

RED LAKE WATERSHED DISTRICT  
Board of Manager's Minutes  
May 26, 2016

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 Dale M. Nelson, Gene Tiedemann, LeRoy Ose, Allan Page, Terry Sorenson, Lee Coe and Les Torgerson Staff Present: Myron Jesme, Tammy Audette and Legal Counsel Delray Sparby.

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

Motion by Torgerson, seconded by Coe, to dispense reading of the May 12, 2016 Board meeting minutes and approve them as printed. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed the Financial Report and Investment Summary dated May 25, 2016. Motion by Sorenson, seconded by Tiedemann, to approve the Financial Report and Investment Summary dated May 25, 2016 as presented. Motion carried.

Staff member Arlene Novak reviewed the quotes received for purchase of a Certificate of Deposit. Novak and Manager Coe recommended reinvesting the Certificate of Deposit that will mature on June 2, 2016 with First National Bank-Bemidji and the purchase of a \$200,000 Certificate of Deposit with American State Bank of Grygla and purchase of a \$240,000 Certificate of Deposit with Northern State Bank-Thief River Falls. Motion by Coe, seconded by Tiedemann, to approve the reinvestment of Certificate of Deposit with First National Bank-Bemidji and the purchase of Certificate of Deposits with American State Bank of Grygla and Northern State Bank-Thief River Falls in the amounts stated. Motion carried.

Staff member Ashley Hitt reported on the Red Lake River Corridor Enhancement Project meeting that she attended, along with Managers Page and Tiedemann. Hitt stated that this project was originally started in 2002, but due to lack of funding at the time the project did not proceed. A five mile boundary on both sides of the river is considered in the corridor master plan. Funding grant application needs to be submitted by the end of June.

Staff member Ashley Hitt and Manager Page discussed the Paddle Event hosted by the Wilderness Inquiry and International Water Institute open to the public on June 8-10<sup>th</sup>. Manager Page stated that he felt it would be good public relations for the District to contribute towards the cost of a light meal for those in attendance. Motion by Tiedemann, seconded by Coe, to contribute up to \$500 towards the Paddle event to be held June 8-10, 2016. Hitt and Page indicated that the District is welcome to set up a display of District activities/projects during the event.

Staff member Nick Olson presented five options to repair 475 feet of eroded levee at the City of Erskine Memorial Park Levee Erosion Project. District staff will provide the information to the East Polk SWCD for submittal of a grant application. Manager Sorenson will provide the information to the City of Erskine.

Staff member Loren Sanderson stated that the District currently has three landowners requesting construction of a farmstead rink dike. Sanderson stated that 50% of the funding is available from the State of Minnesota; 25% from the RRWMB; with the remaining 25% being split evenly between the District and landowner.

Staff member Loren Sanderson stated that due to the recent rain events, the District is releasing water from both the north and south pools of the Moose River Impoundment, RLWD Project No. 13. Sanderson also indicated that Thief Lake is slightly above summer levels, so they are releasing as well.

Administrator Myron Jesme and Engineer Nate Dalager, HDR Engineering, Inc. discussed the meeting they attended with staff from the MnDNR and Manager's Sorenson and Torgerson, regarding the Pine Lake Project, RLWD Project No. 26 and the Four Legged Lake Project, RLWD Project No. 102A. Jesme stated that the MnDNR has agreed to a proposal that would amend their Operating Plan on Little Pine Lake WMA, also referred to as Site F. This amendment would give the District a 2-3' wedge of additional gated storage which would add a total of 250 acre feet of additional storage above Pine Lake. Additional discussion will be held with the MnDNR regarding structure modifications. The MnDNR will draft a Memorandum of Understanding and revision of the current Operating Plan to include operation for flood control. Dalager stated that at the June Project Work Team meeting, the MnDNR will bring additional thoughts/ideas for Pine Lake. Jesme and Dalager discussed the outcome of the meeting in regard to the Four Legged Lake Project. The Four Legged Lake Project would consist of four basins, with one structure at the west outlet which could allow for drawdown at two different elevations.

