

RED LAKE WATERSHED DISTRICT
Board of Manager's Minutes
July 24, 2003

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; Myron Jesme, Administrator; 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 Knott, and passed by unanimous vote that the board approve the agenda.

Arlene Novak read the minutes of July 10, 2003. A motion was made by Smeby, seconded by Proulx, that the board approve the minutes as changed. Motion carried unanimously.

The board reviewed the Financial Report and investment summary. A motion was made by Ose, seconded by Knott, and passed by unanimous vote that the board approve the Financial Report dated July 23, 2003.

Administrator Jesme informed the board that he and Manager Knott had gone out to inspect Seeger Dam the previous Monday, after receiving word that the dam was failing. He stated it was approximately a 400-foot slide and, upon checking with Legal Counsel Delray Sparby, this would qualify for repair under MN State Statute 103D.615. A motion was made by Knott, seconded by Ose, and passed by unanimous vote that the board make a Declaration of Emergency for the Seeger Dam repair.

Administrator Jesme stated that there are FEMA funds that would be used toward the Seeger Dam repair. A motion was made by Ose, seconded by Knott, and passed by unanimous vote that Administrator Jesme should hire the contractor to repair Seeger Dam as soon as possible, in the interest of public safety.

The board discussed the permanent flowage easement on the Parnell Operating Plan. After lengthy discussion, it was determined that the board should move forward with the acquisition of the flowage easement at an elevation of 943.00, as recommended by HDR Engineering. A motion was made by Johnson, seconded by Ose, that the RLWD move forward with Parnell, according to recommendations by HDR Engineering. Managers Johnson, Ose, and Nikolayson voted aye, with Managers Knott, Smeby, and Proulx voting naye. Motion carried with President Nelson breaking the tie.

Corey Hanson, Water Quality Coordinator, explained the need to extend funding for the Silver Creek Buffer Strip Initiative. He stated the original plan ended June 30, 2003. A motion was made by Smeby, seconded by Ose, and passed by unanimous vote that the board approve the extension for funding of the Silver Creek Buffer Strip Initiative.

Doug Thompson, Clearwater County SWCD, was present to discuss the buffer strip program and also informed the board that the City of Gonvick is interested in

constructing a stormwater retention project similar to the one that Clearbrook is proposing. He felt it would work well to do these two projects simultaneously, since they are very similar in nature. Corey Hanson explained that the deadline was past for applying for a grant to do the study on the City of Gonvick, but that it may work to combine the two in the 319 grant application.

Molly McGregor, MN Pollution Control Agency (MPCA), was present to discuss the status of the Impaired Waters Program on the Clearwater River. She presented a resolution for board signature, which would authorize Administrator Jesme to sign the contract for the Walker Brook TMDL Impairment. A motion was made by Johnson, seconded by Smeby, and passed by unanimous vote that the board authorize the president to sign the resolution.

Molly McGregor, MPCA, explained that she needed to know who would be attending the LCMR tour on August 6, which includes the Parnell Impoundment as one site. Administrator Jesme and Managers Johnson, Ose, and Nikolayson plan to join this tour.

At 10:00 a.m., bids were opened for construction of the modifications to the Parnell Impoundment Operating Plan. A motion was made by Knott, seconded by Ose, and passed by unanimous vote that the board recognize the apparent low bid of \$127,684.80 from Davidson Construction, Newfolden. Upon review and approval by Legal Counsel, the bid will be awarded.

Permits were reviewed by the board. A motion was made by Nikolayson, seconded by Proulx, and passed by unanimous vote that the board approve the following permits: No. 03062* from Roger Harmoning, Gervais Township, Red Lake County; No. 03074* from Hines Township, Beltrami County; No. 03075 from Marshall County Highway Department; No. 03076* from Dennis Schulz, Belgium Township, Polk County; No. 03078 from Floan Sanders Engineering, Huntsville Township, Polk County; No. 03079 from Garrett Novak, River Falls Township, Pennington County; and No. 03080 from The Nature Conservancy, Grove Park/Tilden Township, Polk County. *With conditions stated on permit.

Administrator Jesme presented a quote from Houston Engineering for the design and analysis of a proposed water control structure at the Agassiz National Wildlife Refuge to aid RLWD efforts for State Ditch 83. A motion was made by Ose, seconded by Smeby, and passed by unanimous vote that the board approve signing the agreement with Houston Engineering for assistance on the proposed water control structure on State Ditch 83.

The board reviewed a letter from Houston Engineering regarding the integration of RLWD permits on the website. Following discussion, a motion was made by Smeby, seconded by Nikolayson, and passed by unanimous vote that the board approve the implementation of permits on the website by Houston Engineering, with as much assistance as possible from RLWD staff.

The board reviewed a proposed agreement with Houston Engineering for the banking and deposit of wetland credits on the Louisville/Parnell Project. A motion was made by Knott, seconded by Ose, that the RLWD go forward with Houston Engineering on the establishment of wetland credits on the Louisville Parnell Project. Following discussion, Manager Knott withdrew his motion, and Manager Ose withdrew his second. It was the consensus of the board that Administrator Jesme should determine if HDR Engineering has already done a portion of this engineering.

The Budget and Salary meeting was discussed. The meeting will held on August 11, 2003, at the RLWD office at 9:00 a.m.

Administrator Jesme presented his update to the board. He discussed a public safety issue on the Moose River dike, where vehicles are able to drive around the gates and on the dike. He added that the DNR had agreed to install steel posts to prevent this, if the RLWD would provide the posts. A motion was made by Smeby, seconded by Knott, and passed by unanimous vote that the RLWD should provide the posts, at a cost of \$3,185.00, with the low quote coming from Evans Steel.

The board discussed the C.D. 19 petition. Administrator Jesme will be attending a meeting on August 6 to determine the landowners' intentions. The board will further discuss C.D. 19 petition at the August 14 board meeting.

The board discussed ditch spraying, brushing, and general maintenance. Administrator Jesme will look into what needs to be done and who will do the work.

Legal Counsel Delray Sparby presented his update to the board.

Manager Johnson reported on the last RRWMB meeting.

A motion was made by Ose, seconded by Knott, and passed by unanimous vote that the meeting adjourn to August 11, 2003, at 9:00 a.m., for the purpose of conducting the 2003 Budget and Salary meeting. The meeting will be held at the RLWD office.

At 9:00 a.m. on Monday, August 11, 2003, President Nelson motioned to reconvene the meeting of July 24, 2003.

Administrator Jesme reviewed the general fund budget, item by item, and ultimately presented the general levy at \$145,000. Administrator Jesme then presented the pay requests of employees for the 2004 fiscal year. After lengthy discussion on employee compensation, President Nelson then dismissed Administrator Jesme.

Following lengthy discussion, a motion was made by Smeby, seconded by Proulx, that the board propose to freeze salaries and hourly wages for the year 2004, with the exception of Stephanie Hanson, whose hourly rate was increased from \$10.46 to \$12.00 per hour. Motion carried with Managers Ose and Johnson voting naye. The proposed freeze on salaries was based upon a possible increase in health insurance premiums for 2004.

The board determined that the request for a new suburban should be denied, and that vehicle expenses and maintenance be increased from \$9,000 to \$12,000. The board requested President Nelson meet with Administrator Jesme to implement the board's decision for a general fund budget for 2004, in the amount of \$130,290.25.

Motion was made by Knott, seconded by Smeby to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

Signed

Dennis Nikolayson, Secretary