

RED LAKE WATERSHED DISTRICT  
Board of Manager's Minutes  
February 10, 2022

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, Gene Tiedemann, Allan Page, Brian Dwight, and Tom Anderson. 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 Dwight, and passed by unanimous vote that the Board approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed the January 27, 2022, minutes. Manager Dwight stated that Robin Dwight was listed as landowner but should be listed as the President of the Upper Red Lake Area Association. Motion by Sorenson, seconded by Tiedemann, to approve the January 27, 2022, Board meeting minutes with corrections. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed the Financial Report dated February 9, 2022. Motion by Anderson, seconded by Ose, to approve the Financial Report dated February 9, 2022, as presented. Motion carried.

Administrator Jesme and Staff member Ann Joppru discussed the District's depreciation schedule where District staff currently record assets above \$500. Advisement was taken from the District's Auditor, Brady Martz, that most governmental organizations use \$5,000 as the amount used for recording assets. Motion by Tiedemann, seconded by Dwight, to approve changing the recording of District's assets from \$500 to \$5,000. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed correspondence from Red Lake County regarding the District's share of reimbursing Red Lake County for the dispute between Enbridge Energy and the MN Department of Revenue regarding the appraised value the state placed on the pipeline for tax years 2013-2019. Administrator Jesme stated that the District's portion is \$3,052.88, with approximately ½ of the amount reimbursable by the RRWMB. Motion by Tiedemann, seconded by Anderson, to authorize payment in the amount of \$3,052.88 to Red Lake County, for the District's portion of the Enbridge Energy appeal to the MN Department of Revenue. Motion carried.

Administrator Jesme stated that the Red Lake River 1W1P, RLWD Project No. 149, was approved for the 2022 Watershed Based Funding grant through BWSR. Jesme indicated that the 2018 grant is closed out, with current project expenditures coming out of the 2020 grant that will expire on December 31, 2022.

Administrator Jesme was informed by the Pennington County Auditors Office, that since the maintenance levy on the Thief River Falls Westside Flood Damage Reduction Project, RLWD Project No. 178, was not certified to the county by September 15, 2021, it will not be payable on

the 2022 tax year. Jesme indicated the staff will bring this back to the Board when we complete our other maintenance obligation levies by September 15, 2022, payable for 2023.

Administrator Jesme informed the Board that the Joint Ditch 2, RLWD Project 42 - Joint Board has not met since 1989. In 1984, a redetermination of benefits was completed that split the system into four ditches, which include: Lost River, RLWD Project No. 4; Branch A & Branch 1 of A JD #2, RLWD Project No. 48; Main JD #2 Upstream of Anderson Lake & Br B & C, RLWD Project No. 49; and Main JD #2 Downstream of Anderson Lake, RLWD Project No. 51. Jesme spoke to Polk County Engineer, Rich Sanders, and was told he could not find it on the list of Polk Counties ditches. Sanders suggested that since there has not been a legal transfer of the ditch, a Joint Ditch Board meeting should be held to set up a hearing date. It was the consensus of the Board, to authorize Administrator Jesme the authority to set up a meeting with the Joint Ditch Board to request a transfer of the system to the Watershed District since all the ditches are in Clearwater County and only a small portion of the benefited area is in Polk County.

Administrator Jesme stated that he spoke with the Clearwater County Auditor regarding the payment of damages for the redetermination of benefits for Joint Ditch 100, RLWD Project No. 41A and Joint Ditch 101, RLWD Project No. 41B. In the redetermination of benefits, the Joint Ditch 72 Board voted to have a 10-year debt repayment on the landowner's assessments. The District is required to send payment for damages to landowner's, therefore there will be a debt of \$32,577.96, which will be paid back to the District over the next 10-year period with a 1% interest rate. Jesme explained that for accounting purposes and ease of tracking of the repayment, new project numbers should be set up for both projects. Motion by Sorenson, seconded by Ose, to approve the following new project numbers to administer the 10-year recovery period to be, Joint Ditch 100, RLWD Project No. 41AA and Joint Ditch 101, RLWD Project No. 41BB. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed correspondence from BWSR regarding Minnesota State Statute 103d.605, Watershed District Project Establishments. Legal Counsel Sparby stated that BWSR was made aware that according to the statute, a project that will be constructed with government aid must be submitted to BWSR, to establish it as a project. Manager Ose stated that he will address the topic up at the next BWSR Board meeting and report back to the Board.

