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

Arlene Novak read the minutes of January 9, 2003. A motion was made by Knott, seconded by Ose, that the board approve the minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

President Nelson introduce and welcomed Bob Proulx, who was recently appointed to represent West Polk County on the RLWD Board of Managers.

The board reviewed the Financial Report and investment summary. A motion was made by Proulx, seconded by Johnson, and passed by unanimous vote that the board approve the Financial Report dated January 22, 2003.

President Nelson presented a timeline for the Red Lake River Corridor Enhancement project. The Joint Powers Agreement was also presented to the board for review. A motion was made by Nikolayson, seconded by Knott, and passed by unanimous vote that the board adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Board of Managers, at their September 26, 2002 meeting were presented with a proposal from the Red Lake River Corridor Enhancement Committee for financial assistance on this project, and

WHEREAS, the Board of Managers, at their October 10, 2002 meeting approved remittance of $10,000 for G.I.S. mapping of the Red Lake River, and

WHEREAS, a new project must be established for accounting purposes;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, THAT the Red Lake Watershed District name this “Red Lake River Corridor Enhancement Project” and assign it number 159.

President Nelson turned the meeting over to Vice President Vernon Johnson, who called for nominations for president. Dale Nelson was nominated. Upon calling for nominations three times and hearing no further nominations, a motion was made by Nikolayson, seconded by Ose that the secretary cast a unanimous ballot for Dale Nelson as president of the RLWD for 2003. The meeting was turned back to President Nelson.
Nominations were open for vice president. Orville Knott was nominated. Upon calling for nominations three times and hearing no further nominations, a motion was made by Ose, seconded by Johnson that the secretary cast a unanimous ballot for Orville Knott as Vice President of the RLWD for 2003.

Nominations were open for secretary. Dennis Nikolayson was nominated. Upon calling for nominations three times, and hearing no further nominations, a motion was made by Knott, seconded by Ose, that the secretary cast a unanimous ballot for Dennis Nikolayson as secretary of the RLWD for 2003.

Nominations were open for treasurer. Lowell Smeby was nominated. Upon calling for nominations three times and hearing no further nominations, a motion was made by Nikolayson, seconded by Proulx, that the secretary cast a unanimous ballot for Lowell Smeby as treasurer of the RLWD for 2003.

The board reviewed the Overall Advisory Committee members. A motion was made by Knott, seconded by Ose, and passed by unanimous vote that the board appoint John Nelson to replace Julie Oen-Kroening.

Nominations were open for voting delegate to the MN Association of Watershed Districts (MAWD). Dennis Nikolayson was nominated. A motion was made by Ose, seconded by Knott, and passed by unanimous vote that Dennis Nikolayson serve as the voting delegate to MAWD for 2003.

Nominations were open for first and second alternate to MAWD. Orville Knott was nominated first alternate, and LeRoy Ose as second alternate. A motion was made by Johnson, seconded by Nikolayson, that Knott serve as first alternate, and Ose as second alternate to the voting delegate for MAWD for 2003. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Nikolayson, seconded by Ose, and passed by unanimous vote that Vernon Johnson serve another three year term as the RLWD’s representative on the Red River Watershed Management Board (RRWMB).

A motion was made by Knott, seconded by Johnson, and passed by unanimous vote that Dennis Nikolayson serve as the alternate representative from the RLWD on the RRWMB.

A motion was made by Nikolayson, seconded by Ose, that committees be appointed as needed, and that the entire board serve as the Budget and Salary Committee for 2003. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Knott, seconded by Ose, and passed unanimously, to schedule the board meetings for the second and fourth Thursday of each month for 2003.
A motion was made by Nikolayson, seconded by Johnson, and passed by unanimous vote that the board designate the following as depositories for the RLWD for 2003: Edward D. Jones, TRF; Northern State Bank, TRF; First National Bank, TRF; Citizens State Bank of Roseau; American State Bank – Grygla; and First National Bank – Bemidji.

Quotes were opened for the 1997 Chevrolet pickup advertised for sale by the RLWD. A motion was made by Johnson, seconded by Smeby, and passed by unanimous vote that the pickup be awarded to Linda Hanson, Mentor, for the high quote of $7,962.00.

The Project 60 Mediation Work Team was discussed. A motion was made by Johnson, seconded by Proulx, and passed by unanimous vote that Henry VanOffelen should replace Cheryl Miller, who was no longer on the Work Team. A motion was then made by Ose, seconded by Knott, and passed by unanimous vote that Bob Proulx be appointed to replace Vernon Johnson on the Project 60 Work Team, since Manager Proulx is from that general project area.

The board discussed the possibility of harvesting trees on the North Parnell Site. Following discussion, a motion was made by Nikolayson, seconded by Ose, that Managers Nelson and Proulx should look into this possibility further and be authorized to hire a contractor for the harvesting of the trees. Motion carried.

At 10:00 a.m., President Nelson called to order a public hearing on the Parnell Area Easement Project Sites 1 and 2. Legal Counsel Delray Sparby explained the purpose of the hearing, stating it had been properly advertised, that this actually was a hearing on two separate projects, and that the hearing was being videotaped. Nate Dalager, HDR Engineering, presented the Preliminary Engineer’s Report, stating these sites were done together to be more cost effective. Following Mr. Dalager’s presentation, he answered question from the RLWD board and from the public in attendance. The hearing adjourned at 11:10 a.m.

The board reviewed a request for an extension on permit No. 02006 from Floan Sanders, Polk County. A motion was made by Nikolayson, seconded by Ose, and passed by unanimous vote that the board approve the extension of permit No. 02006.

A motion was made by Proulx, seconded by Nikolayson, and passed by unanimous vote that the board approve permit No. 03002 from Floan Sanders, Huntsville Township, Polk County.

Loren Sanderson reported on the disaster funding being pursued for the removal of trees and debris on rivers and tributaries within the watershed district.

The board discussed the Pay Equity Report, which is to be filed prior to January 31. A motion was made by Smeby, seconded by Nikolayson, and passed by unanimous vote that the RLWD request an extension for the filing of this report in order to review the report and job descriptions.
President Nelson updated the board on the status of the Ten Year Overall Study. It was the consensus of the board that he and Nate Dalager should determine the direction of the project.

Legal Counsel Sparby presented his update to the board.

Vernon Johnson reported on the RRWMB meeting held the previous Tuesday. He stated the tour of the Parnell Area Sites 1 and 2 went well, and that the RRWMB approved the Step 1 Submittal.

A motion was made by Ose, seconded by Knott, that the meeting adjourn. Motion carried.

Signed

Dennis Nikolayson, Secretary