.37
Proj. 178 Thief River Westside FDR	<u>78,827.19</u>
Total	80,639.56

***Houston Engineering, Inc.**

Proj. 149A Thief River 1W1P	5,253.50
Proj. 176 Black River Impoundment	<u>6,673.75</u>
Total	11,927.25

***** Cardmember Services**

AT&T-Cell phone expense	243.79
Culvers-Proj. 26 meeting meals	24.34
Courtyard--Lodging-RRWMB-Brian	284.76
Courtyard--Lodging-RRWMB-AI	284.76
Courtyard--Lodging-RRWMB-Christin	284.76
Courtyard--Lodging-RRWMB-LeRoy	427.14
Courtyard--Lodging-RRWMB-Gene	284.76
Courtyard--Lodging-RRWMB-Myron	142.38
Courtyard-Lodging-RRWMB-Terry	284.76
Holiday Inn-GIS Advisory-Ashley	<u>149.21</u>
Total	2,410.66

Banking**Northern State Bank**

Balance as of April 11, 2019	\$ 158,580.80
Total Checks Written	(129,719.03)
Receipt #414529 Transfer in from American Federal Bank	<u>100,000.00</u>
Balance as of April 24, 2019	<u><u>\$ 128,861.77</u></u>

Border State Bank

Balance as of February 28, 2019	\$ 18,216.14
Receipt #414523 Border State Bank-Monthly interest	<u>7.72</u>
Balance as of March 31, 2019	<u><u>\$ 18,223.86</u></u>

American Federal Bank-Fosston

Balance as of April 10, 2019	\$ 2,170,710.00
Receipt #414528 RRWMB-Pay request #1-Thief River Westside FDR	80,421.96
Receipt #414529 Transfer into Northern State Bank	<u>(100,000.00)</u>
Balance as of April 24, 2019	<u><u>\$ 2,151,131.96</u></u>



The Strength of Community
**UNITY
BANK**

www.unitybanking.com

April 15, 2019

Red Lake Watershed District
1000 Pennington Ave S
Thief River Falls, MN 56701

Re: Pledge Agreement

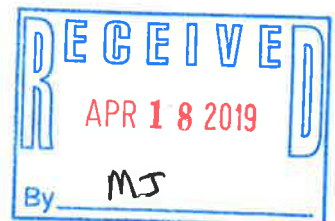
Enclosed is a Pledge Agreement totaling \$50,000. Please sign this agreement under "Cancel and Release" and return in the enclosed envelope. There will be no substitution to this pledge due to your balances already being sufficiently covered by the FDIC insurance.

If you anticipate additional funds will be deposited or have any concerns or questions, please feel free to contact me at 320-318-8363.

Sincerely,

Heide Johnson
Controller

Enclosure





ALLEN L. PAULSON

CLEARWATER COUNTY
AUDITOR-TREASURER

Phone: (218) 694-6520
FAX: (218) 694-6244
213 Main Ave. N, Dept 202
Bagley, MN 56621-8304
allen.paulson@co.clearwater.mn.us
Debbie Lewis - Chief Deputy
Joy Eck - Deputy
Niki Broten-Deputy
Emily McDougall
Jean Gottsman

April 15, 2019

Red Lake Watershed District
Myron Jesme
1000 Pennington Avenue South
Thief River Falls, MN 56701

Dear Mr. Jesme;

As the Clearwater County Auditor, I was recently notified that the Tax Court has issued an order for Judgement between Great Lakes Gas Transmission LTD and MN Commissioner of Revenue. The Courts ordered that the 2018 Market Value of the utility operating property of Great Lakes Transmission LTD be set at \$200,000,000.00. The Market Values must be apportioned to the districts in which Great Lakes operates. The order requires that property taxes due and payable in 2019 shall be recomputed and billed accordingly. The recomputed Tax Statement in Clearwater County is a reduction of taxes in the amount of \$113,760.00. This reduction affects the spring settlement of taxes for Clearwater County, State of Minnesota, School District #162, School District #2311, six townships, Red Lake Watershed and Headwaters Regional Development Assn.

The Minnesota Department of Revenue suggested that I communicate with the local taxing jurisdictions to inform them of this loss of revenue. Red Lake Watershed District will receive a reduction of **\$4,199.99** in their May Settlement for taxes paid in 2019.

Please contact me with questions or concerns at 218-694-6520 or allen.paulson@co.clearwater.mn.us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Allen L. Paulson".

Allen L. Paulson
Clearwater County Auditor/Treasurer
213 Main Ave N
Bagley, MN 56621





Esri Inc
380 New York Street
Redlands CA 92373

Subject: Renewal Quotation

Date: 04/01/2019
To: Ashley Hitt
Organization: Red Lake Watershed District
Fax #: 218-681-5839 **Phone #:** 218-681-5800

From: Pete Bennett
Fax #: 909-307-3083 **Phone #:** 888-377-4575 Ext. 2063
Email: pbennett@esri.com

Number of pages transmitted
(including this cover sheet): 5

Quotation #25895351
Document Date: 04/01/2019

Please find the attached quotation for your forthcoming term. Keeping your term current may entitle you to exclusive benefits, and if you choose to discontinue your coverage, you will become ineligible for these valuable benefits and services.

If your quote is regarding software maintenance renewal, visit the following website for details regarding the maintenance program benefits at your licensing level
<http://www.esri.com/apps/products/maintenance/qualifying.cfm>

All maintenance fees from the date of discontinuation will be due and payable if you decide to reactivate your coverage at a later date.

Please note: Certain programs and license types may have varying benefits. Complimentary User Conference registrations, software support, and software and data updates are not included in all programs.

Customers who have multiple copies of certain Esri licenses may have the option of supporting some of their licenses with secondary maintenance.

