

RED LAKE WATERSHED DISTRICT
Board of Manager's Minutes
November 14, 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 Dale M. Nelson, Gene Tiedemann, LeRoy Ose, Terry Sorenson, Allan Page, and Brian Dwight. 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 Ose, seconded by Page, and passed by unanimous vote that the Board approve the agenda. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed the October 24, 2019 minutes. Motion by Sorenson, seconded by Dwight, to approve the October 24, 2019 Board meeting minutes. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed the Financial Report dated November 13, 2019. Motion by Tiedemann, seconded by Ose, to approve the Financial Report dated November 13, 2019, as presented. Motion carried.

Administrator Jesme stated that Attorney John Kolb is working on completing easements for the Thief River Falls Westside Project, RLWD Project No. 178. Jesme noted that landowners Marland and Sharon Johnson have signed all the necessary documents for purchase of their property located in the NW ¼ of Section 32 North Township and Legal Counsel Kolb has directed the District to submit payment to the Johnsons. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) permit has not been received nor have we been updated on the timeline in which we could receive the permit. Jesme will reach out to Larry Puchalski with the Corps, to inquire of the status.

Engineer Jerry Pribula, Pribula Engineering, Inc., stated that the contractor for RLWD Ditch 16, RLWD Project No. 177, moved equipment to the site, and determined it was too wet to do any construction this year. Pribula stated that he has no intention of changing the completion date for construction, which is scheduled for September 8, 2020. Pribula stated that Olson Underground, Inc., was hired to complete the boring around Highway 220 for PKM Electric (\$1,700), Marshall/Polk Rural Water (\$2,600) and CenturyLink (\$9,960) for a total cost of \$14,260. Jesme reminded the Board that CenturyLink required the District to pay an upfront cost in the amount of \$34,341.68 for potential services to relocate or move their utilities. A portion of the bill that CenturyLink should pay in accordance to their discussion with Pribula Engineering is \$4,240. The remaining \$5,720 should be subtracted from the \$34,341.68 already paid to CenturyLink as a retainer. Since there is an unusual agreement between CenturyLink and the RLWD, Administrator Jesme suggested that the District pay the entire amount owed to Olson Underground, Inc., and that Olson Underground, Inc., would submit a bill to CenturyLink in the amount of \$4,240 for their portion that they are owed, and upon payment from CenturyLink, Olson Underground, Inc., would then provide reimbursement to the District. Motion by Tiedemann, seconded by Page, to authorize payment in the full amount of \$14,260, to Olson Underground, Inc., for completion of utility boring for the construction of RLWD Ditch 16,

RLWD Project No. 177, and upon payment of CenturyLink to Olson Underground, Inc. for their portion of the boring, Olson Underground, Inc. will reimburse the District in the amount of \$4,240. Motion carried. Pribula will work on the logistics with Olson Underground, Inc., to submit a billing to CenturyLink.

Engineer Jerry Pribula, Pribula Engineering, Inc., stated that he met with Viewer, Rob Wagner, during the peak of the fall overland flooding, to view the benefitted area of the Improvement to Polk County Ditch 39, RLWD Project No. 179. Pribula stated that the Viewers are contemplating that the proposed project assign outlet benefits to the Polk County Ditch 66 system, requesting Pribula to determine an incremental cost associated with the system. Once the Viewers' Report is completed, the project will go to the Final Hearing. Pribula stated that permitting requirements will need to be determined.

The Board reviewed a Grant Amendment with the Minnesota Board of Water Soil Resources to extend the Thief River 1W1P, RLWD Project No. 149A, grant from December 31, 2019 to June 30, 2020.

Legal Counsel Sparby stated that he is in the process of reviewing the abandonment hearing video for Judicial Ditch 5, RLWD Project No. 102, and will complete the Findings and Order for the project.

The Board reviewed Pay Estimate No. 1 to Higher Ground, Paul Zavoral, Inc., in the amount of \$4,423.20, for the construction of the Shaumburg Ring, RLWD Project No. 129AR. Motion by Ose, seconded by Sorenson, to approve Pay Estimate No. 1 in the amount of \$4,423.20 to Higher Ground, Paul Zavoral, Inc., for construction of the Shaumburg Ring Dike, RLWD Project No. 129AR. Motion carried.

Staff member Nick Olson gave the following District Impoundment update. The Brandt Impoundment, RLWD Project No. 60D, took 41 days to drain completely. Manager Nelson would like to pursue additional set back levies through the woods to assist in the release of water in the impoundment. Manager Tiedemann stated that the District would also need to do something about the downstream township road. The Euclid Impoundment, RLWD Project No. 60C, took 38 days to empty. Manager Nelson stated that the District should pursue an additional flood storage easement project or ditch improvement downstream of the Euclid Impoundment. Release of water was idled back on the Parnell Impoundment, RLWD Project No. 81, due to water backing up into the fields. The projected date for draining the impoundment is November 20, 2019. Discussion was held on additional flood storage easement project downstream of the Parnell Impoundment, which could be potentially funded by Clean Water Funds. The projected winter pool elevation of the north pool of the Moose River Impoundment, RLWD Project No. 13, should be reached on November 26, 2019, with the south pool to reach winter elevation on November 29, 2019. Discussion was held on potential revisions to the Pine Lake Outlet Structure, RLWD Project No. 35.

