

RED LAKE WATERSHED DISTRICT  
Board of Manager's Minutes  
March 28, 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; Dennis Nikolayson; Lowell Smeby; Roger Love; 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 Knott, seconded by Nikolayson, and passed by unanimous vote that the board approve the agenda, with the addition of John Hoffman, who requested to appear before the board.

Arlene Novak read the minutes of March 14, 2002. A motion was made by Ose, seconded by Nikolayson, that the board approve the minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

The board reviewed the Financial Report and investment summary. A motion was made by Knott, seconded by Ose, and passed by unanimous vote that the board approve the Financial Report dated March 27, 2002.

John Hoffman, Goodridge, appeared before the board with a recommendation to use County Ditch 39A as a new outlet for J.D. 18, located two miles south of Goodridge and leading to the Red Lake River. President Nelson stated a public hearing at the Pennington County boardroom, with an RLWD permit pending, is scheduled for April 9 that may coincide with this proposal.

President Nelson updated the board on the Bagley Urban Run-off Reduction Project, stating the preliminary engineering and a cost estimate has been completed. Legal Counsel recommended a hearing be scheduled. It was the consensus of the board to schedule this hearing for April 25, 2002, in Bagley.

Representatives from the City of Crookston and the Minnakwa Golf Course were present to discuss a possible project for the removal of sedimentation at the golf course, which eventually runs into the Red Lake River. It was the consensus of the board that the golf course, City of Crookston, and the RLWD should seek funding sources, such as grants, for this project.

The board reviewed permit No. 02007 from the Clearwater County Highway Department. A motion was made by Johnson, seconded by Love, and passed by unanimous vote that the board approve the permit.

Loren Sanderson informed the board of a meeting he attended regarding wetland acreage in Godfrey Township, Polk County. Following discussion, it was the consensus of the board that the RLWD will not pursue the purchase of any potential wetland acres at this time. Loren is to contact Arvid Broden regarding the board's decision.

Loren Sanderson also informed the board that the RLWD had received a request to be the local LCMR grant sponsor for a possible project along the Red Lake River. It was the consensus of the board to decline this request, but to stay informed by attending the meetings pertaining to this project.

Legal Counsel Delray Sparby presented his update to the board.

At 10:00 a.m., President Nelson called to order the final payment hearing for the Greenwood 27 Project for final payment to Wright Construction, Inc. Legal Counsel Sparby explained the purpose of the hearing, that it had been properly advertised, and that it was being videotaped. Loren Sanderson explained that all was in order for final payment. Hearing no objections from those in attendance, the hearing adjourned at 10:07 a.m.

Motion was made by Johnson, seconded by Knott, and passed by unanimous vote that the RLWD make final payment to Wright Construction, Inc., in the amount of \$6,178.93, for Project No. 82G, Greenwood 27.

Chad Konickson, DNR, and Nate Dalager, HDR Engineering, were present to discuss a culvert issue in the Parnell Impoundment. Several scenarios were discussed, with a consensus of the board that Nate Dalager should present a preliminary report for the board's approval for the operation of the impoundment.

President Nelson stated that there was a need for negotiation on the purchase of land from Gene Tiedemann. It was apparent that there was a large difference between what the RLWD offered Mr. Tiedemann per acre and what he would like to receive. It was the consensus of the board that Mr. Tiedemann should meet with Managers Nelson and Love and Loren Sanderson at the RLWD office to discuss this matter.

President Nelson appointed LeRoy Ose and Orville Knott to review the RLWD personnel policy, as had been requested by the state auditor. They, in turn, will bring their recommendation back to the entire RLWD board.

President Nelson handed out a list of committees that had, at one time, been used by the RLWD.

Manager Smeby reported on the Ditch 20 meeting he attended in Grygla on March 18.

The board met in executive session to discuss the hiring of an administrator. President Nelson left the meeting, since he was one of the original applicants.

Following discussion, a motion was made by Knott, seconded by Ose, to offer Harry Farris the position of administrator of the RLWD. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion was made by Love, second by Ose, and passed unanimously, that Harry Farris be offered a salary of \$33,000, with a six month probation period, at which time the salary and work performance will be reviewed by the board.

Vice President Johnson will call Mr. Farris to notify him of the offer, followed by a written notice. Mr. Farris will be asked to respond, in writing, if he accepts the position and to indicate a starting date.

A motion was made by Ose, seconded by Knott, and passed unanimously to adjourn the meeting.

Signed

Dennis Nikolayson, Secretary