

RED LAKE WATERSHED DISTRICT
Board of Manager's Minutes
May 26, 2022

Vice President, Gene Tiedemann, called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. at the Red Lake Watershed District Office, Thief River Falls, MN.

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

The Board reviewed the agenda. Vice President Tiedemann stated that a request was made to add discussion of the Elm Lake Project, RLWD Project No. 52 and change the agenda item for the Euclid East Impoundment to: Brandt Channel Restoration, RLWD Project No. 60E. A motion was made by Page, seconded by Sorenson, and passed by unanimous vote that the Board approve the agenda with the addition of the Elm Lake Project, RLWD Project No. 52 and correction to Brandt Channel Restoration, RLWD Project No. 60E. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed the May 12, 2022, minutes. Motion by Sorenson, seconded by Anderson, to approve the May 12, 2022, Board meeting minutes with correction. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed the Financial Report dated May 25, 2022. Motion by Anderson, seconded by Dwight, to approve the Financial Report dated May 25, 2022, as presented. Motion carried.

Administrator Jesme stated that he contacted landowner Roger Hagen, regarding enrolling his property along Brandt Channel Restoration, RLWD Project No. 60E into CRP. Jesme stated that 1.04 acres will be enrolled into SAFE Minnesota-Back Forty Pheasant Habitat at \$139.11 per acre and 22.56 acres into the Continuous CRP program at a rate of \$185.02 per acre. Through a rental agreement, the District will receive 25% of the total payment to the landowner which will run through 9-30-2032. Sign-up needs to be completed by June 1, 2022. Motion by Page, seconded by Dwight, to approve entering into a Rental Agreement with Roger and Roxanne Hagen, for CRP enrollment for land along Brandt Channel Restoration, RLWD Project No. 60E. Motion carried.

Engineer, Nate Dalager, HDR Engineering, Inc., discussed concerns landowners in Bygland Township have regarding flooding on Ditch 12, RLWD Project No. 169. Dalager explained that Ditch 12 was designed with a 10-year ditch design with a drainage area of 20 square miles. With the recent rain events, township roads have been washed out, and a few homes have seen some high-water levels. Bygland Township is requesting that the District review alternatives that were discussed at the time the Improvement was designed which may include a diversion ditch constructed west thus entering into the Red River of the North from a location along the improved channel which is part of a Public Waters. Dalager stated that diverting water anywhere south of Highway 220, would require a deep cut to the Red River of the North as well as the possibility of permitting issues in diverting waters from a public water. Jesme indicated that at the time the project was in its design and permitting phase, various state employees from the

MnDNR and BWSR toured the project and felt the best option from a permitting agency was to keep the improvement in the original public waters. It was the consensus of the Board, to authorize Administrator Jesme and Dalager to set up a meeting with Bygland Township and report back to the Board at a later date.

Administrator Jesme stated that he met with landowner Nick Knott regarding entering into a rental agreement for a CRP contract within the Black River Impoundment, RLWD Project No. 176. Jesme reminded the Board, that Mr. Knott was not comfortable signing portions of the land into CRP unless the District agreed to pay 50% of the cost to re-seed the CRP. Jesme indicated that this would pertain just to the property formerly owned by Craig Swanson. Motion by Page, seconded by Anderson, to approve the rental agreement with landowner Nick Knott to enroll the Black River Impoundment, RLWD Project No. 176 into CRP, with the District agreeing to pay 50% of the cost if it necessary to re-seed CRP, but only for land formerly owned by Craig Swanson within the impoundment area. Motion carried.

Discussion was held on the potential of haying alfalfa on the Black River Impoundment, RLWD Project No. 176. Administrator Jesme stated that the dike and area around the dike could potentially be hayed this summer, with the diversion ditches being hayed in 2023. Motion by Sorenson, seconded by Dwight, to authorize Administrator Jesme the authority to request bids for haying on the Black River Impoundment, RLWD Project No. 176. Engineer, Tony Nordby, Houston Engineering, Inc., stated that technically mowing of the dike and diversion ditches is the responsibility of the contractor until the project is closed out, however, we could request a release for the impoundment area from the contractor.

Administrator Jesme requested that with the recent flooding within the Thief River watershed area, Jesme has been reviewing trigger points for the operation of Farnes Pool (Elm Lake) Projects Jesme indicated that in 2006, Houston Engineering completed a report, reviewing the trigger points at three locations downstream of the outlet structure of Farnes Pool. In 2013, the structure listed as trigger point number two was replaced, and in 2009 the entire Farnes Pool Structure was replaced. Based on all the changes since the 2006 report was completed, Jesme is requesting that the District hire Houston Engineering, Inc., to review the trigger points for each site based on all the changes. Motion by Page, seconded by Dwight, to authorize Houston Engineering, Inc., the authority to review the trigger points on various structures in the 2006 report within the Thief River watershed. Motion carried.

