

RED LAKE WATERSHED DISTRICT
Board of Manager's Minutes
February 28, 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, Delray 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 January 24, 2019 minutes. Motion by Sorenson, seconded by Tiedemann, to approve the January 24, 2019 Board meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed the Financial Report and Investment Summary dated February 27, 2019. It was the consensus of the Board, that the Certificate of Deposit set to expire on February 28, 2019, will be deposited into the District's checking account. Motion by Ose, seconded by Page, to approve the Financial Report and Investment Summary dated February 27, 2019 as presented. Motion carried.

Dillon Nelson, EIT, HDR Engineering, Inc. stated that the next Thief River Falls Westside Flood Damage Reduction, RLWD Project No. 179, coordination meeting will take place on March 4, 2019 at 1:30 p.m. at the HDR Engineering, Inc. office. Nelson stated that the replacement of the box culvert through Highway 32, near the outlet of the project will take place July 2019, with Highway 32 being detoured for approximately 1-2 weeks. Discussion was held on the detour route to be used during construction. Construction from County Road 62 and south to the outlet will take place in 2019, with the remainder of the project north of County Road 62 completed in 2020. Construction of the City of Thief River Falls storm sewer project that runs south of Digi Key, along County Road 62, through the railroad crossing and Highway 32 directly south of Pioneer Village, outletting into the river will take place in 2019. Nelson discussed the installation of a relief valve to the city owned lagoons.

Administrator Jesme stated that since the MnDNR Commissioner's Report and the Viewers' Report, have been filed with the District for RLWD Ditch 16, Project No. 177, the Board can set a date for the Final Hearing. Motion by Ose, seconded by Sorenson, to set the date for the Final Hearing for the RLWD Ditch 16, RLWD Project No. 177, for April 4, 2019 at 10:00 a.m. at the District office. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed the Advisory Report from MnDNR and BWSR for the Improvement to Polk County Ditch No. 39, RLWD Project No. 179. Motion by Dwight, seconded by Ose, to set the

Preliminary Hearing for the Improvement to Polk County Ditch 39, RLWD Project No. 179 for March 28, 2019 at 10:00 a.m. at the District office. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed correspondence from the RRWMB regarding cost-share payments due for USGS Stream Gages, in the amount of \$11,352.50 for Fiscal year 2019. Motion by Page, seconded by Sorenson, to approve the cost-share payment in the amount of \$11,352.50 for the District's portion of cost-share for USGS Stream Gages. Motion carried.

Administrator Jesme stated that the \$50,000 Conservation Partnership Grant the District applied for in partnership with Agassiz National Wildlife Refuge for the removal of sediment in Judicial Ditch 11 Main, RLWD Project No. 180B was awarded. Jesme noted that there are some special provisions in the grant that Agassiz National Wildlife Refuge must follow which include a requirement to close the gate at the outlet of JD 11, downstream of the construction site, which will allow for sediment to settle, prior to the release of any water.

The Board reviewed a Resolution to Adopt and Implement the Amended Red Lake River Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan, RLWD Project No. 149A. Motion by Tiedemann, seconded by Dwight, to authorize President Nelson to sign the Resolution to Adopt and Implement the Amended Red Lake River Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan, RLWD Project No. 149A. Motion carried.

Administrator Jesme requested the attendance of Legal Counsel Sparby to attend the March 13, 2019 Thief River 1W1P meeting to explain the Memorandum of Agreement to the Policy Committee. It was the consensus of the Board that Legal Counsel Sparby attend the Thief River 1W1P meeting as requested.

Engineer Tony Nordby, Houston Engineering presented an update on the Black River Impoundment Project, RLWD Project No. 176. Administrator Jesme stated that at this point, it does not appear that Flood Damage Reduction funding will be available for this proposed project unless the Governor has a change of heart.

At 10:00 a.m., President Dale M. Nelson reconvened the general meeting and called the Hearing to order for the Challenger Ditch Re-Alignment and Modification of a Portion of the Existing Drainageway and Outlet of RLWD Project No. 122A. President Nelson stated the hearing had been properly noticed and explained the hearing process. The hearing was videotaped and will be available for viewing at the RLWD office. It was noted that the appropriate notices as required by statute had been given. Engineer Tony Nordby, Houston Engineering, Inc., presented information regarding the petition from Pennington County for the Re-Alignment and Modifications to the Challenger Ditch System as part of a transportation project which also includes the construction of a roadway and bridge which will connect Trunk Highway 32 and Pennington Avenue and entertained questions from the Board and the audience. After all in attendance were given a chance to ask questions and/or make comments, the hearing was closed for public comment. Nelson then opened the hearing up for Board discussion. After discussion by the Board, a motion was made by Tiedemann, seconded by Ose, to approve the Petition from

Pennington County and adopt the Re-Alignment and Modification of a Portion of the Existing Drainageway and Outlet of the Challenger Ditch, RLWD Project No. 122A. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed the permits for approval. Motion by Sorenson, seconded by Ose, to approve the following permit with conditions stated on the permit: No. 19005, Polk County Highway Department, Brandsvold Township, Polk County. Motion carried.

