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 Smby; Bob Proulx; and Orville Knott. Staff present were Myron Jesme, Arlene Novak, and Sandy Radniecki. Legal Counsel Delray Sparby was also present.

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

Arlene Novak read the minutes of November 25, 2003. A motion was made by Knott, seconded by Nikolayson, that the board approve the minutes. Motion carried unanimously.


Discussion was held regarding budget transfers. Administrator Jesme explained to the Board as to why there is a surplus remaining in the repair and maintenance fund. Administrator Jesme recommended transferring some of these funds for the purchase of equipment. A motion was made by Knott, seconded by Nikolayson, and passed by unanimous vote that the following transfers be made to engineering: $13,000.00 from repair and maintenance and $4,000.00 from manager expense.

Administrator Jesme informed the Board that Mitch Doda and Don Doda had accepted the Board’s offer recommended at the November 25, 2003 meeting. Mitch Doda did state that they would ask the Board’s assistance with the permitting process.

The Board discussed the adoption of a “Statement of Commitment” for the Technical Advisory Committee and the Citizen’s Advisory Committee for the development of the Ten Year Overall Plan. Following discussion, it was the consensus of the Board that a Statement of Commitment would not be necessary.

The Board reviewed permit No. 03125. A motion was made by Johnson, seconded by Nikolayson, and passed by unanimous vote that the board approve permit No. 03125* from Michael Hanson, Andover Township, Polk County. *With conditions stated on permit.

Permit No. 03126 from Garrett Novak was discussed. Following discussion, a motion was made by Ose, seconded by Knott, and passed by unanimous vote that the Board approve the after-the-fact permit from Garrett Novak, Black River Township, Pennington County.
Administrator Jesme informed the board of a drainage conference in Crookston on January 8 and 9, 2004. He felt it would be a beneficial conference but it would interfere with the first regularly scheduled board meeting in January. Following discussion, a motion was made by Nikolayson, seconded by Ose, and passed by unanimous vote that the first board meeting of 2004 be scheduled for January 13.

Nate Dalager, HDR Engineering, presented an update to the Board on the timeline regarding the proposed Project 60. Administrator Jesme stated he was in the process of contacting landowners regarding land acquisition for this project. Mr. Dalager assured the Board that the Preliminary Engineer’s Report will be ready for presentation to the Legislature by February 1, when the bonding session begins.

Administrator Jesme presented his update to the board.

Legal Counsel Delray Sparby also presented his update to the Board. He indicated he was in contact with Kurt Deter’s office regarding the transfer of the existing petition to a new petition for the proposed CD 19 Outlet Project.

Corey Hanson, Water Quality Coordinator, handed out information regarding the possibility of grant monies that could be applied to the Clearwater Nonpoint Study Project. Following questions from the Board, it was the consensus that the Board of Managers submit a letter of support to the MPCA for nomination of the Clearwater River for a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Watershed Initiative Grant.

Managers Nikolayson and Ose reported on the MAWD Annual meeting.

A motion was made by Ose, seconded by Proulx, and passed by unanimous vote that the meeting adjourn.

Signed
Dennis Nikolayson, Secretary