

RED LAKE WATERSHED DISTRICT
Board of Manager's Minutes
June 28, 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; Leonard Moe; Roger Love; Lowell Smeby; Orville Knott, Tammy Audette, Secretary/Accounting Assistant; Sandy Radniecki, Secretary/Receptionist; and Legal Counsel Delray Sparby. Vernon Johnson and Dennis Nikolayson were absent.

The board reviewed the agenda. A motion was made by Moe, seconded by Smeby, and passed by unanimous vote that the board approve the agenda, with the addition of: Moose River Impoundment erosion issue, Moose River Impoundment water levels and the outlet of County Ditch 33 by Ross Seed.

Tammy Audette read the minutes of June 14, 2001. A motion was made by Smeby, seconded by Love, that the board approve the minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

The board reviewed the Financial Report. A motion was made by Moe, seconded by Knott, and passed by unanimous vote that the board approve the Financial Report dated June 22, 2001 with the exception of check #22832 to Wright Construction for the construction of the Greenwood 27 project.

Manager Smeby inquired if President Nelson had scheduled a meeting with the Marshall County Commissioners. President Nelson stated he was going to schedule a meeting with them after obtaining some additional information about the project.

Manager Moe asked if landowners had been contacted on all three phases of the Thief River Storage and Diversion Project. He was also concerned about the legality of diverting water from one ditch system to another, namely, from JD 11 into County Ditch 20. President Nelson stated that he would be contacting the RLWD legal counsel, and together they would contact Kurt Deter from Rinke Noonan.

The board reviewed the pay estimate for Wright Construction. Loren Sanderson explained why the payment for the willows had been withheld, stating they needed to be tamped and watered. Following this review, a motion was made by Moe, seconded by Knott, and passed by unanimous vote to approve the pay estimate for the Greenwood 27 Project to Wright Construction, Inc., in the amount of \$42,492.55.

A pay request from Olson Construction for erosion repair on Schirrick Dam was reviewed. Following the review, a motion was made by Knott, seconded by Love, and passed by unanimous vote that the board approve payment of \$1,719.80 to Olson Construction for the Schirrick Dam erosion repair.

President Nelson stated he and Loren Sanderson had attended an informational meeting regarding the Nature Conservancy/Tilden Farms Project. Polk County Commissioner William Montague stated that the county will review all contracts and agreements before this project will be let to the federal level.

Permits were reviewed by the board. A motion was made by Moe, seconded by Knott, and passed by unanimous vote that the board approve the following permits: No. 01057* from Agassiz National Wildlife Refuge, Marshall County; No.s 01063 and 01064* from the Polk County Highway Department; and No. 01066* from Eugene Mattson, Sullivan Township, Polk County. *With conditions stated on permit.

Mike MacDonald, City of Crookston, appeared before the board to thank the RLWD for their financial support of the high-flow diversion channel that is being constructed in conjunction with the Corps of Engineers, and to give the board an update regarding that project.

The board reviewed a letter from the City of Crookston regarding the three options being considered for the Parnell Impoundment Operating Plan. The letter stated the City was in support of Option #3.

Arnold Stanley appeared before the board to express his concerns about the meetings with the landowners on the lower diversion of the Thief River Storage and Diversion Project.

Lengthy discussion was held regarding the Parnell Impoundment Operating Plan. Legal Counsel recommended a public hearing be held regarding the Operating Plan to present the three options being considered. A motion was made by Moe to pay off the engineers involved in the Parnell Impoundment Operating Plan and continue to operate as in the past, with a 40 percent opening to the west, and a 6.25 square foot opening on the JD 60 weir. Manager Love seconded the motion. Motion carried with Managers Smeby, Moe, and Love voting aye, and Manager Knott voting nay. President Nelson noted for the record that he was voting nay.

Manager Love reported on a potential flooding problem on the Grand Marais outlet, where water was backing up onto private property. Since the Grand Marais serves as an outlet for County Ditch 33, discussion was had as to whether the RLWD could remove beaver or a beaver dam as part of County Ditch 33 outlet maintenance. Legal Counsel will research the questions regarding this and report back at the July 12, 2001 meeting. Following further discussion, a motion was made by Moe, seconded by Smeby, that the RLWD should check into the removal of beaver from the outlet of County Ditch 33. Motion carried unanimously.

Manager Smeby discussed the Moose River outlet erosion, stating the SWCD did not get any funding for this repair. He felt the RLWD should look into repair of this erosion. It was the consensus of the board that Managers Nelson, Smeby, and Loren Sanderson should meet on-site and work together with the SWCD and road and ditch authority to determine what should be done.

The board reviewed proposed work on the Ray Christian property. Loren Sanderson will gather further information and report back at a future meeting.

Ryan Odenbach, Water Quality Coordinator, gave his update to the board. He stated the Greenwood 27 Project was progressing very well. The willows have been planted and a few issues are being addressed for approval by the Clearwater SWCD. He stated that he had been a part of the state Envirothon near Park Rapids, and that he is awaiting word from the Legislature regarding the 319 grants that were applied for.

General maintenance of the Moose River Impoundment was discussed. It was the consensus of the board that Loren Sanderson seek quotes for mowing and brushing of the Moose River Impoundment.

In discussing the spot cleaning to be done on State Ditch 83, it was the consensus of the board that the RLWD staff should look into logging possibilities, obtaining easements, and report back with a cost estimate at the July 12, 2001 board meeting.

A motion was made by Moe, seconded by Smeby, that the meeting adjourn. Motion carried.

Signed

Dennis Nikolayson, Secretary