Pennington SWCD submitted a request for a financial donation for the Area I Envirothon. The Area I Envirothon will be held on April 24, 2019, at Lake Bronson State Park. Motion by Dwight, seconded by Tiedemann, to donate \$300 to the Area I Envirothon to promote education and awareness of water quality issues. Motion carried

Staff member Tammy Audette stated that a survey was submitted to the District's Advisory Committee members requesting comments and input on information that is presented by Staff members at the Advisory Committee meeting. The Board reviewed the two surveys received. Invitations were also were sent to the SWCD offices within the District, requesting participation on the Advisory Committee. It was the consensus of the Board to have Audette contact several sportsman clubs to seek participation also.

The Board reviewed two quotes to repair the District's 2015 Ford F150. Motion by Ose, seconded by Page, to accept the low quote from The Shop in the amount of \$2,394.02, less the \$250.00 deductible. Motion carried.

Staff member Ashley Hitt stated that she attended the 24th Anniversary of River Watch at the River Watch Forum in Grand Forks, where approximately 250 students and teachers participated. Two schools that Hitt works with participated in the forum assignment, "Data Driven Watershed Problem Solving" where the students identify a problem within the watershed. Hitt announced that the Red Lake County River Watch Students won 1st Place. Their project focused on discharge entering the Hill River in Brooks. Red Lake Falls students presented a project on the Buffer Law. Manager Ose stated that students from Marshall County Central testified at the State Capitol, for increased funding for the River Watch program and a push to get the program state wide. Manager Page suggested providing River Watch student's with matching pullover's or shirts. Hitt will bring back recommendations to the Board. Manager Dwight requested that Hitt visit with the Blackduck, Kelliher and Northome School District's regarding River Watch.

Administrators Update:

- Jesme and Manager Ose attended the RRWMB meeting held at the District office on February 19, 2019.
- Jesme attended the for the MAWD Legislative Breakfast and Reception February 20th.
- Jesme participated in the Red River Valley Region 1 Administrators meeting at the District office on February 26th. The meeting was intended to compile ideas to inform legislators for future funding projects and watershed objectives.
- The Thief River 1W1P Advisory and Policy Committee meeting will be held at 9:00 a.m. on March 13, 2019 at the District Office. The Planning Committee held a telephone

conference on February 15th and 27th to review Section 4, and incorporate comments received from the Advisory and Policy Committee members.

- Included in the packet was a letter from Lauri Fairchild, USFWS, stating that she will be retiring.
- Jesme, Manager Page and Staff Members Sanderson and Hitt, attended the Parnell Advisory meeting held at the District office.
- Jesme attended the MPCA Waters and Watershed meeting held on February 6, 2019 in Brainerd. LGU's gathered in a roundtable group to discuss partnerships, while developing and constructing projects. Jesme presented information on the Grand Marais Outlet Restoration and Cut Channel project.
- Included in the packet was the October 2018 Water Quality Report.

Manager Tiedemann discussed the Agriculture Water Forum meeting he attended at UMC. Tiedemann stated that one of the presenters stated that the Parnell Impoundment was filling up with sediment. Tiedemann addressed the issue with the presenter and the theory, stating that there is no evidence that the impoundment is filling up with sediment.

Legal Counsel Sparby stated that he drafted a response for review by Administrator Jesme, to the Clearwater County Environmental Services, regarding jurisdiction in the lowering of the culvert at the outlet Judicial Ditch No.5, RLWD Project No. 102. Sparby also indicated that he will participate in the March 6, 2019 court hearing via telephone regarding the dismissal motion of the appeal of the Boards decision to not abandon Judicial Ditch #5.

Manager Sorenson asked the status of the redetermination of benefits for Judicial Ditch 72. Jesme indicated he had spoken recently with the Viewers as they had a few additional questions.

Manager Dwight discussed a conversation he had with Koochiching County Commissioner Wayne Skoe regarding Bartlett Lake.

Manager Dwight discussed the need to complete the review of the Gallagher (Fox Lawson) Study.

Staff member Loren Sanderson and Manager Nelson discussed Permit No. 14078, Arden Lundeen, Equality Township, Red Lake County. It was the consensus of the Board, to have Legal Counsel Sparby and District staff review the permit and report back to the Board.

Staff member Loren Sanderson stated that the Inter-Agency meeting with staff from Agassiz National Wildlife Refuge and MnDNR will be held on March 6, 2019 at Agassiz National Wildlife Refuge office.

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



Terry Sorenson, Secretary