

RED LAKE WATERSHED DISTRICT
Board of Manager's Minutes
February 10, 2005

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

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

Arlene Novak read the minutes of January 27, 2005. A motion was made by Carlson, seconded by Tiedemann that the Board approve the minutes of January 27, 2005. Motion carried.

The board reviewed the Financial Report. A motion was made by Johnson, seconded by Coe, and passed by unanimous vote that the Board approve the Financial Report dated February 9, 2005.

The bid opening date for construction of RLWD Ditch No. 10, RLWD Proj. No. 161 was discussed. Motion by Johnson, seconded by Stanley, and passed unanimously to set bid opening for RLWD Ditch No. 10, RLWD Proj. No. 161, for March 24, 2005 at 10:00 a.m. at the Red Lake Watershed District office.

Administrator Jesme stated that the Advisory Committee Meeting is scheduled following the February 24, 2005 regular Board meeting.

The Board reviewed permits for approval. A motion was made by Tiedemann, seconded by Carlson, to approve the following permit: No. 05005 from Scott Baatz, Fairfax Township, Polk County. Motion carried. *With conditions stated on permit.

Permit application Nos. 05003 and 05004 from Claude Johnson, Star Township, Pennington County were reviewed by the Board. Motion by Coe, seconded by Johnson, and passed unanimously to table the permits until surveying can be done in the spring.

The 2005 Legislative Breakfast and Day at the Capitol will be held on March 22 and 23, 2005.

Dues for the Minnesota Viewers Association were discussed. Motion by Coe, seconded by Tiedemann, and passed by unanimous vote to pay the dues of \$125 to the Minnesota Viewers Association.

Administrator Jesme presented his written report to the board. Items noted from his report are: A Parnell Operating Plan Review meeting was held on February 7, 2005 with

Manager Tiedemann, Engineering Assistant Loren Sanderson, and Administrator Jesme along with the Advisory Committees of JD #60, Polk County Ditch #126, and Polk County Commissioners. Recommendation from Advisory committee meeting was to install an additional monitoring gage along Polk County Ditch #126. Consensus of the board was to direct that said additional gage be installed for monitoring and informational purposes. Since the additional gage will not be used as a trigger point, the board did not feel that the additional gage would have any effect on the current operating plan.

Administrator Jesme added: A Ten Year Overall Plan meeting is scheduled for March 9 with Dave Johnson and Nate Dalager of HDR Inc., Henry VanOffelen of Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy, Brian Dwight of Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) and Administrator Jesme; The Second International Water Conference is scheduled for April 6-7, 2005, at the Fort Garry Hotel in Winnipeg, Manitoba; and a copy of the Findings and Facts presented by J.D. 11 Board member Delray Larson concerning the RLWD permit Nos.04086 and 04087 issued to Agassiz National Wildlife Refuge.

Legal Counsel Sparby stated that the Bagley Urban Runoff land transfer should be complete.

Attorney Kurt Deter, Rinke-Noonan of St. Cloud, appeared before the Board on behalf of the petitioners of Polk County Ditch 40 Improvement. He requested that the Board accept corrections to the original petition. Following discussion of the petitioned project, a motion was made by Tiedemann, seconded by Carlson, and passed unanimously to adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Red Lake Watershed District has received a petition for the Improvement of Polk County Ditch No. 40;

WHEREAS, it has been determined that a minimum of 26% of the landowners in the petitioned area have signed the petition, therefore deeming the petition a legal document;

WHEREAS, Engineer Jerry Pribula, Pribula Engineering, has invested considerable time to the project prior to its petition;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Red Lake Watershed District accept the petition, pending the receipt of the bond; assign Jerry Pribula, Pribula Engineering, as the engineer for the project; assign it Red Lake Watershed District Project No.166 and name it Red Lake Watershed District Ditch No. 11.

Attorney Kurt Deter also reported on the existing petitions of Polk County Ditch 19 and Tynsid Township near the Sand Hill Church, rural Climax, Minnesota. Dave Jones, NRCS, reported on the progress to date of the engineering and cost of the repairs and the cost to the benefited/petitioned area. The project will be completed in phases with Polk County Highway Department completing the first phase. A watershed permit for this

phase will be requested. NRCS indicated that they most likely will have to file for an extension of the EQUIP funds that have been retained for this project. Mr. Jones also indicated that there is a chance that other NRCS offices could very well tap into this money which could make their contribution for this project less than originally expected.

The Board asked Mr. Deter's opinion of Red Lake County Ditch. 13 and the Browns Creek drainage area. The Board stated that 3 sq. miles drain from Red Lake County and an additional 6 sq. miles drain from Pennington County into the Browns Creek, yet Pennington County does not pay benefits to drain into the system. Mr. Deter indicated that a joint ditch could be formed between the two counties, but if any improvements were required, a petition would need to be presented to the watershed district.

The joint meeting for Pennington County Ditch No. 1 will be held on Feb. 16 with the City, County, Minnesota Department of Transportation, and Rocksbury Township, with Manager Nelson, Administrator Jesme and Legal Counsel Sparby representing the Red Lake Watershed District.

Randy Hueslkamp, West Polk County FSA, informed the Board that there has been 1,000 acres of land set aside for the Grand Marais, RLWD Project No. 60B area under the Wetland Reserve Enhancement Program (WREP). Mr. Hueslkamp asked the Board if they would be interested in transferring all or part of these acres to Manson Slough Project in the Buffalo-Red River Watershed District as they feel they could use this for their project. Mr. Hueslkamp also stated that a teleconference will be held on Friday, February 11, 2005, in which the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) would request an answer. The consensus of the Board was that is too early in the project to relinquish these acres. The Board directed Administrator Jesme to partake in the teleconference and relay the Board's wishes to BWSR.

Manager Stanley inquired whether John Weiland of Orfino, Idaho had accepted the Board's offer for the sale of his property in the Brandt Impoundment Site of the Grand Marais Subwatershed, RLWD Proj. 60B area. Administrator Jesme indicated that he has not received word from Mr. Weiland at this time.

A motion was made by Carlson, seconded by Stanley, that the meeting adjourn. Motion carried.


Vernon Johnson, Secretary