Staff member Nick Olson stated that the north weir wall on the north pool of the Moose River Impoundment, RLWD Project No. 13, has a crack in the structure and appears that the wall is bowing. The last Dam Inspection Report was completed in 2008, by JOR Engineering, Inc.

Motion by Ose, seconded by Tiedemann, to have Houston Engineering, Inc., inspect both structures of the Moose River Impoundment, RLWD Project No. 13, and report back to the Board. Motion carried.

Staff member Nick Olson stated that some of the grouting on the outlet structure of the Seeger Dam, RLWD Project No. 50, has fallen off. Motion by Tiedemann, seconded by Page, to authorize staff to make repairs to the grout on the outlet structure of the Seeger Dam, RLWD Project No. 50. Motion carried.

Discussion was made on potential revisions to the District's Rules and Regulations. Manager Dwight recommended appointing a lead person for the Rules and Regulations committee.

Motion by Tiedemann, seconded by Sorenson, to approve the revisions made to RLWD Permit No. 19074, Adirondack Farmland Holdings GR, Moylan Township, Marshall County. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed the permits for approval. Motion by Tiedemann, seconded by Page, to approve the following permits with conditions stated on the permit: No. 19194, Wayne Vettleson, Equality Township, Red Lake County; No. 19195, Vern Bregier, Gervais Township, Red Lake County; No. 19196, Parjim Farmland GP, Highlanding Township, Pennington County; No. 19197, Barnes Family Farmland GP, Highlanding Township, Pennington County; No. 19198, Parjim Farmland, Mayfield Township, Pennington County; No. 19199, KAM Farmland Holding GP, Highlanding Township, Pennington County; No. 19200 and 19201, FSMN Agri Partners, Cloverleaf Township, Pennington County; No. 19202, Pennington County Highway Department, Goodridge Township, Pennington County; No. 19203, Jeremy and Lindsey Gibson, Kratka Township, Pennington County; No. 19204, Scott Balstad, Bray Township, Pennington County; No. 19205, Burlington Northern Santa Fe, Fanny Township, Polk County; and 19206, James and Gulfia Amundson, Sullivan Township, Polk County. Motion carried.

Motion by Ose, seconded by Dwight, to approve the renewal of Civil 3D-Autocad, in the amount of \$1,022.35. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed the MAWD Annual Meeting and Resolution Packet.

The 2nd Annual Red River Basin Drainage Conference will be held January 27, 2020 in Moorhead, MN.

Administrators report:

- Jesme and Manager Ose will attend the RRWMB meeting on November 19, 2019 at the District office.
- Jesme and Manager Torgerson presented the 2018 Annual Report to the Clearwater County Commissioners on October 29th.
- The Thief River 1W1P Policy and Advisory Committee met to review the plan comments. The Public Hearing is scheduled for December 2, 2019 at 9:00 a.m. at the District office. After the hearing process, the final plan will be submitted to the LGU's

for approval. A final version of the plan will be submitted to BWSR no later than February 14, 2020.

- Jesme reviewed information from the Department of Labor regarding new salary limits for overtime exemptions which raises the “standard salary level” from the currently enforced level.
- The Red Lake River Planning Work Group met with staff from MPCA on November 5th and November 7th to finalize the tables which spell out the goals and milestones for the MPCA 319 grant using information based on the PTMAApp practices. All these items are a requirement of the EPA for this grant process.
- Kent Lokkesmoe, MnDNR retired from his position on November 1, 2019. Mr. Lokkesmoe will very instrumental in getting Flood Hazard Mitigation funds for the Red River Valley.
- Jesme, Managers Sorenson and Dwight and staff member Hanson will meet with staff from the MnDNR regarding the Pine Lake Project on November 18, 2019 in Mahanomen.
- Jesme received a call on November 12th, from the Thief River Falls Golf Course regarding flooding on the golf course. Jesme met with the Pennington County Sheriff, City of Thief River Falls, Agassiz NWR and Staff member Olson to discuss submittal of a public warning to refrain from any recreational activities on the river due to abnormal high flows on the Thief River.

Administrator Jesme discussed a phone call from Lammers Township, Beltrami County, regarding a public ditch system that was established by the township in 1927. Legal Counsel Sparby stated that presently the township has jurisdiction, but could transfer the ditch system to the county, who then could transfer it to the watershed. Jesme stated that the Ditch has a benefitted area and the last repair was completed in the mid 1990’s. The problem at hand is that a landowner wants the drainage authority to pay for a culvert that the drainage authority has no jurisdiction over. Lammers Township reached out to the District to assist them with a jurisdictional issue. Jesme informed the landowner, as well as Lammers Township, that the jurisdiction of the District only lies in the permit application that will be submitted for the replacement of a private crossing.

Manager Ose discussed the Farmes Pool at Elm Lake, which is operated by the MnDNR. Ose stated that the gates were shut tight, with water running over the gates. Ose requested that District staff determine how much water was stored during the Fall 2019 rainfall event and present the information to the RRWMB.

The Hiring Committee will meet with Administrator Jesme following the meeting.

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



Terry Sorenson, Secretary