

RED LAKE WATERSHED DISTRICT  
Board of Manager's Minutes  
March 23, 2000

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by President Vernon Johnson at 102 North Main Avenue, Thief River Falls, MN.

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

The board reviewed the agenda. A motion was made by Nelson, seconded by Moe to approve the agenda with the following additions: 1) extend permit # 98065 from Agder Township; and 2) ring dike request from Tim and Sandy Brooks, East Grand Forks, MN.

Arlene Novak read the minutes of March 9, 2000. A motion was made by Moe, seconded by Smeby, to correct the 'draft' minutes as requested by Marshall County Commissioner Delray Larson. Motion carried with Manager Nelson opposed. A motion was made by Nelson, seconded by Moe, that the board accept the minutes as corrected. Motion carried.

The Financial Report was presented. A motion was made by Moe, seconded by Nelson, that the board accept for the record the Financial Report dated March 22, 2000. Motion carried unanimously.

Brent Johnson, Houston Engineering, presented cost comparisons for the TRF reservoir dredging project. He stated these comparisons excluded one marina and one wetland (here the RLWD could not obtain a permit. At this point in time, the RLWD has made a commitment of \$250,000. Ron Lindberg, City of TRF, and councilman Don Barron presented their breakdown of funds committed by the City of TRF. The TRF reservoir dredging funding will be an action item at the April 13, 2000 board meeting.

Manager Smeby reported on a meeting he attended in Grygla on Monday, March 20, 2000. A petition was presented to the RLWD stating they wanted the contract for repair of State Ditch 83 awarded, and did not want to pay benefits to an alternative ditch. Administrator Fritz stated that two individuals had requested time on the agenda. Following discussion, it was the consensus of the board to allow four individuals, who were present in the audience, to speak for three minutes each.

Administrator Fritz asked for a motion from the board regarding a request for payment from the City of Crookston. A motion was made by Moe, seconded by Nikolayson, and passed by unanimous vote that the RLWD should pay the request from the City of Crookston for RLWD Project No. 127, Crookston Flood Control, in the amount of \$48,000.

Administrator Fritz made note of a letter of support from the City of Thief River Falls regarding the mediation work team's 'draft' concept paper.

The board discussed the billing from JOR Engineering for the Parnell Impoundment Operating Plan. Charlie Anderson will be at the April 13, 2000 meeting, at 10:00 a.m., to discuss the Parnell Operating Plan. The board will then decide where to proceed with the Operating Plan.

Administrator Fritz informed the board that Aitkin County had requested letters of support to the legislators regarding ownership of the consolidated conservation lands. A motion was made by Moe, seconded by Smeby, that Administrator Fritz should write a letter of support.. Motion carried unanimously.

Administrator Fritz discussed a billing from HDR Engineering regarding the Parnell Impoundment Operating Plan. A motion was made by Moe, seconded by Nelson, and passed by unanimous vote that the board adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the east pool of Parnell Impoundment holds water for extended periods of time, and

WHEREAS, HDR Engineering agreed to extend , at their cost, the ditch to remove additional water from the east pool;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the RLWD would pay the outstanding statement, upon completion of this ditch draining the east pool;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Administrator Fritz is to inform Bob Beduhn and Nate Dalager of this decision.

A motion was made by Moe, seconded by Love, that the RLWD should submit a letter of support to the RRWMB for a Corps of Engineers' reconnaissance study. Motion carried with Manager Moe opposed.

Administrator Fritz informed the board of the Marshall/Beltrami SWCD annual banquet and stated anyone wishing to attend should notify the RLWD.

The RRWMB has come up with a prioritization method of projects within the Red River Basin. Administrator Fritz asked the board to carefully review this criteria and give their response.

The employee handbooks were discussed. It was the consensus of the board that Manager Smeby should replace Vernon Johnson on this sub-committee. A motion was made by Moe, seconded by Love, and passed by unanimous vote that the board appoint Manager Smeby to replace Manager Johnson on this committee.

The annual maintenance of Moose River Impoundment was discussed. A motion was made by Nelson, seconded by Nikolayson, that the RLWD should obtain quotes to maintain the Moose River Impoundment. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Nelson, seconded by Moe, and passed by unanimous vote that the board accept the resignation of Matt LeMoine as Technician II, effective March 24, 2000.

The board discussed the possibility of hiring an in-house engineer. Arlene Novak presented a comparison on the cost of an in-house engineer vs. consulting engineers for the past several years. A motion was made by Nikolayson, seconded by Smeby, that the RLWD should advertise for an in-house engineer, requesting a resume and salary expectations. Motion carried with Manager Moe opposed.

Permits were reviewed by the board. A motion was made by Nelson, seconded by Moe, and passed by unanimous vote that the board table permit No. 00017\* from the City of E. Grand Forks, Grand Forks Township, Polk County.

A motion was made by Moe, seconded by Smeby, and passed by unanimous vote to return permit No. 00013 for more information and approve the following: No. 00015\* from the Red Lake County Highway Department, Equality Township; No. 00014 from the Polk County Highway Department, Hammond Township; No. 00012 from the Polk County Highway Department, Hill River Township; No. 00011\* from Robert Cournia, Fairfax Township, Polk County; a one year extension on permit No. 99065 from Agder Township, Marshall County; and a two year extension on No. 99035 from Agder Township, Marshall County. \* indicates conditions stated on permit.

Brent Johnson, Houston Engineering, updated the board on the spot cleaning for State Ditch 83, giving several explanations on how it would be handled.

Costs for doing a flood damage reduction component of the Thief River Plan were discussed. Following a lengthy discussion, a motion was made by Love, seconded by Dailey, and passed by unanimous vote that Houston Engineering, JOR Engineering, and RLWD staff should proceed with the diversion for storage, with costs not to exceed \$100,000. The board also requested Brent Johnson to report back to the board on April 13, 2000.

Legal Counsel stated he had received a proposed purchase agreement with Mike Gasper for property on the Parnell Impoundment. It was the consensus of the board that Legal Counsel should inform Mr. Gasper that this item has been tabled.

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

Signed

George Dailey, Secretary