Staff member Tony Olson reviewed photos taken during the spring 2022 spring melt and rain events. Manager Dwight stated that he drove out to the Moose River Impoundment and took videos, noting that landowner Wally Byklum had contacted him regarding erosion on the bank of the Moose River channel.

The District has been accumulating information for a potential 2022 FEMA Disaster Declaration. Administrator Jesme stated that after the recent rain events, landowner Scott Sorvig requested a side water inlet culvert at a location along the outlet channel downstream of the Black River Impoundment.

Engineer, Tony Nordby, updated the Board on construction on the Demarais/Hanson Bank Stabilization Project, RLWD Project No. 149. Nordby stated that he plans to speak with the contractor regarding the use of a seed blanket, instead of using a seed/mulch mixture. This project is being funded through the Red Lake River 1W1P funds.

The Board reviewed a Resolution in support of the Upper/Lower Red Lake Watershed One Watershed One Plan Project, RLWD Project No. 149C. Motion by Dwight, seconded by Sorenson, to authorize Vice-President Tiedemann, the authority to sign a Resolution in support of the Upper/Lower Red Lake Watershed One Watershed One Plan Project, RLWD Project No. 149C. A meeting has been scheduled for June 1st at the Red Lake DNR office.

Motion by Anderson, seconded by Sorenson, to authorize Vice-President Tiedemann the authority to sign the boundary permit resolution with the Middle Snake Tamarac Watershed District. Motion carried.

Motion by Page, seconded by Anderson, to approve the following permits with conditions stated on the permit: No. 22023, Jeremy Nelson, Grand Plain Township, Marshall County; No. 22028, Jesse Maruska, Island Lake, Mahnomen County; No. 22042, Red Lake Falls Township, Red Lake County; No. 22043, Scott Cameron, Fisher Township, Polk County; No. 22044, Kevin Blaser, Columbia Township, Polk County; No. 22045, Randy & Judith Adamson, Norden Township, Pennington County; No. 22046 and 22047, Gervais Township, Red Lake County; No. 22053, William Brendan Hayes, Godfrey Township, Polk County; No. 22054, Michael Carlson, Rocksbury Township, Pennington County; No. 22056, Clearwater County Highway Department, Sinclair Township, Clearwater County; No. 22057, Polk County Highway Department, Sullivan Township, Polk County; No. 22058, Randy Myhre, Terrebonne Township, Red Lake County; No. 22059, Sam Olson, Onstad Township, Polk County; No. 22060, Gervais Township, Red Lake County; No. 22061, Earl Pederson, Poplar River Township, Red Lake County; No. 22062, Earl Pederson, Grove Park Township, Polk County; No. 22063, David Geatz, Veldt Township, Marshall County; No. 22064, Arnie Schmitz, Emardville Township, Red Lake County; No. 22065, Marshall County Highway Department, Agder Township; and No. 22066, Marshall County Highway Department, Grand Plain Township. Motion carried.

Administrators Update:

- Manager Ose attended the RRRWBM meeting on May 17th in Ada, with Jesme participating via Teams. The District's request for a \$100,000 Water Quality Program Base Funds was approved.
- Jesme and Manager Ose attended at a meeting at the Brad Lunke Farm concerning flooding in and around East Valley Township.
- Jesme spoke with a supervisor from Lammers Township regarding assisting the township in moving forward as the drainage authority. The township will apply for a permit to install the damaged culvert in question.
- The Clearwater River 1W1P Policy Committee met on May 25th to review all comments from the 30-day internal review. Changes to the plan will be made and sent out for the 60-day review period.

- Jesme gave an interview with KTRF radio on May 17th regarding flood conditions in NW Minnesota as well as recently completed projects.
- Staff member Slowinski has been busy with River of Dreams launches with various schools within the District.
- The Upper/Lower Red Lake River 1W1P meeting will be held on June 1 at the Red Lake DNR office.

Legal Counsel Sparby stated that no decisions have been made on the Appeal for the Improvement to Polk County Ditch 39, RLWD Project No. 179.

Manager Page inquired if any additional damage was found downstream of the Schirrick Dam, RLWD Project No. 25. It was noted that there didn't appear to be any other significant damages due to the spring flood.

Manager Page stated that he would like to see a flagpole installed at the District office.

Manager Anderson inquired as to who will be the Fiscal Agent and Coordinator for the Upper/Lower Red Lake Watershed One Watershed One Plan. Administrator Jesme indicated that the Beltrami SWCD is willing to do both positions, and will request Houston Engineering, Inc., to assist in drafting of the plan.

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



LeRoy Ose, Secretary