

RED LAKE WATERSHED DISTRICT  
Board of Manager's Minutes  
February 10, 2000

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

Present:           Vernon Johnson, Dale M. Nelson, Leonard Moe,  
                      Roger Love, Dennis Nikolayson, Lowell Smeby, and  
                      George Dailey  
Others present:   Chuck Fritz, Administrator  
                      Delray Sparby, Legal Counsel  
                      Sandy Radniecki, Secretary/Receptionist

The board reviewed the agenda. A motion was made by Moe, seconded by Nelson, and passed by unanimous vote that the agenda be approved as presented.

Arlene Novak read the minutes of January 27, 2000. A motion was made by Nelson, seconded by Nikolayson, and passed by unanimous vote that the minutes of January 27, 2000, be approved as changed.

Discussion was held regarding the next board meeting and also the hearing for the Parnell Impoundment Operating Plan. A motion was made by Moe, seconded by Nelson, and passed by unanimous vote that the next regular meeting of the board be changed to February 28, 2000, due to a conflict with the Legislative Breakfast, and also schedule the informational hearing for the Parnell Impoundment Operating Plan be scheduled for 10:00 a.m.

The Financial Report was reviewed. A motion was made by Moe, seconded by Nikolayson, and passed by unanimous vote that the board approve for the record the Financial Report dated February 9, 2000.

The 1997 Ring Dike Program was discussed. A motion was made by Nelson, seconded by Dailey, and passed by unanimous vote that the RLWD should assume the interest amount on the ring dike program for 1997.

A motion was made by Love, seconded by Nikolayson, and passed by unanimous vote that the board approve a pay request from Wright Construction, Inc., for Project No. 134, Polk County Ditch 63 Improvement, in the amount of \$2,090.00.

Ryan Odenbach, Water Quality Coordinator, reviewed the hydrogen sulfide testing being done by the RLWD. A motion was made by Nelson, seconded by Smeby, and passed by unanimous vote that the RLWD continue hydrogen sulfide testing pending funding commitments from other agencies involved.

A motion was made by Moe, seconded by Dailey, and passed by unanimous vote that the RLWD schedule a final payment hearing for Project No. 82C, Emardville Erosion Site, for March 9, 2000, at 10:00 a.m.

A motion was made by Nelson, seconded by Moe, and passed by unanimous vote that the ring dike request from George Kovar, East Grand Forks, be approved according to the conditions set by the RLWD and that all contracts are signed.

Ryan Odenbach also informed the board that the Greenwood 27 committee met regarding the assignment of an engineer for the project. Widseth Smith Nolting & Associates (WSN) was recommended and had submitted an acceptable quote. A motion was made by Moe, seconded by Smeby, and passed by unanimous vote to authorize WSN to do the engineering and that the project cost should not exceed the proposal without board approval.

A final payment hearing for Project 108, East Grand Forks Erosion Site, was called to order by President Johnson at 10:00 a.m. Loren Sanderson, Engineering Assistant, explained the pay request, stating the River Forks Commission recommended withholding \$2,000 for repair of the dock. Legal Counsel Delray Sparby stated the purpose of the hearing, stating it had been properly advertised and was being videotaped. There were no objections from those present. Hearing no objections, the hearing adjourned at 10:05 a.m. and the meeting was turned over to the president. A motion was made by Love, seconded by Moe, and passed by unanimous vote that the board approve the final payment of \$16,955.53, to Davidson Construction, Inc., and withhold the \$2,000 for repair of the dock, which will be inspected by RLWD staff when river levels recede.

Administrator Fritz informed the board that he would be meeting with group from Abundant Life Church regarding the assessments on the Challenger Ditch. He will report back to the board at the next meeting regarding this assessment.

The Legislative Breakfast was discussed. Managers Moe, Love, Johnson, Nikolayson, Dailey, and Administrator Fritz will be attending this breakfast. The board recommended the following topics to be discussed with the legislators at this breakfast: agency cooperation with counties in northwestern Minnesota; beaver control funding; ring dike funding; Flood Damage Reduction monies; and cleaning and snagging on public waterways.

Administrator Fritz stated he met with Red Lake and Pennington Counties regarding the charge-out rate for RLWD projects.

