

RED LAKE WATERSHED DISTRICT  
Board of Manager's Minutes  
December 29, 2005

President Orville Knott called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. at the Red Lake Watershed District office, Thief River Falls, MN.

Present were: Managers Orville Knott, Lee Coe, Arnold Stanley, Dale M. Nelson, Allan Carlson, Vernon Johnson, and Gene Tiedemann. Staff present: Myron Jesme and Arlene Novak and Legal Counsel Delray Sparby.

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

Arlene Novak read the minutes of December 8, 2005. A motion was made by Nelson, seconded by Carlson, and passed unanimously that the Board approve the minutes as read.

The board reviewed the Financial Report as of December 28, 2005. A motion was made by Coe, seconded by Tiedemann, and passed by unanimous vote that the Board approve the Financial Report dated December 28, 2005.

Doug Thompson, Clearwater SWCD, appeared before the Board to present the Silver Creek Restoration project design. The Silver Creek Restoration project would involve restoring two sites of stream crossing under a township road in the Silver Creek watershed in order to restore the function of 1500 linear feet or more of the Silver Creek, a small riparian wetland would be restored, remove approximately 1000 feet of channelized, eroding streambank and two small culverts, and improve the ecological function of the stream. The consensus of the Board was to have Mr. Thompson check into grants and other possible funding sources and present it to the Board at a future date. Mr. Thompson also updated the Board on his conversation he had had with staff member Gary Lane on the cost share of the installation of side inlet pipes in watershed ditches.

Administrator Jesme requested of the Board to set the rate of compensation for additional flowage easements that may be needed in Section 8 Belgium Township, Polk County, located east of the Brandt sites, RLWD Project #60D. A motion was made by Nelson, seconded by Tiedemann, to compensate for lands required for flowage easements located in Section 8 of Belgium Township at the same rate the RLWD is paying for strips of permanent easements along roadways or other small tracts required for construction of Euclid East Impoundment Site. Motion carried.

Nate Dalager, HDR Engineering, Inc. presented the results of the survey of the Grand Marais Creek Subwatershed Project outlet that the staff of the RLWD and his firm had completed. As discussed and recommended at the Grand Marais Project Work Team meeting held in November, a meeting with landowners adjoining the project site in the Middle Snake Tamarac River Watershed District (MSTRWD) is set for January 6, 2006

to hear their views of the project. Consensus of the Board was to revisit this issue after the January 6 meeting with the MSTRWD landowners.

The Administrative Construction fund balances and recommended transfer from the Administrative Construction projects to the Administrative Construction funds were reviewed. A motion was made by Nelson, seconded by Johnson, to approve the transfers to the listed projects at year-end 2005 when interest rates are calculated and added to the projects, with the exception of the Ten Year Overall Plan, which will be transferred at year-end 2006 when the Plan is completed. Motion carried.

The Order for Detailed Survey Report and Appointment of Viewers in the Matter of the Red Lake Watershed District Project No. 166, RLWD Ditch No.11 was presented by Legal Counsel Sparby. Motion by Tiedemann, seconded by Coe, to accept the Order for Detailed Survey Report and Appointment of Viewers in the Matter of the Red Lake Watershed District Project No. 166, RLWD Ditch No. 11 as presented. Motion carried. Administrator Jesme stated he had contacted potential viewers/appraisers for the project and will bring the names of those viewers/appraisers back to the January 12, 2006 Board meeting.

At the Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts annual convention, it was requested that the RLWD participate in a precipitation study in the eastern edge of the RLWD. A Power Point presentation explaining the project was given by Administrator Jesme. The proposed project entails collecting precipitation samples with given materials and submitting the precipitation samples to the Thirty Lakes Watershed District (TLWD) and the TLWD would in turn submit the samples to a testing laboratory. A detailed manual explaining the process is provided to assist the person conducting the tests with the estimated cost of the project of \$4,000. Motion by Nelson, seconded by Tiedemann, to participate in the precipitation study, with Lee Coe as the designated person collecting the samples and submitting those samples to the Thirty Lakes Watershed District who in turn would submit those samples to the testing laboratory and approve the anticipated expense of \$4,000. Motion carried.

