

RED LAKE WATERSHED DISTRICT
Board of Manager's Minutes
June 9, 2005

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

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

Arlene Novak read the minutes of May 26, 2005. A motion was made by Tiedemann, seconded by Carlson that the Board approve the minutes of May 26, 2005. Motion carried.

The board reviewed the Financial Report as of June 8, 2005. A motion was made by Nelson, seconded by Stanley, and passed by unanimous vote that the Board approve the Financial Report dated June 8, 2005.

Don Buckhout, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, distributed a handout and explained the requirements and process for applying for an Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EAW) and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and it's correlation to RLWD Project No. 60B. Mr. Buckhout stated that the EAW process takes several months and following the review of that portion, an EIS may have to be applied for which takes additional months for processing.

Red Lake Watershed District permit No.05028 applied for by Richard Dougherty was explained by Engineering Assistant Loren Sanderson. After hearing information on the permit application, motion by Stanley, seconded by Nelson, to deny the permit to Richard Dougherty. Motion carried.

Manager Stanley asked who advises the grade of ditches when approving a permit, more specifically a permit granted to Gary Anderson. Engineering Assistant Loren Sanderson addressed that specific permit question and stated the work for that permit has or had been completed and he would contact the Minnesota Department of Transportation regarding the grade.

Jim Hest, Joint Powers Board Engineer, updated the board on the Geist project, in the Burnham Creek area south of Crookston. When construction began on the project last fall and prior to any rock being installed in the toe, the area had 4 inches of rain, causing the slope to fail. Additional rock and effort is now needed to redesign the slope, excavate, and install geotextile fabric. Mr. Hest asked for additional financial assistance with this project. No motion being brought before the Board, Mr. Hest was informed that no additional financial assistance would be given.

Administrator Jesme presented the insurance settlement information on the Gasper lawsuit and insurance settlement. The insurance company notified the RLWD that the policy does not cover staff time nor manager's fees and expenses related to the lawsuit. Motion by Nelson, seconded by Johnson, to accept the settlement of \$11,509.42 less \$2,500 deductible for a payment of \$9,009.42. Motion carried.

Darrold Rodahl, Agder Township Supervisor, was in contact with Administrator Jesme regarding repairs to the Lost River Impoundment structure near Elm Lake. The Adger Township board recently ratified an agreement which had been signed by the RLWD Board President in 1990. Administrator Jesme requested Board action on seeking quotes for repair to the structure. Consensus of the Board was to have staff inspect the area and make recommendation of repair(s) to the Board at a future date.

Nate Dalager, HDR Inc. Engineer, fielded questions on whether the RLWD should prepare an EAW and/or EIS for RLWD Project No. 60B, Grand Marais Subwatershed. Engineer Dalager stated he felt that an EAW was not required for the impoundment phase of this project because there were no components of this particular project to trigger an EAW application. It was the consensus of the Board to not prepare an EAW.

A letter from Agassiz National Wildlife Refuge in response to the East Valley Township Board letter which had been presented at the May 26, 2005 Board meeting was reviewed.

The Board reviewed permits for approval. A motion was made by Carlson, seconded by Nelson, to approve the following permit with conditions stated on the permits: No. 05040 from Roger Sjulson, Brandsvold Township, Polk County. Motion carried.

Administrator Jesme read his written report. Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) challenge grant for the RLWD Ditch System Inventory and Mapping project was approved in the amount of \$25,000. The grant allows the watershed district to update our ditch inventory which will consist of setting up a GIS data map for immediate history, landownership, culvert inventory, and a host of other information. Administrator Jesme stated that the staff will assist with some of the components of the grant, but Brian Fisher of Houston Engineering will be needed to complete other components. Motion by Johnson, seconded by Tiedemann, and passed unanimously to move forward with the project and hire Brian Fisher with Houston Engineering on an as needed basis and for accounting purposes, assign it RLWD Project No. 167 and name it Watershed Ditch System Inventory and Mapping.

Administrator Jesme continued with his written report. BWSR also awarded the RLWD a grant for RLWD Project No. 60B, Grand Marais Subwatershed in the amount of \$50,000 to assist in the costs of construction as well as water quality monitoring of this project; The construction of the Ken Grundhaus ring dike in Adger Township is progressing slowly due to poor weather conditions. