President Vernon Johnson called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. at the Red Lake Watershed District office at 102 North Main Avenue, Thief River Falls, MN.

Present were: Vernon Johnson; Leonard Moe; Dale M. Nelson; Dennis Nikolayson; Lowell Smeby; George Dailey; Arlene Novak, Accounting/Secretary Technician II; Sandy Radniecki, Secretary/Receptionist; and Legal Counsel Delray Sparby. Ron Weiss, who has been appointed to replace George Dailey, was also present. Administrator Lanning and Roger Love were absent.

The board reviewed the agenda. A motion was made by Nelson, seconded by Moe, that the board approve the agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

Arlene Novak read the minutes of December 14, 2000. A motion was made by Nelson, seconded by Nikolayson, that the board approve the minutes as read. Motion carried unanimously.

The board reviewed the Financial Report. A motion was made by Nelson, seconded by Moe, and passed by unanimous vote that the board approve the Financial Report dated December 27, 2000.

Arlene Novak presented a listing of RLWD projects and recommended transfers from the Administrative Construction fund. A motion was made by Nelson, seconded by Dailey, and passed by unanimous vote that the board approve the following transfers to projects from the Administrative Construction fund: Moose River Project No. 13 - $19,811.23; Thief River Mediation Project No. 14A - $27,308.14; Stream Gaging No. 21 - $35,191.44; Badger Creek/Poplar River Mediation No. 28A - $8,510.64; Hydrologic Analysis No. 31 - $8,013.71; Flood Control Studies No. 32 - $1,928.42; Bench Marks No. 34 - $1,292.01; Water Quality No. 46 - $62,791.07; Thief River Dissolved Oxygen No. 46X - $0.05; Union/Lake Sarah No. 46Z - $10.97; Elm Lake No. 52 - $381.34; Thief River Reservoir No. 63 - $93,835.49; Parnell Area Mediation No. 60B - $87.198; Good Lake No. 67 - $6203.46; Permits No. 90 - $4,000.00; Beaver Control Program V No. 110D - $5,360.17; Ring Dike Program No. 129C - $2,582.11; Ring Dike Program No. 129D - $3,147.46; Ring Dike No. 129E - $1,224.64; Ring Dike No. 129F - $3,049.24; Ring Dike No. 129G - $2,836.88; Ring Dike No. 129H - $2,969.41; G.I.S. Project No. 145 - $16,887.95; Wetland Practices Project No. 146 - $979.51; and Wetland Banking Project No. 147 - $555.68.

A motion was made by Nikolayson, seconded by Nelson, and passed by unanimous vote that the board designates Northwest Community Bank of Plummer and Red Lake County State Bank as depositories for the RLWD.

Arlene Novak informed the board that the federal mileage rate will increase to 34.5 cents a mile, as of January 1, 2001.

Legal Counsel Delray Sparby stated that the trial date for State Ditch 83 has been set for sometime in August.
The board discussed doing some maintenance or building an access road along State Ditch 83. Following discussion, a motion was made by Moe, seconded by Dailey, and passed by unanimous vote that the board approve the maintenance, up to $50,000, on State Ditch 83 and that Brent Johnson should explain the areas that are most in need of maintenance.

Legal Counsel Sparby stated he received an Order from the judge regarding the claim on the dredging project against J.F. Brennan and that the judge denied the appellant’s claim.

Discussion was held regarding a hearing for the Parnell Impoundment Operating Plan. Legal Counsel Sparby stated that when the Engineer’s Report has been signed and filed with the RLWD, a hearing would be scheduled.

Permit No. 00123 from MnDOT, Polk County, was reviewed by the board. A motion was made by Nikolayson, seconded by Moe, and passed by unanimous vote that the board approve permit No. 00123, with conditions stated on permit.

Manager Smeby had a concern on why there was water on top of the ice on the Mud River. Loren Sanderson stated the RLWD is not releasing any additional water through the flood gates; normal out-flow is through the one foot wide stoplog bay, which is according to the Operating Plan. Staff will also look at the Mud River and try to determine if anything unusual is happening causing the water on top of the ice.

Manager Nelson brought up the tree removal on the Clearwater and Red Lake Rivers. Loren Sanderson replied that the RLWD staff has determined the areas that need some tree removal and that he also has some figures as to what it would cost. It was the consensus of the board that Loren solicit bids for the Clearwater River and also contact the Sentence to Serve do snagging and cleaning of areas other than the Clearwater River, since that would be put on bids and the Sentence to Serve Program does not do bid jobs.

Due to a conflict for Manager Johnson, the first meeting in January had to be rescheduled. A motion was made by Nelson, seconded by Smeby, and passed by unanimous vote that the first meeting of 2001 be held January 12.

Manager Moe reported on the RRRWMB he had attended.

A motion was made by Dailey, seconded by Nelson, and passed by unanimous vote that the meeting adjourn.

Signed
George Dailey, Secretary