President Orville Knott 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: Managers Dale M. Nelson; Vernon Johnson; LeRoy Ose; Lowell Smeby; Bob Proulx; Allan Carlson, and Orville Knott. Staff present were Myron Jesme, Arlene Novak, and Sandy Radniecki, and Legal Counsel Delray Sparby.

The board reviewed the agenda. A motion was made by Nelson, seconded by Carlson, and passed by unanimous vote that the Board approve the agenda.

Arlene Novak read the minutes of January 22, 2004. A motion was made by Johnson, seconded by Proulx, that Board approve the minutes. Motion carried unanimously.


A motion was made by Nelson, seconded by Johnson, and passed by unanimous vote that the RLWD pay $2,000.00 dues for 2004 to the MN Association of Watershed Districts.

The Board discussed permit No. 04001 from the Polk County Highway Department. Following discussion, a motion was made by Proulx, seconded by Carlson, and passed by unanimous vote that the board deny permit No. 04001 from Polk County Highway Department.

Legal Counsel Delray Sparby presented a brief timeline on the State Ditch 83 Petition, stating that Brent Johnson, Houston Engineering, had presented a draft of the Preliminary Engineers Report at the January 13, 2004 meeting. Following discussion by the Board, a motion was made by Nelson, seconded by Smeby, and passed by unanimous vote that the Board authorize Houston Engineering to proceed with the final phases of the preliminary engineers report. Administrator Jesme will contact Brent Johnson and schedule the presentation of the Preliminary Engineer’s Report for the March 11, 2004 meeting.

Administrator Jesme presented his update to the board. He stated he received a call from Polk County FSA regarding the fact that Gene Tiedemann, owner of Site #1 of Parnell Impoundment Flood Storage Project, was granted CRP within this impoundment and that the state FSA Committee ruled that water is adequate cover for this impoundment.

Administrator Jesme read a letter from Kurt Deter, Rinke Noonan, which explained that a new petition would be presented from the landowners on County Ditch 19, and that the present bond would be rolled over to be included in a bond of $30,000.00. These petitions will be presented at the March 11, 2004 meeting by Kurt Deter.
Administrator Jesme informed the Board that he received a cost estimate for RLWD Ditch #10 from engineer Jim Hest, NW MN Joint Powers Board. This preliminary engineer’s report will be presented at the February 26, 2004 meeting.

Administrator Jesme reported on the Grand Marais and Lower Red Lake River sub-watershed town meetings that were held for the Ten Year Overall Plan. He indicated that they had approximately 20 people attend at the Lower Red Lake sub-watershed and approximately 30 at the Grand Marais sub-watershed. Manager Proulx mentioned that some landowners would like to be better informed about meetings and/or projects within the watershed district. Administrator Jesme mentioned the fact that the approved minutes could be included on the RLWD website, which would enable more individuals to read the minutes.

The Board discussed their annual joint meeting with the Middle/Snake/ Tamarac Rivers Watershed District. It was the consensus of the Board to invite them to the February 26 meeting.

Legal Counsel Delray Sparby presented his update to the Board.

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

Signed _______________________

LeRoy Ose, Secretary