For information about the terms of use for Esri products as well as purchase order terms and conditions, please visit
<http://www.esri.com/legal/licensing/software-license.html>

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Customer Service at 888-377-4575 option 5.



esri[®] 380 New York Street
 Redlands, CA 92373
 Phone: 888-377-45752063
 Fax #: 909-307-3083

Quotation

Date: 04/01/2019

Quotation Number: 25895351

Contract Number: 2014MPA1154

Send Purchase Orders To:

Environmental Systems Research Institute, Inc.
 380 New York Street
 Redlands, CA 92373-8100
 Attn: Pete Bennett

Please include the following remittance address on your Purchase Order:

Environmental Systems Research Institute, Inc.
 P.O. Box 741076
 Los Angeles, CA 90074-1076

Red Lake Watershed District
 1000 Pennington Ave S
 Thief River Falls MN 56701
Attn: Ashley Hitt

Phone: 218-681-5800

Customer Number: 127165

For questions regarding this document, please contact Customer Service at 888-377-4575.

Item	Qty	Material#	Unit Price	Extended Price
10	1	93094 ArcGIS Desktop Basic with Extensions Single Use Primary Maintenance Start Date: 07/01/2019 End Date: 06/30/2020	1,000.00	1,000.00
1010	1	87193 ArcGIS Desktop Basic Single Use Secondary Maintenance Start Date: 07/01/2019 End Date: 06/30/2020	300.00	300.00
2010	1	87193 ArcGIS Desktop Basic Single Use Secondary Maintenance Start Date: 08/01/2019 End Date: 06/30/2020	274.93	274.93
3010	2	93095 ArcGIS Desktop Basic with Extensions Single Use Secondary Maintenance Start Date: 07/01/2019 End Date: 06/30/2020	900.00	1,800.00

Quotation is valid for 90 days from document date.

Any estimated sales and/or use tax has been calculated as of the date of this quotation and is merely provided as a convenience for your organization's budgetary purposes. Esri reserves the right to adjust and collect sales and/or use tax at the actual date of invoicing. If your organization is tax exempt or pays state taxes directly, then prior to invoicing, your organization must provide Esri with a copy of a current tax exemption certificate issued by your state's taxing authority for the given jurisdiction.

Esri may charge a fee to cover expenses related to any customer requirement to use a proprietary vendor management, procurement, or invoice program.

Issued By: Pete Bennett

Ext: 2063

[CSBATCHDOM]

To expedite your order, please reference your customer number and this quotation number on your purchase order.



esri[®]

380 New York Street
Redlands, CA 92373
Phone: 888-377-45752063
Fax #: 909-307-3083

Quotation

Page 2

Date: 04/01/2019

Quotation Number: 25895351

Contract Number: 2014MPA1154

Item Qty Material#

Unit Price

Extended Price

Item Subtotal	3,374.93
Estimated Tax	0.00
Total	USD 3,374.93

DUNS/CEC: 06-313-4175 CAGE: 0AMS3

ESRI (ArcGIS) Yearly Maintenance Renewal Before Conservation Grant



380 New York Street
 Redlands, CA-92373
 Phone: (909)793-2853

Invoice : 93623731 Document date : 04/09/2019
 Order : 3535986 Delivery :
 Customer : 127165
 Customer PO : CONSERVATION GRANT
 P.O. Date : 04/09/2019
 End User : 127165 Red Lake Watershed District
 Project :

Bill to:

Red Lake Watershed District
 1000 Pennington Ave S
 Thief River Falls MN 56701

Invoice

Page : 1
Ship to:
 Ashley Hitt
 Red Lake Watershed District
 1000 Pennington Ave S
 Thief River Falls MN 56701-4013

For questions regarding this document, please contact Customer Service at 888-377-4575.

Terms of payment: Net Due 30 days, no discount

The line items included in this transaction are governed exclusively by the terms of the above-referenced contract, if any, or, where applicable, Esri's standard terms and conditions at www.esri.com/legal/software-license.

Item	Qty	Material Number	Price
10	1	93094 ArcGIS Desktop Basic with Extensions Single Use Primary Maintenance Start Date: 07/01/2019 End Date: 06/30/2020	
1010	1	87193 ArcGIS Desktop Basic Single Use Secondary Maintenance Start Date: 07/01/2019 End Date: 06/30/2020	
2010	1	87193 ArcGIS Desktop Basic Single Use Secondary Maintenance Start Date: 08/01/2019 End Date: 06/30/2020	
3010	2	93095 ArcGIS Desktop Basic with Extensions Single Use Secondary Maintenance Start Date: 07/01/2019 End Date: 06/30/2020	

Order Value 675.00
 Item Subtotal 675.00

Total: USD 675.00

**ERSI Maintenance
 Renewal After Awarded
 Conservation Grant**

BEFORE THE RED LAKE WATERSHED DISTRICT
BOARD OF MANAGERS, ACTING AS DRAINAGE AUTHORITY
FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF
RED LAKE WATERSHED DISTRICT DITCH #17, RED LAKE WATERSHED DISTRICT
PROJECT 179.

**Findings of Fact and Order Concerning
Preliminary Hearing, Pursuant to
Minnesota Statutes 103E.261**

WHEREAS, a Petition was submitted for the establishment of a new public drainage ditch under Minnesota Statutes 103E known as Red Lake Watershed District Ditch #17, Project No. #177; and

WHEREAS, Jerry Pribula, Pribula Engineering & Surveying, was appointed engineer to provide a Preliminary Engineer's Report; and

WHEREAS, a Preliminary Engineer's Report was submitted to the Red Lake Watershed District Board of Managers; and

WHEREAS, a Preliminary Hearing was held at 10:00 a.m. at the offices of the Red Lake Watershed District on April 11, 2019; and

WHEREAS, prior to the Preliminary Hearing, the Petition was found to be adequate and legally sufficient as determined by the Watershed District Attorney and reported to the Watershed District; and

WHEREAS, proper notice of the Preliminary Hearing was provided; and

WHEREAS, advisory comments were read from the DNR, and the report of the Board of Water & Soil Resources was provided to the audience and made a part of the record, and public comment and questions were taken regarding the Preliminary Engineer's Report.

NOW, THEREFORE, based on the testimony of the engineer and other evidence provided at the Preliminary Hearing, the Red Lake Watershed District Board of Managers, acting as Drainage Authority for Red Lake Watershed District Ditch #17, Project #179, makes the following Findings and Order:

1. That the proposed drainage project outlined in the Petition, or as modified and recommended by the engineer, is feasible.
2. There is a necessity for the proposed drainage project.
3. The proposed drainage project will be of public benefit and promote the public health, after consideration of the environmental and land use criteria in Section 103E.015, Subd. 1.

