

RED LAKE WATERSHED DISTRICT
Board of Manager's Minutes
October 13, 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: Gene Tiedemann, Terry Sorenson, Allan Page, Brian Dwight, Tom Anderson, Dale M. Nelson, and LeRoy Ose. Staff Present: Myron Jesme, Tammy Audette, and Legal Counsel, Delray Sparby.

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

The Board reviewed the September 22, 2022, minutes. Motion by Anderson, seconded by Page, to approve the September 22, 2022, Board meeting minutes. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed the Financial Report dated October 12, 2022. Motion by Dwight, seconded by Sorenson, to approve the Financial Report dated October 12, 2022, as presented. Motion carried. Staff member Ann Joppru noted that the current interest rate at American Federal Bank-Fosston increased to 1.5%.

Staff member Ann Joppru reviewed the General Fund Budget as of September 30, 2022.

Administrator Jesme stated that a Mud River Floodplain Access Project Team meeting was held at the District office on September 23rd. Local landowners were not able to attend due to harvest. An additional meeting with the landowners will be held in the near future to keep them informed of discussions held at the September 23rd meeting. Engineer Nate Dalager, HDR Engineering, updated the Board on the project concept. This area has a 220-mile drainage area, but very little evidence indicating what the system was like pre-settlement. Dalager discussed the goals of floodplain enhancement, to attempt to stop the sediment from settling in Agassiz National Wildlife Refuge, using upstream Best Management Practices (BMP). Manager Dwight discussed previous studies in the area completed by local SWCD offices. Jesme indicated that there is a Flood Damage Reduction (FDR) component of the project. A grant in the amount of \$30,000, was received from the FDR Work Group to assist with the project team process.

Due to the Spring flooding and shortage of local contractors, a one-year extension was requested for the Red Lake River 1W1P, RLWD Project No. 149 for the 2020 Grant.

Engineer Nate Dalager, HDR Engineering, Inc., and Staff member Corey Hanson discussed an erosion problem on Crescent Avenue in Crookston. Hanson indicated that large chunks of shoreline were falling into the Red Lake River, with engineers finding additional cracks going up the bank. Dalager completed an analysis of the unstable slope of the bank, noting that the area does not have soil strength. Dalager discussed a proposal to reduce the slope to 3:1, with the addition of riprap. Discussion was held on monitoring the area, and the potential of drilling

wells into the slope for monitoring purposes. Motion by Ose, seconded by Tiedemann, to proceed with surveying and design proposal for the Crescent Avenue Project, Red Lake River 1W1P, RLWD Project No. 149. Motion carried. Administrator Jesme indicated that District staff will assist in obtaining survey information.

At 9:30 a.m. President Nelson indicated that quote information was submitted to 19 contractors and only one quote was received for the State Ditch 83/Thief River Streambank Stabilization Project, Thief River 1W1P, RLWD Project No. 149A, located in Agdar Township, Marshall County, in the amount of \$123,100.00 from Quality Spray Foam LLC DBA Anderson Excavating. Motion by Tiedemann, seconded by Ose, to approve the low quote from Quality Spray Foam LLC DBA Anderson Excavating in the amount of \$123,100.00, for the State Ditch 83/Thief River Streambank Stabilization Project, Thief River 1W1P, RLWD Project No. 149A Motion carried.

The BWSR North Region Board approved the Clearwater River 1W1P, RLWD Project No. 149B at their recent meeting. The plan will now be presented to the full BWSR Board on October 26, 2022. Discussion was held on completing a Clearwater River Channel Stability Reconnaissance to gather data on various bank stabilization sites along the Clearwater River. The Board reviewed a proposal from Houston Engineering, Inc., to complete the Clearwater River Channel Stability Reconnaissance Report in the amount of \$4,890.00. Motion by Page, seconded by Sorenson, to authorize approval of the Services Agreement between the District and Houston Engineering, Inc., for a Clearwater River Channel Stability Reconnaissance, Clearwater River 1W1P, RLWD Project No. 149B. Motion carried.

Administrator Jesme indicated that he would submit a request to BWSR for an extension of the 2020 Grant for the Thief River 1W1P, RLWD Project No. 149A, due to the Spring flooding and shortage of local contractors.