Administrator Jesme presented information from BWSR on the average cost per credit of wetland banking credits. The District currently has 17.182 acres of wetland banking credits from the Louisville/Parnell Project, RLWD Project No. 121. Of the 18.23 acres of credit originally awarded, 14.202 acres remaining are state certified and only 3.784 acres have USACOE certification. Discussion was held on selling state certified wetland credits to Ottertail County Highway Department. Jesme stated that clarification needs to be determined if the wetland banking credits in the amount of 5.03 acres have been withdrawn from the bank for mitigation of wetlands during the construction of the Black River Impoundment, RLWD Project No. 176. Motion by Dwight, seconded by Ose, to sell up to four acres, at no less than \$10,000 per acre from the District's state certified wetland banking credits to the Ottertail County Highway Department. Motion carried.

Staff member Nick Olson reviewed snow survey sampling obtained by District staff, for week ending February 12, 2022. Olson stated that this information is provided to the National Weather Service to assist in spring flood predictions. Manager Dwight questioned if the District would be willing to take samples in the Upper/Lower Red Lake subwatershed, Olson will collaborate with Manager Dwight.

Motion by Ose, seconded by Page, to grant a one -year permit extension for RLWD Permit No. 21-045, Thief River Falls Regional Airport, Rocksbury Township, Pennington County. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed RLWD Permit Nos. 22001-22003, 22005, Polk County Highway Department, Grove Park Township, Polk County and 22007, Polk County Highway Department, Euclid Township, Polk County. Staff member Nick Olson stated that all permits are located within legal drainage systems. Discussion was held on requirements for work completed within an existing legal drainage system. Motion by Sorenson, seconded by Ose, to approve RLWD Permit Nos. 22001-22003, 22005, Polk County Highway Department, Grove Park Township, Polk County and 22007, Polk County Highway Department, Euclid Township, Polk County, with the recommendation that a public hearing should be held prior to completion of the work. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed the permits for approval. Motion by Tiedemann, seconded by Anderson, to approve the following permits with conditions stated on the permits: No. 22004, BNSF Railway Company, Popple Township, Clearwater River; No. 22006, Polk County Highway Department, Eden Township, Polk County; No. 22008, and Polk County Highway Department, Brandsvold Township, Polk County. Motion carried.

#### Administrators Update:

- Ose will not attend the February 15<sup>th</sup> RRWMB meeting. Manager Tiedemann will go in Ose's absence. Jesme will participate in the meeting via Microsoft Teams.
- District staff has been working with Brady Martz to move forward with QuickBooks Online Software. There were minor adjustments to be incorporated, but things seem to be moving forward.
- Staff member Slowinski has been working with local schools on the River of Dreams curriculum with staff from the International Water Institute.
- Staff members Hanson, Slowinski and Jesme participated in the Pennington County SWCD Annual meeting that was held in the District office on February 1<sup>st</sup>. Jesme and Hanson presented various projects during the meeting.
- Managers Sorenson, Anderson, Page and Dwight attended the Watershed Managers Training session in Warren on February 4<sup>th</sup>. Manager Ose plans to attend the training session on February 11<sup>th</sup> in Barnesville.
- Staff members Olson and Koland attended a virtual meeting regarding the Polk County Multi Hazard Mitigation Plan.
- Included in the packet was the November and December Water Quality Reports.
- District staff is moving forward with drafting of the 2021 Annual Report.

Manager Sorenson stated that BWSR did a nice job on the Watershed Managers Training.

Legal Counsel Sparby stated that a Stipulation Agreement was reached on the Appeal for the Improvement to Polk County Ditch 39, RLWD Project No. 179. A hearing date will be set in February.

Legal Counsel Sparby will work with Administrator Jesme on the land purchase for the Thief River Falls Westside Flood Damage Reduction Project, RLWD Project No. 178.

Manager Dwight updated the Board on the Upper Red Lake Area Lake Association “Keep it Clean” campaign. Dumpsters have been placed at their designated locations and the Mille Lacs Lake has joined in the “Keep it Clean” campaign, which may help in potential funding and working with a lobbyist. Drafting of legislation is being gathered to present for consideration, with a stakeholders meeting scheduled for March 1<sup>st</sup>.

Manager Sorenson stated that he will not be in attendance at the February 24, 2022, Board meeting.

Motion by Ose, seconded by Anderson, to adjourn to Executive Session.

Motion by Sorenson, seconded by Dwight, to end the Executive Session.

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



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LeRoy Ose, Secretary