4. The outlet is adequate.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Preliminary Engineer's Report is hereby approved and the engineer is directed to proceed to prepare a Detailed Survey and Plans and Specifications for the proposed drainage project and submit a Detailed Survey Report to the Drainage Authority as soon as possible. That Jerry Bennett, Robert Wagner, and Roger Beiswenger are appointed as viewers and directed to provide a Viewers' Report concerning the establishment of this project.

Dated this 25th day of April, 2019.

**RED LAKE WATERSHED DISTRICT
BOARD OF MANAGERS**

Dale M. Nelson
President, Red Lake Watershed District

Terry Sorenson
Secretary, Red Lake Watershed District

Authorized by resolution of the Red Lake Watershed District on the 11th day of April, 2019, directing the preparation of the above Findings and Formal Order.

Myron Jesme

From: Rodger K Tinjum, ARA / Tinjum Appraisal Co Inc <rtinjum@arvig.net>
Sent: Tuesday, April 23, 2019 4:37 PM
To: Myron Jesme
Subject: RE: Appraisal Request Thief River Falls Westside Flood Damage Reduction Project

Re: Valuation proposal for Thief River Falls Westside Flood Damage Reduction Project

Dear Mr. Jesme,

Per information furnished by your office (e-mail dated 4-19-19) and discussion with you, there are six properties which are presently used for agricultural purposes. These properties abut the westerly side of County Road 16 and the Minnesota Northern Railroad, Inc.

With the assumption that access to the properties will be substantially the same after the acquisition as before as will drainage, we would structure Uncomplicated reports which would address the value of the land being acquired, considering the remainder is not affected by the acquisition.

We would conduct a research of land sales used for agricultural purposes as well as larger tract sales used for other purposes.

The property owned by Marland Johnson (8.8 acre tract) would require a sales research of commercial/industrial properties which have City utilities available. This would require a detailed value analysis.

We will contact the property owners with the intent of asking permission to inspect the properties as well as inviting them to inspect the property with us and to gain information concerning their property.

Our proposal:

Six (6) properties @ \$1,000 =	\$6,000
One (1) property @ \$2,500 =	2,500
TOTAL	\$8,500

If you have any questions, please ask. Attached is a brief background of our experience.

Thanks for the consideration.

Rodger K. Tinjum, ARA
Tinjum Appraisal Company, Inc.
(218) 847-3885
rtinjum@arvig.net

EXPERIENCE AND BACKGROUND

Rodger K. Tinjum and Brian R. Tinjum

Appraisers consist of *Rodger K. Tinjum*, ARA, a Certified General Real Property Appraiser, licensed in Minnesota and North Dakota, *Brian R. Tinjum*, MAI, a Certified General Real Property Appraiser, licensed in Minnesota and North Dakota, *Taylor Bussman*, Certified General Real Property Appraiser, licensed in Minnesota and North Dakota, plus office staff.

The above appraisers, together with the office staff, undertake the task of sales research, together with confirming information received and gathering all area information, including economic, geographic, and information of record concerning the subject property.

Rodger K. Tinjum, ARA has owned Tinjum Appraisal Company, Inc. since 1973 with an office in Detroit Lakes. He has appraised properties in Minnesota, North Dakota, Michigan, Iowa, Missouri, South Dakota and Nebraska for total or partial acquisitions.

Rodger has a BA degree in Business Administration. His appraisal education includes several American Institute courses, University of Minnesota real estate courses and American Society of Farm Managers and Rural Appraisal courses. Rodger is an Accredited Rural Appraiser conferred by the American Society of Farm Managers and Rural Appraisers in 1969. He has presented appraisal topics at seminars as well as instructed. He has had 54 years of professional real estate appraisal experience including 11 years as a staff appraiser with the Minnesota Highway Department and 41 years as an independent appraiser.

Types of properties appraised include agricultural, recreational, special purpose, residential, and industrial as well as commercial. He has had considerable experience appraising properties in Becker, Clay, Norman, Wilkin, Grant, Clearwater, Hubbard, Otter Tail and Beltrami Counties in northwestern Minnesota and St. Louis, Lake and Cook Counties in northeastern Minnesota. These appraisals included resorts, vacant land, agricultural land, development land, lake homes, special purpose lake properties as well as appraisals for alternate uses for improved properties.

Rodger has served as a court-appointed commissioner in condemnation matters in Becker County, MN. He has also testified on numerous occasions before court-appointed commissioners and in district court in matters pertaining to eminent domain cases. He has appeared as an expert witness numerous times in district court, federal bankruptcy court, and an appraisal was submitted and used to help determine damages in special appeals court.

Rodger has appraised several multiple parcel (tract) projects for the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources including a 16-parcel project on Kabetogama Lake which included the valuation of leased lots as well as the valuation of the property as improved. Within the same time frame, a 15-parcel project was completed on Sturgeon Lake for the MnDNR which included appraising leased lots as vacant and as improved. The function of the appraisals was for selling the lots to the lessee and included interviewing and inspecting the properties with the lessee.

In 1995, Rodger completed a 14-tract project for the Corp of Engineers along the Missouri River in Missouri and Nebraska. This involved interviewing and inspecting properties with the owners.

An 80-plus tract project was completed in 1998-1999 for the Corp of Engineers at the confluence of the Missouri and Yellowstone Rivers in western North Dakota. This involved appraising property on a before and after basis for flowage easements. Richard Rushenberg of the Corp Office in Omaha, NE can be contacted concerning the above (402-221-4347).

A 100-plus parcel project was completed for the City of East Grand Forks of commercial, industrial and residential property for total and partial acquisition for a river dike project from 1998 to 2004.

A 36-parcel project (T.H. 336) was completed in 2001 for MnDOT on a before and after basis in Clay County, MN of mixed use property as well as a number of multi-parcel projects for MnDOT. Contact is Werner (Skip) Pitzen (651-221-4347).

A 35-parcel project was recently completed for MnDOT on T.H. 71 near Bemidji.