Administrator Fritz discussed the request from the City of Crookston regarding an erosion problem. A motion was made by Love, seconded by Dailey, and passed by unanimous vote that the board authorize Administrator Fritz to write a letter to the Corps of Engineers to initiate this flood control project.

A motion was made by Moe, seconded by Nelson, and passed by unanimous vote that the RLWD be the administrative entity for the 2000-2001 Beaver Damage Control Program.

Administrator Fritz informed the board that he had installed the new computer and, as a result, there are some items that are no longer of use to the RLWD. A motion was made by Smeby, seconded by Nikolayson, and passed by unanimous vote that the RLWD declare these items as surplus property and advertise them for sale by requesting sealed quotes.

A motion was made by Smeby, seconded by Nikolayson, and passed by unanimous vote that the RLWD contribute \$100 for the Area 1 Envirothon, scheduled later in the spring of 2000.

The Parnell Impoundment land rental or sale of the land was discussed by the board. A motion was made by Moe, seconded by Love, and passed by unanimous vote that RLWD staff should determine what should be reserved for maintenance purposes and offer the remainder to Mike Gasper for sale at the price he previously offered.

A motion was made by Moe, seconded by Nelson, and passed by unanimous vote to rescind the previous motion to schedule the next board meeting for February 28, 2000.

A motion was made by Nelson, seconded by Moe, and passed by unanimous vote to schedule the next board meeting for Wednesday, February 23, 2000.

A motion was made by Moe, seconded by Love, and passed by unanimous vote that the RLWD schedule the informational hearing for the Parnell Impoundment Operating Plan for March 3, 2000, at Youngquist Auditorium, UMC, at 1:00 p.m.

Manager Love asked the board if the RLWD was interested in purchasing the Bob Ross land. It was the consensus of the board to check into BWSR funding for a project of this nature.

Brent Johnson, Houston Engineering, presented an update on the Thief River reservoir dredging project costs to date. He discussed the wetlands and a couple marinas on the project, where there may be a change in plans on the project. A motion was made by Moe, seconded by Smeby, and passed by unanimous vote that the RLWD staff should contact the affected landowners of any change orders. Brent Johnson, Ron Lindberg, and Administrator Fritz will meet with the contractor on February 16 to work out final details and come back to the board for approval.

Legal Counsel Sparby reviewed the Settlement Agreement with the DNR regarding State Ditch 83, stating it was already signed by the DNR and Attorney General's office. A motion was made Nikolayson, seconded by Nelson, that the board approve the Settlement Agreement and authorize President Johnson to sign the agreement. Motion carried with Moe and Smeby opposed.

The board felt Brent Johnson should prioritize spots to be cleaned on State Ditch 83 and prepare a preliminary engineer's report. Following this, the RLWD will schedule a hearing for the public in the near future.

Following further discussion regarding the Flood Damage Reduction Project Work Team recommendations, a motion was made by Moe, seconded by Dailey, and passed by unanimous vote that the board adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Flood Damage Reduction work group has recommended this as a project;

WHEREAS, the project will be partially funded with state funding, and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that an engineer should be assigned to this for preparation of a feasibility study;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the RLWD assign this number 14B and name it "Thief River Watershed Flood Damage Reduction Project".

A motion was made by Nikolayson, seconded by Dailey, and passed by unanimous vote that the board authorize Administrator Fritz to sign the \$50,000 Flood Damage Reduction grant agreement.

A motion was made by Nikolayson, seconded by Dailey, and passed by unanimous vote that the board assign JOR Engineering and Houston Engineering to work together on Project No. 14B, Thief River Watershed Flood Damage Reduction Project.

Permits were reviewed by the board. A motion was made by Moe, seconded by Dailey, and passed by unanimous vote that the board approve the following permits: No. 99154\* from Marshall County Highway Department and No. 00006 from the Red Lake County Highway Department. \*With conditions stated on permit.

The boundary line item of the RLWD and the Sand Hill River WD was discussed. It was the consensus of the board that Manager Love should talk to the people concerned and report back at the February 23, 2000 meeting.

Loren Sanderson gave a project update.

Manager Dailey reported on the Drainage Conference he recently attended in St. Cloud.

Manager Nikolayson stated that he and Bruce Paakh, MPCA, had walked the Badger Creek/Poplar River Project.

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

Signed  
George Dailey, Secretary