Administrator Jesme reviewed information gathered by District staff for the 2022 FEMA Disaster Declaration. The Board reviewed information prepared by Houston Engineering, Inc., on damages to the Black River Impoundment and diversion ditches, RLWD Project No. 176 in the total amount of \$218,907.10.

The Board reviewed the final cost of the Larson Ring Dike, RLWD Project No. 129AV in the amount of \$48,072.32, which brings the amount of the landowner portion a credit in the amount of \$730.69. Motion by Tiedemann, seconded by Anderson, to approve finalizing out the Larson Ring Dike, RLWD Project No. 129AV, with reimbursement in the amount of \$730.69, to landowner Craig Larson. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed Pay Estimate No. 2 in the amount of \$32,691.21 to Paul Zavoral, Inc./Higher Ground for construction of the Sorum Ring Dike, RLWD Project No. 129AW. Motion by Ose, seconded by Dwight, to approve Payment Estimate No. 2 in the amount of \$32,691.21 to Paul Zavoral, Inc./Higher Ground for construction of the Sorum Ring Dike, RLWD Project No. 129AW. Motion carried.

Motion by Sorenson, seconded by Tiedemann, to approve the following individuals for construction of a ring dike around their property: Robert Fladeland, Rocksbury Township, Pennington County; RLWD Project No. 129X; Brian Bohl, Nesbit Township, Polk County; RLWD Project No. 129Y; and Terry Beich, located in Agder Township, Marshall County, RLWD Project No. 129Z. Motion carried.

Engineer Tony Nordby, Houston Engineering, Inc., stated that replacement of the structure on the Knutson Dam, RLWD Project No. 50F had been virtually completed, with the new structure in place and backfilled. During construction, the 48" aluminized outlet pipe was damaged by the contractor puncturing a hole in the pipe. After conversation with the contractor and supplier regarding the District's concerns for the repair of the culvert, the supplier, True North Steel, submitted a letter warranting the repair of the damages, which included a weld and zinc spray.

Quality Foam LLC dba/Anderson Excavating Inc. has started construction to the sloughing at the Demarais/Hanson Project, Red Lake River 1W1P, RLWD Project No. 149, which includes installation of geogrid mats, installed in 2.5 foot lifts to the top of the sloughed area.

The Board reviewed a letter from RLC, LLC regarding the receipt of declined payment for right of way on JD 72, RLWD Project No. 41BB. Administrator Jesme stated that the landowner does not want to recognize the District's rights for an easement, therefore they do not want to accept the payment. Legal Counsel Sparby indicated if that landowner refuses the payment, the District has no choice but to send the funds to the State of Minnesota as unclaimed funds. District staff will submit a letter to the landowner stating that the funds will be sent to the State of Minnesota.

The Board reviewed the Red River Retention Authority's Retention Policy Statement dated September 7, 2022, as it pertains to the 20% Flood Water Retention efforts.

Administrator Jesme discussed worked completed on the Brandt, Euclid East, and Parnell Impoundments due to the 2022 Spring rain event. Completed work will be submitted to FEMA for funding.

Staff member Christina Slowinski appeared before the Board to discuss the River Watch Forum held at the District office on October 6, 2022. Slowinski stated that she has 22 new River Watch students this year, therefore she would like to purchase River Watch jackets for the new students at a range of \$45-\$49 per jacket. Motion by Tiedemann, seconded by Anderson, to approve the purchase of jackets from Page's Country Creations for the new River Watch Students. Motion carried, with Manager Page abstaining from discussion and vote.

The Board reviewed a funding request from the Red Lake SWCD for four Grade Stabilization Projects. The request includes a total cost share of \$3,125 from the District's 2022 Erosion Control Funds, RLWD Project No. 164. Motion by Tiedemann, seconded by Page, to approve cost share request in the amount of \$925.00 for the Ralph Perrault Project, located in Section 32 and 34, Gervais Township; \$600.00 for the Val Gagnon Project, located in Section 28, Gervais Township; \$1,200 for the Tony Gerardy Project, located in Section 33, Emardville Township;

\$400.00 for the Matt Knutson Project, located in Red Lake Falls and Gervais Townships, from the District's 2022 Erosion Control Funds, RLWD Project No. 164. Motion carried.

Administrator Jesme shared the cost share reimbursement request from the West Polk SWCD from the District's 2021 Erosion Control Funds, RLWD Project No. 164 in the amount of \$7,350 for the Boushee side water inlet project: and \$6,350 for the Hangsleben (GKT Farms) side water inlet project. Jesme indicated that these two projects were previously approved at the May 13, 2021 Board Meeting.