Numerous multi-parcel projects have been completed for the Becker, Clay, Mahnomen and Hubbard County Highway Departments. This involved interviewing owners and inspecting the properties with the owners to explain procedures and proposed acquisitions. Larry Hynding, Becker County Highway Department (218) 847-4463 and Nathan Gannon, Clay County Assistant Engineer (218) 299-5099 can be contacted concerning the above.

Appraisals of land for the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) were completed for Valerie Greene of the U.S. Department of Interior (715-685-9960) on the White Earth, Bois Forte, Grand Portage and Leech Lake Reservations in Minnesota in 2006-2007 and 2010-2011 and Fort Totten and Turtle Mountain Reservations in North Dakota in 2011-2014.

Rodger has completed numerous appraisals of land in Cass, Clay, Becker, Hubbard, Beltrami, Norman, Polk, Wilkin, and Otter Tail Counties as well as surrounding counties for estates, divorces, selling, division and purchase purposes (partial acquisition).

Brian R. Tinjum, MAI was employed with the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) as a right-of-way agent with his basic duties being appraisals of properties for highway acquisitions, title investigation, extension of purchase offer, negotiation as needed and preparation of documents for presentation to attorney staff for recording. Brian also worked with Tinjum Appraisal Company, Inc. on a part-time basis. Brian has 27 years of experience in the real estate appraisal field and received the MAI designation in April 2008. He joined Tinjum Appraisal Company, Inc. on a full-time basis in February 2008.

Brian completed a multiple lakeshore lot project on the White Earth Reservation for the Tribe which was reviewed by the Bureau of Indian Affairs (Valerie Greene 715-685-9960) and a 40± parcel project for the Federal Forestry in the Superior National Forest. Brian has completed numerous multi-parcel projects as well as testified before court-appointed commissioners and in district court.

Projects have been completed under the Uniform Appraisal Standards for Federal Land Acquisition and the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition for Federal and Federally-Assisted Program requirements.

Estimated FDR Project Cost	
R-W Costs (EMV x 1.2)	Max R-W Costs (EMV++)
\$158,164	\$399,000
\$4,341,149	\$4,581,985

Funding Source		
1W1P	\$175,000	\$175,000
County	\$250,000	\$250,000
RLWD	\$500,000	\$500,000
MnDOT	\$777,150	\$777,150
RRWMB	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000
MnDNR FDR	\$1,500,000	\$1,500,000
Remaining WMD Share	\$138,999	\$379,835



Permit # 19-007

Status Report: **Approved**

Applicant Information

Name	Organization	Address	Email	Phone Number(s)
Ken & Randy Wagner	Eugene Wagner, Inc.	23796 320th Avenue SW Fisher, MN 56723		tel: 218-289-1365 mobile: 218-289-3334 fax:

General Information

(1) The proposed project is a:

Culvert Installation / Removal / Modification

(2) Legal Description

(3) County: **Polk** Township: **Lowell** Range: **47** Section: **11 1/4: NW1/4 & S1/2**

(4) Describe in detail the work to be performed. **Installation of 14 surface water inlet structures along County Ditch 1 and County Ditch 1 Branch 3.**

(5) Why is this work necessary? Explain water related issue/problem being solved. **Prevent gully erosion and silt deposits. This project is for the MN Buffer Law as a alternative practice using a 5' buffer. West Polk SWCD has surveyed and designed the structures and will complete the layout and inspection.**

Status

Status	Notes	Date
Approved	None	April 25, 2019
Received	None	March 26, 2019

Conditions

P.A. #19007 – Surface water inlet structures (14) Red Lake Watershed District (RLWD) approval as per west Polk SWCD design. The West Polk SWCD has surveyed and designed the structures, and will complete the layout and inspection.

NOTE: This permit does not relieve the applicant of any requirements for other permits which may be necessary from Township, County, State, or Federal Government Agencies.



Permit # 19-008

Status Report: **Approved**

Applicant Information

Name	Organization	Address	Email	Phone Number(s)
	Minnesota Department of Transportation	3920 Hwy 2 West Bemidji, None 56601		tel: 218-755-6527 mobile: fax:

General Information

(1) The proposed project is a:

- Road Grading
- Utility Installations

(2) Legal Description

(3) County: **Koochiching** Township: **Bridge** Range: **None** Section: **30 1/4**:

(4) Describe in detail the work to be performed. **Reconstruction Trunk Highway 1 in Northome from the intersection of TH 46 to 1.7 miles east. The city of Northome also proposes utility improvements.**

(5) Why is this work necessary? Explain water related issue/problem being solved. **Pavement and drainage infrastructure are near the end of their useful life. Pedestrian accommodations require upgrading to be compliant with ADA.**

Status

Status	Notes	Date
Approved	None	April 25, 2019
Received	None	March 26, 2019

Conditions

P.A. #19008 MnDOT – TH #1 – at Northome – re-construction includes; widen, resurface, paving, lighting, water and sewer, ADA improvements Red Lake Watershed District (RLWD) approval as per plan set submitted with permit application. The Board appreciates the efforts in the plan to reduce the amount of solids from entering Bartlett Lake which is listed as an impaired water body. ■ The RLWD Board of Managers recommends that if possible, the Minnesota Department of Transportation reduces the amount of chloride (salt) in this area and any other areas that drain into Bartlett Lake.

NOTE: This permit does not relieve the applicant of any requirements for other permits which may be necessary from Township, County, State, or Federal Government Agencies.



Permit # 19-009

Status Report: **Approved**

Applicant Information

Name	Organization	Address	Email	Phone Number(s)
Garrett Novak	River Falls Township	11126 State Highway 32 SE St.Hilaire, MN		tel:218.684.4904 mobile: fax:

General Information

(1) The proposed project is a:

Culvert Installation / Removal / Modification

Other

(2) Legal Description

(3) County: **Pennington** Township: **River Falls** Range: **43** Section: 1/4:

(4) Describe in detail the work to be performed. **Replace existing 36" diameter CSP center-line culvert with 36" diameter pipe.**

(5) Why is this work necessary? Explain water related issue/problem being solved. **Culvert failure/wash out**

Status

Status	Notes	Date
Approved	None	April 24, 2019
Received	undefined	April 18, 2019

Conditions

P.A. #19009 River Falls Township – Pennington County – Sections 3/4- Replace failed 36" CMP centerline with 36" diameter pipe. -Approve

NOTE: This permit does not relieve the applicant of any requirements for other permits which may be necessary from Township, County, State, or Federal Government Agencies.