Administrator Jesme noted the District is in the final stages of the Grand Marais Creek Channel Restoration Project, RLWD Project No. 60F. As part of the RIM contract, funding was set aside by BWSR to assist in the establishment of RIM acres. Jesme reminded the Board that as part of the agreement that all landowners signed with the District, if a landowner signed over the RIM establishment dollars to the District, the District would maintain the RIM acres. If a landowner chose to keep the RIM establishment dollars, the landowner would then assume responsibility for future RIM maintenance. West Polk SWCD recently sent letters to landowners instructing them to either sign over the payment to the District or assume responsibility of future maintenance.

The Board reviewed the 2015 Annual Report. Meetings will be scheduled in the near future with the County Commissioners to present the Annual report.

The Board reviewed the Houston Engineering, Inc. newsletter that highlights the Grand Marais Creek Channel Restoration Project, RLWD Project No. 60F.

Administrator Jesme indicated that the June 23, 2016, Board meeting date falls on the MAWD Summer Tour date. Motion by Ose, seconded by Torgerson, to change the June 23, 2016 Board meeting to June 27, 2016. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed the permits for approval. Motion by Tiedemann, seconded by Sorenson, to approve the following permits with conditions stated on the permits: No. 16011, Darwin Boutain, Hickory Township, Pennington County; No. 16023, Raymond Zajac, Winsor Township, Clearwater County; No. 16028, Pennington County Highway Department, Norden Township, Pennington County; Estela Ashman, North Township, Pennington County; No. 16030, Kiel Corporation, Hammond Township, Polk County; No. 16031, City of Thief River Falls, North and Rocksbury Townships, Pennington County; No. 16032, James and John Dahl, North Garnes Township, Red Lake County; No. 16033, James and John Dahl, Goodridge Township, Pennington County; No. 16034, Ronald Kiesow, Moylan Township, Marshall County; and No. 16035, Marv Kading, River Falls Township, Pennington County. Motion carried.

#### Administrators Report:

- Administrator Jesme and Manager Ose attended the May 17, 2016 RRWMB meeting. It was determined at the meeting, that the RRWMB would withhold funding with the Corps for additional staff issues until Congressmen Peterson could attempt to remedy the staff issues. The next RRWMB meeting will be held at the District office on June 21, 2016.
- RLWD staff and partners are awaiting revisions to the draft version of the 1W1P review. LGU staff hope to have a draft timeline available to the Policy Committee and respective Boards prior to public comment and hearing.
- Administrator Jesme attended the Local Governmental Water Round Table Funding Work Group meeting on May 16<sup>th</sup> in St. Paul. The meeting was intended to gather information which will be incorporated into a 2016 Funding Workgroup Policy Paper. This paper is intended to make recommendations to the Clean Water Council which could lead to prioritization of funds being distributed for projects throughout the State. Jesme will participate in an additional meeting on June 27<sup>th</sup>.
- Included in the packet was a news release inviting the public to the East Polk County Local Work meeting on June 6, 2016. This meeting is in cooperation with the NRCS to provide guidance and discuss local resource conservation concerns and NRCS programs in East Polk County.
- The Board was reminded that the District office will be closed on May 30, 2016 in observance of Memorial Day.

Administrator Jesme stated that he has contacted several agencies in regard to a grant partnership for the Northhome School District Project Assistance Request.

Discussion was held in regard to the Tall Grass Aspen Parkland birding trail and the original request to partner for submission of a grant application with the Audubon Society for installation of parking areas and kiosks at District projects for bird watching. Administrator Jesme stated that after Heidi Hughes moved away from the area, the potential project did not move forward. Jesme indicated that the Middle Snake Tamarac Watershed District installed their own kiosks on several projects of their own.

Discussion was held on Land'O'Lakes supporting the efforts of Governor Dayton's buffer initiative.

Manager Ose discussed the RRWMB meeting and the discussion of staffing concerns within the Corps.

Manager Coe discussed his contact with the Beltrami SWCD in regard to the final outcome of the Weidenborner Project.

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



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LeRoy Ose, Secretary