The Beaver Damage Control program and grant application process was explained by Administrator Jesme. Money has been appropriated from the Board of Water and Soil Resources for problem beaver control. The Northwest Minnesota Joint Powers Board for Beaver Damage Control (JPB) has been in existence since 1994 with the RLWD as the fiscal agent for the program. At the JPB meeting on December 16, 2005, the Board approved to only participate in Beltrami, Clearwater, Marshall, Pennington, Red Lake, and Polk counties; send a grant application for \$20,000 and request of the RLWD to be the fiscal agent for the program, assist with the grant writing for the \$20,000 and participate in the cost sharing of the program as in the past. In previous grants, the RLWD contributed 10% of the cost of problem beaver removal for beaver removed in the RLWD area. A motion was made by Coe, seconded by Carlson, to be the fiscal agent for the JPB, assist in application process and cost share in the program should the grant be accepted. Motion carried.

A Project Schedule and Reporting Procedures for Flood Damage Reduction Projects Requesting Funding from the Red River Watershed Management Board (RRWMB) manual was distributed in the Board packets for review. The RRWMB requests the watershed districts review the manual and submit recommendations on the procedure/guidelines as soon as possible.

Articles that had appeared in the *Grand Forks Herald* during the week of December 13, 2005, regarding the City of Crookston's potential flood control project was distributed for the Board's review. The articles addressed the MN DNR's support behind the state in helping Crookston as it has helped East Grand Forks, Warren, and Roseau with their flooding problems whereas those three cities were involved with Federal projects' funding. Administrator Jesme stated he had spoken with Crookston's Community Development Director Mike McDonald regarding these articles. Mr. McDonald will request to appear before the Board at a future date when additional information on this proposed flood control project is available.

Staff member Loren Sanderson recommended to the Board to table RLWD Permit No. 05152 applied for by Gary Pulkrabek Farms until completion of spring runoff of 2006 to determine culvert sizes and ditch grade. A motion was made by Nelson, seconded by Stanley, and passed unanimously to table the permit until the spring of 2006.

Administrator Jesme read his written report:

- The Ten Year Overall Plan-Within the last two weeks 130 copies, CD and printed version, of the plan have been mailed to various entities for review. The comment period will end on February 17, 2006. The remaining \$20,000 of the BWSR grant has been submitted for as a request for payment along with a request to extend the period of completion to December 31, 2006.
- Ditch Inventory- The staff has started compiling data for the Ditch Inventory project. It is one of the District's main objectives for completion this winter. The BWSR buffer strip survey has also been completed and submitted.
- RLWD Ditch 10 – The RLWD has received \$12,511.95 of the \$13,079.70 of the Red Lake County SWCD's cost share of the side inlet pipes. Administrator Jesme will contact the remaining landowner for his payment to the RLWD.
- Winsor Hangaard, RLWD Project No. 113 – The Red Lake Band of Chippewa Indians have been notified of the hearing date of February 9, 2006 concerning the proposed addition of lands into the benefited area. The Red Lake Band has indicated that they will supply a brief presentation outlining their request at that hearing. The question of the board was that if there is more than 60 acres that are draining into the system, then that property could be blocked from draining into the system.

Administrator Jesme added to his report stating that he along with others met in at the Army Corps of Engineers Office in Brainerd on December 28, 2005, on permitting the Brandt Site of the Grand Marais Creek Subwatershed Project.

Legal Counsel Sparby reported on the status of the land acquisitions of the Euclid East and Brandt sites of Grand Marais Creek Subwatershed Project.

Manager Nelson reported on a possible site of property for sale in Thief River Falls for construction of a new watershed office building. The four-acre piece of property has city sewer and water but may be zoned for industrial. Administrator Jesme will contact the City of Thief River Falls about the zoning of the area and procedures to change to commercial, if necessary. Pictures of the new building the Bois de Sioux Watershed District is constructing were distributed for review. Discussion was held on the size of the building needed for the RLWD and potential companies to seek quotes for buildings. Administrator Jesme will draw up a proposed floor plan and submit to companies for an estimate of cost of building and present the options at the January 12, 2006 Board meeting. Manager Carlson stated that Garden Valley has interest free loans for building and he will check if the RLWD qualifies for those loans and will report at the next scheduled Board meeting.

Reappointments/appointments for RLWD managers of Polk and Clearwater County were discussed. Administrator Jesme will contact the counties to inquire if the reappointments/appointments have been acted on by the respective county boards.

A motion was made by Nelson, seconded by Tiedemann, to adjourn the meeting.  
Motion carried.

  
Vernon Johnson, Secretary