Permit # 19-011

Status Report: **Approved**

Applicant Information

Name	Organization	Address	Email	Phone Number(s)
Owen Peterson		PO Box 97 Wendell, MN		tel:218-639-2931 mobile: fax:

General Information

(1) The proposed project is a:

Culvert Installation / Removal / Modification

(2) Legal Description

(3) County: Polk Township: Keystone Range: 48 Section: 2 1/4: SW1/4

(4) Describe in detail the work to be performed. **Install entrance, culvert and flapgate (east road ditch of Polk County Road #20)**

(5) Why is this work necessary? Explain water related issue/problem being solved. **To help contain flows within County Ditch 66 channel.**

Status

Status	Notes	Date
Approved	None	April 25, 2019
Received	None	April 18, 2019

Conditions

P.A. #19011 Red Lake Watershed District (RLWD) approval to install a field entrance with a 24 in. dia. culvert, and a flap-gate, as per approval of Polk Co. Hwy. Dept. specs/conditions; proposed work within Polk Co. Road #20 Right-of Way. (East Ditch) Construction and top elevation shall be approximately the same as the three other narrow entrances, near this location. Contact persons at Polk Co. Hwy. Dept. is Engineer Rich Sanders at 218-281-3952 ext. 8253 or Asst. Engineer Darrin Carlstrom at ext. 8254. For proposed work on lands not owned by applicant, he/she must obtain, in writing, permission from the landowner(s) prior to the start of any work. Applicant is responsible for utility locates by calling Gopher 1. (1-800-252-1166)

NOTE: This permit does not relieve the applicant of any requirements for other permits which may be necessary from Township, County, State, or Federal Government Agencies.



Permit # 19-012

Status Report: **Approved**

Applicant Information

Name	Organization	Address	Email	Phone Number(s)
	Pennington County Highway Department	250 125th Avenue NE Thief River Falls, MN 56701		tel:218-686-9288 mobile: fax:

General Information

(1) The proposed project is a:

Culvert Installation / Removal / Modification

(2) Legal Description

(3) County: **Pennington** Township: **Cloverleaf** Range: **41** Section: **16 1/4: SW1/4**

(4) Describe in detail the work to be performed. **Replace existing 24" centerline culvert**

(5) Why is this work necessary? Explain water related issue/problem being solved. **Culvert Failure**

Status

Status	Notes	Date
Approved	None	April 24, 2019
Received	null	April 23, 2019

Conditions

**P.A. #19012 - Pennington County- Cloverleaf Twp.- Sections 16/17- Replace failed 24" CMP centerline with 24" diameter pipe.
-Approve**

NOTE: This permit does not relieve the applicant of any requirements for other permits which may be necessary from Township, County, State, or Federal Government Agencies.



Red Lake Watershed District

1000 Pennington Ave. South
Thief River Falls, MN 56701
(218) 681- 5800

GOVERNMENT DATA PRACTICES

RIGHT TO ACCESS PUBLIC DATA

The Data Practices Act (Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 13) presumes that all government data are public unless a state or federal law says the data are not public. Government data is a term that means all recorded information a government entity has, including paper, email, flash drives, CDs, DVDs, photographs, etc.

The Data Practices Act also provides that Red Lake Watershed District (RLWD) must keep all government data in a way that makes it easy for members of the public to access public data. The public has the right to look at (inspect), free of charge, all public data that RLWD keeps. The public also has the right to obtain paper or electronic copies of public data. The Data Practices Act allows RLWD to charge for copies.

HOW TO MAKE A DATA REQUEST

To look at data or request copies of data that RLWD keeps, the public must make a written request. Written requests for data must be made to District Administrator by mail, fax or email using the data request form found at the end of this document. If the data request form is not used, the written request must include:

- A statement that the request for data is under the Data Practices Act, MN Statutes, Chapter 13;
- Whether the request is to look at the data, get copies of the data, or both; and
- A clear description of the data to be inspected and/or copied.

RLWD cannot require members of the public to identify themselves or explain the reason for the data request. However, depending on how the data request is to be processed (for example, emailed or mail), RLWD may need contact information. If no identifying information is provided, it will be the responsibility of the requesting party to contact RLWD to check on the status of the request. If RLWD does not understand the request no contact information is provided, RLWD will not be able to begin processing the request.

HOW RED LAKE WATERSHED DISTRICT RESPONDS TO A DATA REQUEST

Upon receiving a written request, RLWD will work to process it.

- If it is not enough specific information from the request, RLWD will ask for clarification.
- If RLWD does not have the data, the requestor will be notified in writing as soon as reasonably possible.
- If RLWD has the data but the data are not public, the requestor will be notified in writing as soon as reasonably possible of which Minnesota Statute requires such privacy.
- If RLWD has the data and the data are public, a response to requests will be provided appropriately and promptly, within a reasonable amount of time, by doing one of the following:
 - Arrange a date, time, and place to inspect data for free if the request is for inspection;
 - or

- Provide the requestor copies of the data as soon as reasonably possible. Copies may be picked up, mailed, or emailed. We will provide electronic copies (e-mail) upon request if we keep the data in electronic format. Pre-payment is required.
- If the requestor does not understand some of the data (technical terminology, abbreviations, or acronyms), clarification will be provided upon request.

The Data Practices Act does not require RLWD to create or collect new data in response to a request if RLWD does not already have the data, or to provide data in a specific form or arrangement if RLWD does not keep the data in that form or arrangement. For example, if the data requested are on paper only, RLWD is not required to create electronic documents. If RLWD agrees to create data in response to requests, RLWD will work with the requestor on the details of the request, including cost and response time. In addition, the Data Practices Act does not require RLWD to answer questions that are not requests for data.

REQUESTS FOR SUMMARY DATA

Summary data are statistical records or reports that are prepared by removing all identifiers from private or confidential data on individuals. The preparation of summary data is not a means to gain access to private or confidential data. RLWD will prepare summary data if requests are made in writing and pre-payment for the cost of creating the data is received. Upon receiving written requests the data request form at the end of this document may be used. RLWD will respond within ten business days with the data or details of when the data will be ready and how much will be charged.

