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; 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 Johnson, seconded by Nikolayson, and passed by unanimous vote that the board approve the agenda.

Arlene Novak read the minutes of December 11, 2003. A motion was made by Knott, seconded by Nikolayson, that the board approve the minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

The board reviewed the Financial Report. A motion was made by Johnson, seconded by Proulx, and passed by unanimous vote that the board approve the Financial Report dated December 29, 2003.

The Board reviewed the recommended Administrative Construction Fund transfers. A motion was made by Smeby, seconded by Nikolayson, and passed by unanimous vote that the Board approve the recommended transfers.

The Board reviewed a list of items recommended for disposal. A motion was made by Smeby, seconded by Knott, and passed by unanimous vote that the RLWD declare these items as excess property, with no value, for proper disposal.

Administrator Jesme updated the Board on the status of the land acquisition for Project 60.

Administrator Jesme explained the Northwest MN Foundation Grant Pre-proposal for Funding, which was prepared by Corey Hanson, Water Quality Coordinator. Following the review, a motion was made by Johnson, seconded by Proulx, and passed by unanimous vote that the Board approve the grant application and authorize President Nelson to sign the grant pre-proposal for funding.

Administrator Jesme explained a continuing education course available for Riverwatch instructors. He indicated that the Red Lake Band of Chippewa Indians had requested the RLWD sponsor two or three of their teachers for this course. Following discussion, a motion was made by Smeby, seconded by Nikolayson, and passed by unanimous vote that the RLWD sponsor a teacher at each of the nine schools that have the Riverwatch Program, plus an additional three teachers for the Red Lake Nation. This would be a total of 12 teachers at a cost of $200.00 per person.

President Nelson recessed the meeting.
Upon reconvening, at 10:00 a.m., President Nelson called to order the final payment hearing for the Bagley Urban Runoff Reduction Project. Legal Counsel Delray Sparby explained the purpose of the hearing and stated it had been properly advertised. Doug Thompson, Clearwater County SWCD, stated he felt this has been a very positive project for the City of Bagley. He wanted to thank the RLWD for all they have done to help this project get completed. Hearing no further comments from those in attendance, the hearing adjourned at 10:06 a.m. and is on videotape and available for viewing at the RLWD office. A motion was then made by Johnson, seconded by Nikolayson, and passed by unanimous vote that the Board approve final payment to All Seasons Construction, in the amount of $8,241.94.

Administrator Jesme presented his update to the Board. He stated that representatives from the Board were needed for the Technical Advisory Committee and Citizen’s Advisory Committee for the Ten Year Overall Plan. Managers Knott and Ose will be the Board’s representative for these committees.

Administrator Jesme noted that, since Manager Nikolayson would no longer be on the Board, a new representative to the Red Lake River Corridor Enhancement Project must be appointed. A motion was made by Smeby, seconded by Proulx, and passed by unanimous vote that Manager Ose serve as the representative for this committee, with Manager Knott as the alternate.

Administrator Jesme updated the Board about his meeting concerning Badger Creek. This meeting included several DNR representatives, as well as Charlie Anderson, JOR Engineering. It is the opinion of Administrator Jesme that little progress has been made concerning Badger Creek.

The Board discussed the C.D. 19 petition. It was the consensus of the board that Legal Counsel Delray Sparby should contact Kurt Deter’s office for the status of this petition and report to the Board at the January 13, 2004 meeting.

Doug Thompson, Clearwater SWCD, requested an extension of the Silver Creek Buffer Strip Project. A motion was made by Johnson, seconded by Nikolayson, and passed by unanimous vote that the Board approve a 90-day extension of the Silver Creek Buffer Strip Project.

President Nelson noted that this was Manager Nikolayson’s last meeting as a RLWD manager and presented him with a watch to thank him for his six years of dedication to the RLWD.

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

Signed
Dennis Nikolayson, Secretary