

RED LAKE WATERSHED DISTRICT  
Board of Manager's Minutes  
March 14, 2024

President, Gene M. 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 Tiedeman, LeRoy Ose, Tom Anderson, Grant Nelson, Brian Dwight, and Allan Page. Manager's Absent: Terry Sorenson. Staff Present: Tammy Audette, Elaine Rychlock, Melissa Bushy, Lindsey Kallis, and Legal Counsel, Delray Sparby. Guests: Nate Dalager, Tony Nordby, Jim Graham, Gary Kiesow, Darrold Rodahl, and Matt Fischer.

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

A request to appear was made by Marshall County resident, Darrold Rodahl.

The Board reviewed the February 22, 2024, Board meeting minutes. Motion by Ose, seconded by Page, to approve the February 22, 2024, Board meeting minutes, as presented. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed the Financial Report dated March 13, 2024. Motion by Anderson, seconded by Page, to approve the Financial Report dated March 13, 2024. Motion carried.

Darrold Rodahl expressed his concerns and presented landowner signatures regarding the proposed Mud River Project, RLWD Project No. 180C, without first addressing downstream flooding issues. Rodahl requested a meeting with the District, for discussion on possible flooding solutions along State Ditch 83, RLWD Project No. 14. After discussion by the Board, a motion was made by Dwight, seconded by Ose, to authorize a meeting with Rodahl and delegates from the landowners, along with Manager Ose, Administrator Audette, and Engineer Nate Dalager, HDR Engineering, Inc. Motion carried. Audette will work with those involved to determine a meeting date.

Matt Fischer, BWSR, presented information on the Performance Review and Assistance Program (PRAP) administered by BWSR. The program includes an Annual Statewide Summary and three types of assessments: Organizational Assessment, Watershed-based Assessments, and Special Assessments. BWSR uses this program to provide organizational improvement or assistance grants to local government units (LGUs) in need and prepares an annual report to the legislature outlining work conducted under the program. BWSR will deliver their findings to the board on April 25, 2024.

The Board reviewed Task Order #3 in the amount of \$190,550 and the Facilitation Agreement with RRWMB/FDRWG for the Mud River Project, RLWD Project No. 180C. A motion was made by Dwight, seconded by Ose to table any action relating to both the Task Order #3 and the Facilitation Agreement for the Mud River Project, RLWD Project No. 180C, until the downstream landowner meeting is held. Motion carried.

Nate Dalager, HDR Engineering, presented to the Board information on the Turtle Cross Connection Project, RLWD Project No. 114. Dalager reviewed slides that contained information related to the project. Dalager indicated that a Project Team meeting will be held in April.

Tony Nordy, Houston Engineering, reviewed the Geotechnical Risk Assessment study done by Braun Intertec for the Houston Avenue Project, RLWD Project No. 92. A motion was made by Ose, seconded by Page, to forward the assessment to the landowners and to the City of Crookston, MN. Motion carried.

Administrator Audette discussed the Drees/Stock Bank Stabilization Projects, Thief River 1W1P, RLWD Project No. 149A, and the concerns the landowners have regarding the amount of trees they would lose. Audette stated that the District will need to have a match for the RRWMB Water Quality Funds. Additional information will be brought to the Board at a later time.

Administrator Audette discussed the Cardinal Ring Dike, RLWD Project No. 129BB. Proposals shall be delivered by 4:30 pm on April 10, 2024, at the office of the Red Lake Watershed District, 1000 Pennington Avenue South, Thief River Falls, MN 56701. A motion was made by Ose, seconded by Nelson, to approve distribution of the Cardinal Ring Dike, RLWD Project No. 129BB, Plans and Specifications to local contractors, with quotes due by 4:30 p.m. on April 10, 2024, at the District office. Motion carried.

Administrator Audette reviewed the quote for purchase of MS4Front and Implementation of Permit and 1W1P Implementation Tracking Modules received from Houston Engineering. After much discussion, a motion was made by Dwight, seconded by Ose, to table this for further information. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed funding requests from the Red Lake SWCD for the Randy Pahlen Grade Stabilization Structure Project in the amount of \$3,000; the Danny Payment Grade Stabilization Structure Projects in the amount of \$5,000; and the Nick Seeger Grade Stabilization Structure Project in the amount of \$1,500 . Motion by Ose, seconded by Page, to approve the funding requests from the Red Lake SWCD for the Randy Pahlen Grade Stabilization Structure, the Danny Payment Grade Stabilization Structure, and the Nick Seeger Grade Stabilization Structure for a total amount of \$9,500, from the District's Clearwater River 1W1P, RLWD Project No. 149B funds. Motion carried. Administrator Audette stated that funds from the District cost shares can be used as matching funds for the Clearwater River 1W1P grant.

Administrator Audette discussed an invoice received on March 6, 2024, from Clean Cut Maintenance for ditch maintenance. Some of the charges on the invoice were from 2021, 2022, and 2023. After discussion was had, a motion was made by Nelson, seconded by Anderson, to approve the payment of previously unpaid charges from this invoice and for the RLWD to require charges to be submitted and paid within the same fiscal year by the contractor or the RLWD will not renew the contract with that contractor the following year. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Ose, seconded by Page, to approve the withdrawal of Permit No. 24-005, Angus Township, Polk County, as requested. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Ose, seconded by Anderson, to approve tabling Permit No. 24-008, Bruce Stromstad, Kerstonville Township, Polk County, to allow for further review by District staff. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed the permits for approval. Motion by Anderson, seconded by Page, to approve the following permits with conditions stated on the permit: No. 24-006, BNSF Railway Company, Fanny Township, Polk County; and No. 24-007, Aaron Myhre, Terrebonne Township, Red Lake County. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Ose, seconded by Page to approve the addition of Kelly Dahlen and John Barrett to the RLWD Advisory Board. Motion carried.

Staff member Lindsey Kallis and Manager Dwight discussed the potential of offering scholarships to River Watch Students within the District. The Board directed Kallis to bring back additional information for consideration and have the potential reviewed by legal counsel.

Administrator's Update:

- **MN Legislature:** Included in the packet is the 2024 legislative bill tracking, updated as of March 11, 2024.
- **RRWMB:** Audette plans to attend the RRWMB meeting next week in Moorhead, followed by the RRWMB/FDRWG conference.
- **District Audit:** The RLWD Audit was completed last week. Audette felt that staff were able to get their questions answered, which will be helpful in the future.
- **2024 BWSR Spring Training:** Included in the packet is information on the 2024 BWSR Spring Training to be held on March 28<sup>th</sup>.
- **Red Lake County SWCD Landowner meeting:** Audette presented at the Red Lake SWCD landowner meeting on March 13, 2024. Manager Page was also in attendance.
- **Thief River 1W1P:** Audette participated in the March 22, 2024, Thief River 1W1P Policy Committee meeting at the District office.

Legal Counsel Sparby updated that Board on the Section 25, Terrebonne Township, Red Lake County permit violation and subsequent misdemeanor charges filed by Red Lake County.

Legal Counsel Sparby discussed the Supreme Court Oral Argument for the Improvement to Polk County Ditch 39, RLWD Project No. 179.

Manager Dwight discussed the potential of the "Keep It Clean" legislation and a bill in the House of Representatives for the local tribal nations "LandBack" movement.

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



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LeRoy Ose, Secretary