COPY FEES

RLWD charges the requesting party for all costs associated with fulfilling the data request, including staff time, materials, and copy expenses. Charges are authorized under Minnesota Statutes, sections 13.03, subd 3c. and subd. 10. The charge for time is the actual cost of searching for and retrieving the data, and making the copies or electronically transmitting the data. In determining the actual cost of making copies, RLWD factors in employee time, the cost of the materials onto which the data are copied (paper, CD, DVD, etc.), and mailing costs (if any). If requests are for copies of data that RLWD cannot reproduce internally, such as photographs, the actual cost paid to an outside vendor will be charged.

RESPONSIBLE AUTHORITY

Myron Jesme
1000 Pennington Avenue South
Thief River Falls, MN 56701
218-681-5800

DATA PRACTICES COMPLIANCE OFFICIAL

Tammy Audette
1000 Pennington Avenue South
Thief River Falls, MN 56701
218.681.5800
RLWD@redlakewatershed.org



Red Lake Watershed District
1000 Pennington Ave. South
Thief River Falls, MN 56701
(218) 681 - 5800

Data Request Form

A. TO BE COMPLETED BY REQUESTER			
Name:		Phone Number:	
Street Address:		Email Address:	
City, State, Zip:		Date of Request:	
Signature:		Date Needed By:	
*According to MS§13.05, subd. 12, persons are not required to identify themselves, or state a reason for, or justify a request for public data.			
Description of the information requested (be as specific as possible):			
Quantity: _____ Color Format: <input type="checkbox"/> Color <input type="checkbox"/> Black & White			
Media: <input type="checkbox"/> Paper <input type="checkbox"/> Electronic(<input type="checkbox"/> gif <input type="checkbox"/> eps <input type="checkbox"/> jpg <input type="checkbox"/> pdf) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____			
*MS§13.05, subd. 3, authorizes the District to charge fees to recover costs to provided copies of data, including cost associated with searching, compiling, copings, or otherwise transmitting data. Payment is required prior to receiving copies of data.			

B. TO BE COMPLETED BY RLWD PERSONNEL	
Handled by: _____	Date Received: _____
Information Classified As: <input type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private	Action: <input type="checkbox"/> Approved <input type="checkbox"/> Denied <input type="checkbox"/> Approved in Part <i>(explanation below)</i>
Remarks or basis for denial:	
Costs to Requestor:	
___ Pages x \$0.25 per black/white pages (Subd 3c.)	= _____
___ Pages x \$1.00 per black/white page	= _____
___ Pages x \$1.25 per color page	= _____
___ Employee time charged at billable rate	= _____
Other Charges: _____	= _____
Total Cost: \$ _____	

Authorized Signature: _____ Date: _____

Red Lake Watershed District - Administrators Report

April 25, 2019

Red River Watershed Management Board – LeRoy and I attended the RRWMB meeting held 9:30 am on April 16, 2019 at the RLWD Board Room.

April 16th after the Red Board meeting, Corey and I attended a meeting sponsored by the RRWMB with the MPCA concerning Tiered aquatic life use (TALU). As a result of the meeting, there was a letter sent to MPCA Commissioner, Laura Bishop, expressing some of the concerns with their request for comments on Planned Amendments to Rules Governing Water Quality Standards – Use Classifications 3 and 4. Minnesota Rules, Chapters 7050 and 7053. I have included the letter in your packet.

Marshall County WRAC – Corey and LeRoy will be attending the Marshall County Water Resource Advisory Committee meeting held at the Newfolden Community Center at 9:30 am, Monday May 2, 2019.

Red Lake River 1W1P Planning Work Group – There will be a RLR 1W1P Planning Workgroup telephone conference held at 1:30 pm Tuesday, April 30th. The meeting was to review the minor changes to existing Work Plan and submit to BWSR for approval. Items that we addressed was a bank stabilization project in the Burnham Creek Watershed that was initiated by West Polk SWCD. We also will better clarify funding for the stabilization of the outlet to Thief River Falls Westside FDR Project. The Planning Work Group will make a request to the Policy Committee to approve \$176,164 for the TRF Westside FDR Project.

Thief River 1W1P Policy Committee Meeting – Policy Committee meeting held at 9:00pm April 17, 2019 at the Red Lake Watershed District Board Room. The meeting will focus on Section 4 review and moving forward with getting the draft plan completed for public comments. The Policy Committee semi-approved the Section with changes requested by Marshall County and Marshall SWCD but would not fully accept until the changes were made in the draft. The Policy Committee will meet again May 3rd at 9:00 am to review the changes and hopefully move forward in approving the Draft Plan so it can be put out for public comments.

Watershed Based Funding Joint Meeting – Weather permitting, I will be attending the second meeting of the Local Roundtable Workgroup and BWSR Clean Water Team meeting which will be held from 9:30 am – 3:00 pm Friday, April 26th at the Stearns County Historical Museum, in St. Cloud. The meeting will cover items such as overview of Watershed-based Funding, Assurance Measures, Watershed-based Funding Policy, Desired Outcomes and various other agenda items. This meeting was rescheduled from the meeting April 12th which was canceled due to a snow storm.

Pennington County Township Association – I attended and gave a brief update on the Thief River Falls Westside FDR Project and the Black River Impoundment update at their yearly Township which was held at 7:00 pm, April 15th at the Pennington County Joint Use Facility.



April 22, 2019

Ms. Laura Bishop
Commissioner
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
520 Lafayette Road North
St. Paul, MN 55155-4194

Re: Request for Comments on Planned Amendments to Rules Governing Water Quality Standards - Use Classifications 3 and 4. Minnesota Rules, Chapters 7050 and 7053.

Dear Commissioner Bishop:

The Red River Watershed Management Board (RRWMB) appreciates the opportunity to submit comments related to the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) request for comments on planned amendments to rules governing Water Quality Standards - Use Classifications 3 and 4, Minnesota Rules, Chapters 7050 and 7053.

