

RED LAKE WATERSHED DISTRICT
Board of Manager's Minutes
January 24, 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; Orville Knott, Arlene Novak, Accounting/Secretary Technician II; Sandy Radniecki, Secretary/ Receptionist; and Legal Counsel Delray Sparby.

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

Arlene Novak read the minutes of January 11, 2002. A motion was made by Knott, seconded by Ose, that the board approve the minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

The board reviewed the Financial Report. A motion was made by Smeby, seconded by Johnson, and passed by unanimous vote that the board approve the Financial Report dated January 23, 2002.

President Nelson presented an estimated cost for the publication of board minutes in a local newspaper. He also noted that this item was not in the 2002 budget. Following discussion, a motion was made by Johnson, seconded by Nikolayson, and passed by unanimous vote, that the minutes be distributed as in the past and to not have them published in a newspaper.

Discussion was held regarding the taping of board meetings. A motion was made by Smeby, seconded by Love, that the meetings be videotaped. Managers Smeby and Love voted aye, with Managers Knott, Johnson, Ose, and Nikolayson voting naye. Motion failed.

Mike MacDonald and Ray Ecklund from the City of Crookston appeared before the board. Mr. MacDonald commended the RLWD for their work and stated it was very important to keep the communication lines open between the watershed district and landowners on projects. Manager Smeby had questions for Mr. MacDonald regarding the City of Crookston's zoning ordinance on building in a flood plain.

President Nelson explained that funding was available through the Flood Damage Reduction Work Group for a facilitator of the project team on the Thief River Diversion and Storage. Don Buckout was present to answer any questions the board had regarding the mediation process. He stated that every watershed district had received \$20,000 from the FDR Work Group for the engineering and initiation of a project. A motion was made by Johnson, seconded by Nikolayson, that the board approve the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Red Lake Watershed District is in need of a facilitator for the Thief River Storage and Diversion mediation process, and

WHEREAS, funds for a facilitator are available from the Flood Damage Reduction Work Group;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Red Lake Watershed District Board of Managers hereby requests funding, not to exceed \$10,000, from the Flood Damage Reduction Work Group to hire a facilitator for the Thief River Storage and Diversion mediation process.

Motion carried, with Managers Smeby and Love opposed. Manager Nelson will contact Ron Harnack to find out how to move forward with the hiring of a facilitator for the Thief River Storage and Diversion.

At the previous board meeting, Manager Smeby was asked to find a person for the Moose River Area Advisory Committee. A motion was made by Smeby, seconded by Knott, and passed by unanimous vote that the RLWD board appoint Elroy Aune, Gatzke, to the Moose River Area Advisory Committee.

John Hodgson, North Central MN SWCDs' Joint Powers Board, presented the Feasibility Report and recommendations for the Bagley Urban Runoff Reduction Project. Mr. Hodgson felt the Board of Managers, at this point, should meet with the SWCD and City of Bagley to further discuss this project. A motion was made by Johnson, seconded by Love, and passed by unanimous vote that the board go with all three sites, pending land acquisition on Lake Lomond Creek, and that the February 28 board meeting be held in Bagley so the board can tour the sites. It was the consensus of the board that prior to this meeting, Nate Dalager will check into permitting, as well as John Hodgson checking into MnDOT permits.

Ryan Odenbach, Water Quality Coordinator, presented a proposal to the board for additional funding for the River Watch Program. Following discussion, a motion was made by Knott, seconded by Smeby, and passed by unanimous vote, that the board approve funding of the four prioritized sites, at an estimated cost of \$1,500 per site per year, and send letters to the rest of the sites to get their response on how serious they were in becoming a part of this program.

The letter from the commissioner of MPCA responding to the RLWD's letter on TMDLs was reviewed by the board.

Permits were reviewed by the board. A motion was made by Nikolayson, seconded by Love, and passed by unanimous vote that the board approve the following permits: No. 01158* from Michael DuFault, Huntsville Township, Polk County; No. 02001 from Pine Lake Wild Rice Farms, Clearwater County; and No. 02002 from the Red Lake County Highway Department. *With conditions stated on permit.

President Nelson presented a review of the Project 60 Work Group meeting that was held the previous day. He stated this had been a time set aside to answer questions of the people that were invited to be on the team. He read the list of the ones who had signed the Statement of Commitment. A motion was made by Nikolayson, seconded by Johnson, that the RLWD proceed with the Project 60 Work Group team who had signed the Statement of Commitment, with the addition of Orville Knott as a RLWD representative on the team and Dennis Nikolayson as alternate. Motion carried with Managers Love and Smeby opposed.

The 2002 Legislative Breakfast was discussed. Managers Johnson, Nikolayson, Nelson, Love, and Knott will be attending this session.

Since the Legislative Breakfast is scheduled for February 14, a motion was made by Johnson, seconded by Smeby, and passed by unanimous vote that the board schedule the next meeting for February 13, 2002.

President Nelson requested that staff be permitted to check on some fallen trees on State Ditch 83. The board will be updated on this at a later meeting.

Legal Counsel Delray Sparby presented his update to the board.

Brent Johnson, Houston Engineering, was present to inform the board that he had moved from Fargo to the Minneapolis office, but would still like to be considered for engineering services for the RLWD.

A motion was made by Ose, seconded by Knott, and passed unanimously, that the meeting adjourn to February 13, 2002, at 9:00 a.m.

Signed

Dennis Nikolayson, Secretary