

RED LAKE WATERSHED DISTRICT
Board of Manager's Minutes
February 13, 2002

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; LeRoy Ose; Roger Love; Dennis Nikolayson; Lowell Smeby; Arlene Novak, Accounting/Secretary Technician II; Sandy Radniecki, Secretary/ Receptionist; and Legal Counsel Delray Sparby. Orville Knott was absent.

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

Arlene Novak read the minutes of January 24, 2002. A motion was made by Ose, seconded by Smeby, that the board approve the minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

The board reviewed the Financial Report. A motion was made by Ose, seconded by Johnson, and passed by unanimous vote that the board approve the Financial Report dated February 12, 2002.

Annual dues to the MN Association of Watershed Districts was discussed. A motion was made by Johnson, seconded by Ose, and passed by unanimous vote that the board approve payment of the MAWD dues for 2002, in the amount of \$2,000.

President Nelson informed the board that tree and debris removal had begun on the State Ditch 83 system. He noted that there are several areas of bank sloughing and piles that should be burned. It was the consensus of the board that staff should evaluate the situation on the ditch system to determine an estimated cost and exact areas that need to be done.

President Nelson stated he received notice that Roger Williams did not wish to act as facilitator for the Project Team on the Thief River Storage and Diversion. He would possibly consider the position if new Statements of Commitment were signed. It was the feeling of the board to put this on hold until the completion of contacting the landowners on the lower diversion part of the project.

At 9:30 a.m., State Auditor Colleen Hoffman presented the 'draft' audit report for 2001. Following the presentation, a motion was made by Johnson, seconded by Smeby, and passed by unanimous vote that the board accept the audit report for 2001.

Upon recommendation of the state auditor, it was the consensus of the board that the RLWD personnel policies should be reviewed for any updates that might be needed.

Loren Sanderson and Ryan Odenbach reported on a meeting they attended regarding the Red Lake River Greenway. It was the consensus of the board that they should attend upcoming meetings and keep the board informed. In addition, a motion was made by Johnson, seconded by Nikolayson, and passed by unanimous vote that the RLWD staff should continue research and development on the mapping of the Red Lake River.

Loren Sanderson informed the board of the inter-agency meeting scheduled for February 19, 2002, to determine the pool levels on the Moose River Impoundment and Elm Lake. Manager Smeby requested that the Marshall/Beltrami SWCD also be asked to attend this meeting.

A letter from Legal Counsel Delray Sparby regarding his hourly rate, which had been approved at the Budget and Salary meeting in July 2001, was reviewed by the board. A motion was made by Love, seconded by Smeby, and passed by unanimous vote that the board approve the increase from \$90.00 to \$100.00 per hour for legal services, retroactive to January 1, 2002.

Wetland acres on the Louisville/Parnell Project were reviewed by the board. A motion was made by Nikolayson, seconded by Johnson, and passed by unanimous vote that the board approve payment to the MN Department of Transportation for the wetland acres on the Louisville/Parnell Project, in the amount of \$35,777.

In further discussing wetland acres, a motion was made by Nikolayson, seconded by Ose, and passed by unanimous vote that the RLWD accept the offer from MnDOT for 3.5 acres on the Winsor/Hangaard Project, at a rate of \$3,265.00 per acre. The staff will contact MnDOT about the 3.5 acres in Basin A to ensure that the RLWD and MnDOT are in agreement.

Legal Counsel gave his update to the board. He also mentioned a letter he received from Red Lake Builders regarding a final payment hearing on the Winsor/Hangaard Project. It was the consensus of the board that Brent Johnson, engineer for the project, will be contacted and this item will be discussed at the March 14, 2002 meeting.

Manager Johnson reported on a meeting he attended regarding the potential project with the City of Bagley. He stated the city would contribute \$35,000 and the Clearwater County SWCD would designate \$12,000 toward the project.

The board discussed the interview process for the hiring of an administrator for the RLWD. It was the consensus of the board that the applications should be reviewed and an interview schedule be compiled.

A motion was made by Ose, seconded by Smeby, and passed by unanimous vote that the meeting adjourn to February 19, 2002, at 10:30 a.m. to review the applications for administrator and set up an interview schedule.

The board meeting reconvened at 10:30 a.m. on Tuesday, February 19, 2002. Vice President Johnson called the meeting to order.

The board reviewed the applications for the administrator position. Following their review, each manager gave their top choices. Six applicants were chosen for interviews.

Manager Nikolayson suggested that the board should seek assistance in this process. A motion was made by Nikolayson, seconded by Smeby, that the board request assistance from the Board of Water and Soil Resources to review the six applications and the current job description for the District Administrator. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Love, seconded by Knott, that the interviews be scheduled for March 11, 2002, beginning at 9:00 a.m.

The meeting was turned over to President Nelson, who informed the board that there were some different possibilities for the lower diversion of the Thief River Storage and Diversion Project. He pointed out on a map exactly where the ditch would be located. Following discussion, a motion was made by Nikolayson, seconded by Smeby, that the RLWD investigate the different alignment on the lower part of the Thief River Storage and Diversion. Motion carried with Manager Ose abstaining from voting.

A motion was made by Smeby, seconded by Nikolayson, and passed unanimously, that the meeting adjourn.

Signed
Dennis Nikolayson, Secretary