The MPCA presented information and answered questions that RRWMB Managers had regarding the above proposed rules at their regular board meeting the morning of April 16, 2019. The RRWMB Managers were also presented additional information about Tiered Aquatic Life Use in conjunction with the State of Minnesota Water Use Classification System at this meeting and at the RWMB October 2018 regular board meeting. While we appreciate MPCAs commitment to continued dialogue on these critical issues, we are led to believe, from our meeting with the MPCA, that the proposed amendments on water classification and Tiered Aquatic Life Uses (TALU) are related and will be moved so accordingly.

The Red River Basin Monitoring Network, a standing committee of the Flood Damage Reduction Work Group (FDRWG) also met the same afternoon with the MPCA to gather more information about the Technical Support Document related to this issue and to discuss the proposed amendments. The RRWMB is concerned that there is confusion or miscommunication about who affected parties or entities are in the proposed amendments and how they come into play with TALU. What came out of the discussion was that National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) sites are the primary focus of the proposed amendments.



More specifically, it was indicated by MPCA that NPDES sites with Waste Water Treatment Facilities (WWTF) are the focus of the amendments and the rulemaking is also being done to address concerns with impacts to irrigation water quality and drinking water for livestock and wildlife. The RRWMB has specific concerns outlined below due to the conversation with the MPCA last week which led the RRWMB to understand that the proposed amendments could affect public ditches and drainage systems.

1. The RRWMB requests that the MPCA hold more Professional Judgement Groups (PJG) at the local level to gain insights and a better understanding about drainage issues that our member watershed districts work on daily. PJG meetings once every five or ten years is inadequate and the RRWMB encourages MPCA to work more closely with our members to gain better insights into how public drainage systems are managed. There are several success stories that have resulted from repairs, maintenance activities, and the installation of best management practices on public ditch systems.
2. The RRWMB and FDRWG Red River Basin Monitoring Network also have concerns about how the criteria will be determined for narrative water quality standards. We understand that this will be developed by region. We request that the MPCA meet with technical experts from the Red River Basin to discuss this matter while draft criteria are being developed. Our local watershed managers, staff, and water quality experts have experience with managing public ditch systems and public waters in the Red River Basin. The RRWMB believes that this experience and knowledge will lead to better results as the MPCA proposes criteria for water quality standards. The RRWMB will work with the MPCA to schedule a meeting and is committed to enhanced communication.
3. More specifically, the RRWMB has concerns about the amount of water quality data collected by MPCA to inform decisions about how water quality numeric standards or narrative criteria are developed. Some of our member watershed districts have allocated significant financial and staff resources to collect ongoing water quality data. The RRWMB requests that the MPCA rely on local data that is collected more frequently than MPCA water quality data in some circumstances to inform decision making.
4. The RRWMB would also like to know how and when narrative criteria will be reviewed in the future and how will knowledge and expertise of our member watershed districts be used to inform any changes in future criteria?



5. In the Red River Basin, we have a newly adopted Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan developed in coordination with many partner organizations including the Red River Basin Commission (RRBC) and the US Army Corps of Engineers. We also have a water quality strategy being developed by the International Red River Board (IRRB) in conjunction with federal, state and local partners. The RRWMB requests that the MPCA work closely with the IRRB and the RRWMB regarding any new water quality numeric or narrative standards that are proposed to ensure consistency.
6. The RRBC has also adopted a Water Quality Strategic Plan and a Natural Resources Framework Plan that helps guide overall water quality efforts in the Red River Basin. These efforts involved many local, state, and federal partners and there are several One Water One Plan (1W1P) initiatives underway in the Red River Basin. The RRWMB requests that the MPCA not move directly to regulation and that these local, state, international, or regional plans have additional time to be implemented.
7. Efforts such as the Minnesota Department of Agriculture – Minnesota Agricultural Water Quality Certification Program and related initiatives also need to be given more time to make changes on the landscape. We believe that a high percentage of farmers in the Red River Basin use precision agriculture, variable rate fertilizer application, certified crop advisors, soil nutrient testing, and the 4Rs of fertilizer application that relate to timing, placement, amount, and source. The RRWMB encourages the MPCA to become informed of these efforts and practices.
8. The RRWMB is also concerned that current watershed planning efforts are going to result in additional pressures on our member watershed districts to be responsible for greater implementation and enforcement efforts without additional state funding. While the MPCA is not responsible for all watershed planning efforts, the costs to develop comprehensive watershed management plans is not sustainable. The RRWMB requests that the MPCA coordinates with Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) and the Red River Basin watershed districts and their current 1W1P efforts on current water quality goals
9. While the MPCA does not oversee funding for Minnesota Department of Agriculture, the RRWMB recommends that additional drainage research by the Minnesota of Agriculture and Discovery Farms in the RRB be completed to further inform MPCA rulemaking efforts related to drainage, TALU, and this proposed rulemaking effort. The agencies through the Clean Water Fund have financial resources available for drainage research efforts. These proposed rules appear to also mingle crop irrigation with drainage water management, which are two separate issues.



10. The recent Red River Basin water quality report indicates some concerns about nitrogen and other quality parameters. The Report lists methods to adapt for water quality and “Investing in Water Storage” as the first method to improve water quality. The RRWMB and its member watershed districts have constructed 44 large scale water storage structures since 1976 and there are 11 more in various phases of design, permitting, and funding. The RRWMB is also part of the Red River Retention Authority, which has 20 water retention sites being proposed throughout the Red River Basin. The RRWMB requests and encourages the MPCA to become more informed about our efforts and how new storage can be built and how existing storage can be redesigned or retrofitted to meet the water quality needs of the State of Minnesota. Attached is our mission statement, principle objective, and supporting objectives for your reference.
11. There are several agricultural processing facilities in the Red River Basin that have contract growers for specific crops. Some of these facilities have WWTFs that may be subject to the new criteria, which may result in higher operational and water treatment costs. In situations such as this, contract growers may receive reduced payments or may have to implement additional best management practices as required by the processing facility. Also, the RRWMB is concerned that the State of Minnesota will place additional pressure on our member watershed districts to place greater controls on public and private drainage systems.
12. The RRWMB points out that our member watershed districts are legally responsible to maintain, manage, and regulate public drainage systems via Minnesota Statutes 103E. Any new criteria proposed by the MPCA cannot be in direct conflict with 103E and the MPCA must recognize this when developing new criteria.
13. Although it was stated by MPCA in our recent meetings on April 16, 2019 that the new criteria are focused on NPDES sites with WWTFs, the RRWMB is still concerned that any new criteria may result in additional pressure or increased costs on our landowners and taxpayers.
14. The RRWMB recently met with the MPCA in March 2019 and the RRWMB expressed concerns about the proposed criteria appearing to relate to wild rice and nitrogen rules for surface waters. The RRWMB knows that you understand our concerns and the perception that these proposed rules project. The appearance is that MPCA is using this rulemaking process to further implement sulfate and nitrogen rules from previous rulemaking efforts that were not approved or allowed to move forward.



15. As noted above The RRWMB works closely with the FDRWG, which has developed 15 technical papers (factsheet attached) to address several water quality, habitat, and flood damage reduction issues over the last 20 years. The FDRWG and RRWMB also support Natural Resources Enhancements (NREs) that can be implemented to enhance water and habitat quality. Examples of NREs are attached and can be further incorporated into flood damage reduction efforts to address water quality concerns as outlined in the proposed amendments.
16. The RRWMB recommends that the MPCA further investigate how our existing projects and proposed projects can incorporate additional NREs to reduce or eliminate the need for public entities, taxpayers, and private companies to finance new WWTF or major retrofits to existing facilities when appropriate. The RRWMB does not contend that all water storage projects will address every water quality concern, but if designed and managed properly, our members projects can work towards meeting water quality needs of the State of Minnesota in the Red River Basin.
17. We feel strongly that the Red River Basin is one of the most consistently regulated areas of Minnesota related to agricultural drainage. The RRWMB would like confirmation from the MPCA that the proposed criteria will not affect the ability of our member watershed districts to manage agricultural drainage. The RRWMB also invites the MPCA to learn more about our collective drainage management and regulatory efforts.

The RRWMB understands that processes such as this take many months or years to develop. However, additional communication, outreach, and regional meetings should have been conducted prior to putting out these comments. We are not aware of any regional meetings on this matter that may have taken place.

The RRWMB does not question the need for safe drinking water and supports efforts to ensure safe drinking water standards for humans. We also understand that livestock have specific requirements for drinking water and that there is a large body of research on this matter. However, this is the first time the RRWMB has been made aware of issues with WWTF having an overall influence on irrigation water quality downstream.

The RRWMB appreciates that the MPCA is devoting resources allowing the revised standards to have flexibility in developing permits, reducing wastewater permitting delays, and to avoid wastewater treatment costs that do not provide environmental benefits. The RRWMB commends the efforts of MPCA Detroit Lakes Regional Manager Jim Ziegler communicating with us. Mr. Ziegler has been a critical link between the RRWMB and the MPCA is fortunate to have regional leaders such as Mr. Ziegler.



Please contact RRWMB Executive Director Rob Sip at 218-474-1084 (cell), or by email at rob.sip@rwmb.org or calling our main office at 218-784-9500 if you have any questions regarding this letter. The RRWMB appreciates the opportunity to comment on these proposed rules and looks forward to continued dialogue on this and other water quality issues going forward.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John M. Finney".

John Finney
RRWMB President

CC: RRWMB Managers
RRWMB Member Watershed Districts
Robert Sip, RRWMB Executive Director
Lisa Frenette, RRWMB Policy and Regulatory Liaison

PLEASE JOIN US!!

Roseau River Wildlife Management Area

Pool 3 Outlet Project

RIBBON CUTTING

June 25, 2019

1:00 p.m. — 400th St & Dike Rd — Caribou

GUEST SPEAKERS - LUNCH PROVIDED

PROJECT PARTNERS:



River Watch Water Quality program to be reintroduced in TRF schools

by David Hill
Editor

Students from Thief River Falls will once again be participating in the River Watch Water Quality Monitoring Program.

The Board of Education of School District 564 approved a motion to sign an agreement with the Red Lake Watershed District after hearing a report about the

program at a meeting on Monday, April 8.

Scott Brekke, principal of Lincoln High School, said that Lincoln High School students were actively involved in the program in the '90s, but then it just faded away at the school. Several area schools are very active in the program. He explained the lack of participation in the program in Thief River Falls as a result of it

being a non-paid volunteer type of program for advisors, and requires a lot of interest and enthusiasm.

Brekke said Jon Hams had agreed to be the advisor for the program. Hams is a science education instructor at Lincoln High School.

The Red Lake Watershed District describes River Watch as "a citizen based water quality monitoring program organized and de-

livered by the International Water Institute and its partners throughout the Red River Basin. The Red Lake Watershed District is one such partner. River Watch volunteers are drawn from more than 35 high schools and various community groups to monitor the quality of water in the streams and rivers in the Red River

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River Watch program/Continued

(Continued from Page 1)
Basin and to report the findings at local and state levels."

Objectives of the program include: helping students develop a connection to the local watershed; learning field-based physical and biological ambient water quality monitoring skills; establishing connections to scientists engaged in watershed science; becoming active contributors to the scientific community; developing workplace skills; and providing important services to the local watershed.

As such, Brekke said students will be doing such things as collecting data in dissolved oxygen, water temperature, conductivity, pH, turbidity, visual water clarity, stream stage and depth, and conducting field obser-

vations.

Participating schools are required to take three samples per year, and participate in the fall kick-off and spring forum.

The District does not have to buy anything to participate in the program. Red Lake Watershed will supply the equipment, pay for a substitute if necessary, reimburse the school for mileage, and provide a staff person to go out with and monitor students.

Hams said it's a win-win for the school district. He said students will learn valuable skills, the importance of the watershed they live in, and potentially get their feet in the door in an area that will see lots of job growth in the future.

Hams said they would like to see a core of eight to

nine students actively involved in the program. He said he believes that current interest of media in water-related issues will attract their attention.

The agreement would be for five years and could be terminated with or without cause upon 30-days written notice.

ProDigi Team

The ProDigi FIRST team secured a wild card spot to the FIRST Championship in Detroit, Mich. Natasha Olsonawski, advisor, said fundraising for the \$15,000 needed to participate in the event had begun. An anonymous donor donated \$5,000 for the transportation costs, which means they have another \$10,000 to raise. Public participation and help would be greatly appreciated.