

RED LAKE WATERSHED DISTRICT  
Board of Manager's Minutes  
December 9, 2021

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: Managers: Dale Nelson, Terry Sorenson, LeRoy Ose, Tom Anderson. Gene Tiedemann and Allan Page. Absent: Brian Dwight. Staff Present: Myron Jesme, Tammy Audette and Legal Counsel, Delray Sparby.

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

The Board reviewed the November 24, 2021, minutes. Motion by Tiedemann, seconded by Page, to approve the November 24, 2021, Board meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed the Financial Report dated December 8, 2021. Motion by Sorenson, seconded by Tiedemann, to unanimously approve the Financial Report dated December 8, 2021. Motion carried.

Staff member, Ann Joppru, reviewed the General Fund Budget as of November 30, 2021.

The Board reviewed Pay Estimate No. 2 in the amount of \$289,394.99 to Spruce Valley Corporation, Inc., for the Thief River Falls Oxbow Project and Stormwater Treatment Project, RLWD Project No. 46Q. Engineer, Dillion Nelson, stated that the project is 98% complete. The Contractor will complete site grading and seeding in the Spring. Motion by Ose, seconded by Tiedemann, to approve Pay Estimate No. 2 in the amount of \$289,394.99 to Spruce Valley Corporation, Inc., for the Thief River Falls Oxbow Project and Stormwater Treatment Project, RLWD Project No. 46Q. Motion carried.

Quality Spray Foam/Anderson Excavating began hauling riprap to the site for the Schirrick Dam Outlet Repair, RLWD Project No. 25. The Contractor will also remove any trees that are falling in, within the work area.

Administrator Jesme stated that he completed the project update and final payment request for the CPL Grant for the BR 6 Wildlife Habitat Structure, RLWD Project No. 43A.

Aly Bergstrom, Beltrami SWCD, appeared virtually before the Board to discuss a Forest Stewardship cost share proposal for Beltrami County landowners. Bergstrom explained that a forest stewardship plan is largely a "foot in the door" for a landowner to become enrolled in one of two conservation incentive programs. These programs provide forest protection through the life of the contract. Bergstrom stated that there are scientific reports that point out the correlation between a catchment that is 75% protected and improved water quality. Forest stewardship plans and subsequent conservation incentive programs increase protected lands on the landscape. Bergstrom is requesting cost share in the amount of \$5,400, which would account for

approximately 1,000 acres of forested property, with landowners paying a 60% cost share. Motion by Sorenson, seconded by Page, to approve a cost-share in the amount of \$5,400 with the Beltrami SWCD for a Forest Stewardship Program from the District's Water Quality Project funds, RLWD Project No. 46. Motion carried.

Engineer Nate Dalager, HDR Engineering, Inc., stated that the walkway on the Pine Lake Flood Damage and Fish Habitat Project, RLWD Project No. 26B will be installed next week, with the gates arriving January 27, 2022. District staff will install a road gate next spring. Dalager indicated that as part of the specification for the concrete structure, there is a 28-day break test and a 56-day break test. Both tests have failed the required specifications, however the 56-day break test did improve from the 28-day test. Dalager has determined that given how the project is designed, there is very little risk of dam failure however there may be a basic risk of early deterioration over time. Dalager has been in discussion with Davidson, who indicated they will provide an extended warranty of 10 years, in writing, along with additional testing being completed in the spring.

The District received a call from The Nature Conservancy staff regarding ditching on their property without their approval, as well as their concerns that there may be a wetland violation. Administrator Jesme recommended that if The Nature Conservancy felt there was a wetland violation, they should contact local Wetland Conservation Act staff members regarding possible wetland violations, and he felt the ditching on private land could be a trespassing issue. Legal Counsel Sparby agreed that this is most likely a civil issue and that there is most likely no jurisdiction for the District on this issue.

The Board reviewed correspondence from the RRWMB regarding cost share payments due for USGS stream gauge sites. Motion by Ose, seconded by Sorenson, to approve payment in the amount of \$11,675.00, to the RRWMB, for cost share on USGS stream gauge sites. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed a posting from the Environmental Quality Board regarding Public Board Member positions.

#### Administrators Update:

- The RRWMB Legislative Open House and Board meeting will be held on December 14, 2021 in Ada. Jesme will participate virtually.
- Staff member, Joppru, has been working with Brady Martz & Associates in regard to the District's accounting software.
- Six RLWD staff participated in the MAWD Annual Conference. Jesme and Engineer, Nordby, gave a presentation on the Black River Impoundment.
- The Minnesota Association of Water District Administrators Legislative Committee met via Zoom on December 10<sup>th</sup>.
- The Red Lake River 1W1P Advisory Committee and Policy Committee will meet on December 15, 2021 at the District office. The 2018 Watershed Based grant funding final billing will be completed.

- The Clearwater River Planning Workgroup will meet on December 15<sup>th</sup> to discuss various items in the plan development.
- Jesme and Engineers Nordby and Dalager presented the Black River Impoundment and the Pine Lake Flood Damage Reduction and Habitat Project to the Red River Flood Damage Reduction Workgroup on December 8<sup>th</sup>.
- The Mud River Project Team will meet on December 17<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 a.m. at the District office.

Legal Counsel Sparby stated that he has not heard from Attorney Mark Grainger regarding the stipulation of facts for the Improvement to Polk County Ditch 39, RLWD Project No. 179.

Legal Counsel Sparby will work with District staff regarding state deed tax and eCRV information for the Sorvig property on the Black River Impoundment, RLWD Project No. 176.

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



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LeRoy Ose, Secretary