

RED LAKE WATERSHED DISTRICT  
Board of Manager's Minutes  
December 31, 2001

President Dale M. Nelson 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: Dale M. Nelson; Vernon Johnson; Leonard Moe; Roger Love; Dennis Nikolayson; Lowell Smeby; Orville Knott, Arlene Novak, Accounting/Secretary Technician II; Tammy Audette, Secretary/Accounting Assistant; and Legal Counsel Delray Sparby.

The board reviewed the agenda. A motion was made by Johnson, seconded by Knott, and passed by unanimous vote that the board approve the agenda.

Arlene Novak read the minutes of December 13, 2001. A motion was made by Love, seconded by Smeby, that the board approve the minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

The board reviewed the Financial Report. A motion was made by Johnson, seconded by Knott, and passed by unanimous vote that the board approve the Financial Report dated December 28, 2001.

The board reviewed the transfers from the construction fund to construction fund projects as of December 31, 2001. A motion was made by Moe, seconded by Nikolayson, and passed by unanimous vote that the board approve the transfers.

At this time, Arnold Stanley, Bruce Kiesow and Don Larson individually addressed the board regarding several aspects of the Thief River Flood Damage Reduction Project.

Manager Moe introduced a motion to drop the Thief River Storage and Diversion Project, seconded by Smeby. Managers Moe, Smeby, and Love voted aye, with Managers Johnson, Nikolayson and Knott voting nay. Motion failed with President Nelson voting nay to break the tie.

Numerous questions were asked by Board Managers and the audience regarding the Thief River Storage and Diversion Project. Legal Counsel Sparby explained the Temporary Easement and Option to Purchase Permanent Easements that were signed with landowners in regards to CRP requirements. Legal Counsel Sparby also explained the status of the project and that a hearing would be held before the project could proceed.

The board recessed for ten minutes. Manager Moe left the meeting at this time.

Discussion was held on Project 60 Statement of Commitment. It was the consensus of the board to ask Jody Horntvedt to attend a RLWD board meeting and invite the mediation team also to try and answer questions and concerns they may have regarding the Statement of Commitment. Paul Rutherford was in attendance stating he was against signing the Statement of Commitment. Manager Nelson will contact Jody Horntvedt.

Loren Sanderson discussed a pilot project with the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) for a Flood Storage Easement Project. Loren explained that the RLWD has land adjacent to the Parnell Impoundment and we also have a landowner that is interested in participating. Loren also explained that we met the timeline for BWSR funding. Staff will keep the board up to date on the next phase.

Loren reported on a meeting held with Managers Nikolayson and Knott, several county commissioners and landowners in the area regarding culverts on the Poplar River in Red Lake and Polk Counties. It was the consensus of the group at the meeting that a diversion ditch of approximately 1 ½ to 2 miles in length and ½ mile west of the Poplar River would help alleviate out-of-bank flooding. RLWD staff will be installing vertical staff stream gages at various locations to monitor flows in the Poplar River. Following discussion, a motion was made by Nikolayson, seconded by Knott, and passed by unanimous vote that the RLWD approve the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Poplar River in Polk County flows out of the bank flooding lands to the west and entering legal ditch systems in Red Lake County, and

WHEREAS, there is a need to divert high flows in a northerly direction back to the Poplar River where the channel gradient is steeper;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Red Lake Watershed District assign this project number 153 and name it "Poplar River Diversion Project".

Manager Nelson stated that a landowner was in attendance with concerns regarding the City of Goodridge permit #01155. Loren distributed a letter that was written following the previous board meeting to landowners in the area stating conditions for concerns they may have for this permit. No responses were received by December 28, 2001 as stated in the letter. It was the consensus of the board to schedule a hearing for the January 11, 2002 meeting and invite all landowners in to discuss concerns they may have. A motion was made by Smeby, seconded by Nikolayson and passed by unanimous vote that the Board of Managers rescind the motion made at the December 13, 2001 Board of Managers meeting regarding permit #01155 and that a hearing be scheduled regarding said permit at the January 11, 2002 Board of Managers meeting.

The board reviewed permits. A motion was made by Johnson, seconded by Nikolayson, and passed by unanimous vote that the board approve the following permits: No. 01156 from Lee Township, Beltrami County; No. 01157 from Garden Valley Telephone Company, Clearwater County.

Manager Love discussed permit #01152 and #01153 from Keith Driscoll, Polk County. Both permits are for pumping water using portable pumps at high water times. A motion was made by Love, seconded by Knott and passed by unanimous vote that a letter be sent

to Keith Driscoll explaining that the RLWD does not require a permit for private pumping activities, but that reasonable care be taken to avoid unnecessary damages to property downstream.

Legal Counsel Sparby presented his update to the board.

The Board discussed the hiring of an Administrator. It was the consensus of the Board that Manager Nelson and Legal Counsel Sparby review previous Job Descriptions and advertisements and bring them to the January 11, 2002 meeting to review and approve by the Board and then advertisements will be sent out. The Board determined that they are looking for an individual with an administrative management background.

The Board reviewed a letter from Arvid Broden. Mr. Broden is interested in selling the RLWD 140 acres of land that will qualify for wetland banking credits at \$1,250.00 per acres for a perpetual easement. It was the consensus of the Board to have Mr. Broden attend the January 11, 2002 Board of Managers meeting to discuss whether the acres have already been established as wetland banking credits.

Manager Smeby inquired whether a meeting had been set up with Agassiz Wildlife Refuge and Thief Lake Wildlife Management Area regarding the review of the Moose River Operating Plan.

Manager Love asked how the Dam Safety issue was progressing on the Parnell Impoundment. Manager Nelson stated that the information had been sent to the DNR and that no response had been received.

A motion was made by Love, seconded by Nikolayson, that the meeting adjourn. Motion carried.

This meeting was videotaped.

Signed  
Dennis Nikolayson, Secretary