The Board reviewed three permit violations located in Louisville and Wyle Townships, Red Lake County. Staff member Tony Olson stated that three different landowners completed unauthorized and unsatisfactory construction within the township and county road right of ways. Olson reviewed a draft letter to be submitted to the landowners. Motion by Tiedemann, seconded by Page, to approve sending the letters to the three landowners with permit violations located in Louisville and Wylie Townships, Red Lake County. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed the permits for approval. Motion by Sorenson, seconded by Tiedemann, to approve the following permits with conditions stated on the permit: No. 22-183, Greg Stolker, Grand Forks Township, Polk County; No. 22-212, Pennington County Highway Department, Sanders Township; No. 22-216, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Agder Township, Marshall County; No. 22-217, Mike Rosendahl, Tabor Township, Polk County; No. 22-218, Dale Kolseth, Wyandotte Township, Pennington County; No. 22-219, Chad Lundeen, Equality Township, Red Lake County; No. 22-222, Mike Beedy, Sanders Township, Pennington County; No. 22-223, Jeffrey Olson, Norden Township, Pennington County; No. 22-224, North Township, Pennington County; No. 22-225, Jason Kotrba, Reiner Township, Pennington County; No. 22-227, Pennington County Highway Department, Reiner Township, Pennington County; No. 22-228, Jeanne Brekken, Russia Township, Polk County; No. 22-229, Preston Solberg, Grand Plain Township, Marshall County; No. 22-230, 22-231, 22-232, and 22-233 Emardville Township, Red Lake County; No. 22-235, Darwin Boutain, Reiner Township, Pennington County; No. 22-236, Ronnie Davidson, Rocksbury Township, Pennington County; and, No. 22-237 and 22-238, Pennington County Highway Department, Bray Township, Pennington County. Motion carried.

The Red River Basin Flood Damage Reduction Work Group recently updated its Project Work Team Handbook. A training session will be held at the District office on November 16, 2022, to review the updates.

The MAWD Annual Conference will be held December 1-3, 2022 at the Arrowwood Conference Center, Alexandria, MN.

Motion by Dwight, seconded by Ose, to move the November 24, 2022 Board meeting date to November 22, 2022, due to the Thanksgiving holiday. Motion carried.

Administrators Update:

- Jesme will participate in the October 18, 2022 RRWMB via Teams. Manager Ose will attend in person.

- A MnDNR Restoration Evaluation Specialist contacted the District regarding a site visit on October 25th on the Grand Marais Creek Project. An initial site visit was completed in 2015. District staff will participate in the visit.
- A Mud River Project Work Team meeting was held September 23, 2022 at the District office. District staff will have an informal meeting with the landowners that serve on the Project Work Team that were unable to attend due to harvest to keep them updated on the process.
- A Thief River 1W1P Planning Work Group meeting will be held on October 21st with a Policy Committee meeting at the District office on October 28th. Jesme will ask for a one- year extension on the 2020 Watershed Based Funding Grant.
- Jesme will participate in a Drainage Workgroup meeting after today's Board meeting.
- Jesme participated in a MAWD Legislative meeting held on September 29th, with an additional meeting to be forthcoming.
- Staff members Olson and Audette will attend a Lammers Township meeting on October 19th to discuss jurisdictional duties of the township as it pertains to their ditch system and the benefited area.
- An Upper/Lower Red Lake River 1W1P Policy Committee meeting was held on October 4th.
- Jesme will attend a Minnesota Association of Watershed Administrators meeting scheduled for November 4th in Fergus Falls, MN.

Manager Dwight stated that the Upper/Lower Red Lake 1W1P Policy Committee is looking at having staff from Houston Engineering, Inc. write the plan with assistance from staff members.

Legal Counsel Sparby stated that the Appellant Brief was filed in regard to the appeal to the Improvement to Polk County Ditch 39, RLWD Project No. 179.

Manager Anderson indicated that the Clearwater River 1W1P, RLWD Project No. 149B, was approved by the North Region BWSR Board and will be presented to the full BWSR Board on October 26th.

Manager Dwight stated that he would like to participate in the Lammers Township meeting to be held on October 19th in Solway.

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



LeRoy Ose, Secretary