

RED LAKE WATERSHED DISTRICT
Board of Manager's Minutes
March 28, 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; Arlene Novak, Accounting/Secretary Technician II; Sandy Radniecki, Secretary/Receptionist; and Legal Counsel Delray Sparby.

John Weiland requested to appear before the board.

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 February 27 and March 10, 2003. A motion was made by Johnson, seconded by Proulx, that the board approve the minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

Arlene Novak read the minutes of March 10, 2003, which was held at 1:30 p.m. A motion was made by Smeby, seconded by Knott, and passed by unanimous vote that the board approve the minutes as read.

The board reviewed the Financial Report and investment summary. A motion was made by Proulx, seconded by Ose, and passed by unanimous vote that the board approve the Financial Report dated March 27, 2003.

An Amendment to the Sub-Grant Agreement for the damage to the drainage ditch next to the Sand Hill Lutheran Church Cemetery was discussed by the board. A motion was made by Nikolayson, seconded by Knott, and passed by unanimous vote that the board adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS, funding from the Federal Emergency Management Association (FEMA), in the amount of \$10,302.06, has been set aside for repair of the damage done to the ditch along the Sand Hill Lutheran Church Cemetery;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the board accept this FEMA funding, in the amount of \$10,302.06, and authorize President Nelson to sign the Amendment to the Sub-Grant Agreement;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this project be assigned number 155C, and be named Sand Hill Cemetery Ditch Erosion.

Permits were reviewed by the board. A motion was made by Nikolayson, seconded by Knott, and passed by unanimous vote that the board approve the following permits: No. 03009 from Gunder Hanson, Hickory Township, Pennington County; No. 03011* from Ron Stroot, Belgium Township, Polk County; and No. 03012 from U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, DNR, Woodside Township, Polk County. *With conditions stated on permit.

Corey Hanson, Water Quality Coordinator, and Stephanie Hanson, Natural Resources Technician, presented a thorough update on activities from their department. Stephanie stated she would be working directly with students from the schools that are enrolled in the River Watch Program. The Red Lake River Corridor Enhancement Project was discussed in detail. It was the consensus of the board that Manager Nikolayson continue as the RLWD representative on this committee, with Manager Smeby as the alternate.

Managers Knott and Proulx reported on the Project 60 meeting held March 20. Following a discussion with the board and engineer Nate Dalager, it was the consensus that Mr. Dalager, Manager Knott, and Manager Proulx should meet with landowners to work out details on alternative sites and not proceed with any engineering. It was the feeling of the board that possible sites need to be determined, after which an appraiser will be hired to set a price on the land.

The Grand Marais PRP was discussed by the board. A motion was made by Proulx, seconded by Knott, that the Grand Marais PRP be tabled until some questions are answered by the Project 60 Work Team. Motion carried.

John Weiland appeared before the board to state that the main concern is "price" for people who would be willing to sell any land for Project 60.

Legal Counsel Delray Sparby presented his update to the board. He stated that he and the attorney for the townships, Rex Hammarback, felt a meeting should be held with three people from the townships and three from the RLWD. A meeting will be set up for April 1, 2003, at 10:00 a.m., with Managers Nelson, Proulx, and Johnson attending. Legal Counsel Sparby will also attend this meeting.

A motion was made by Knott, seconded by Proulx, and passed by unanimous vote that the board instruct Nate Dalager, HDR Engineering, to complete the Plans and Specifications for the BWSR Flood Storage Easement Pilot Project No. 133C (Tiedemann) and present them at the April 10, 2003 board meeting.

A motion was made by Johnson, seconded by Nikolayson, and passed by unanimous vote that the board instruct Engineer Nate Dalager to complete the Plans and Specifications for the North Parnell Flood Storage Easement Site No. 154 and present them at the April 10, 2003 board meeting.

The board met in executive session to discuss filling the position of Administrator.

A motion was made by Smeby, seconded by Proulx, and passed by unanimous vote, that the meeting be re-opened to the public.

A motion was made by Smeby, seconded by Johnson, and passed by unanimous vote that the board offer the position of Administrator to Myron Jesme, at an annual salary of \$50,000, payable bi-weekly, plus benefits according to the terms and conditions of the RLWD personnel policy. The salary will be reviewed after 6 months with increase of annual salary to \$52,000 upon satisfactory performance evaluation.

The board discussed ditch inspection and several systems that are of concern. President Nelson will have the ditch inspector look into these concerns and report back to the board at a future meeting.

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

Signed
Dennis Nikolayson, Secretary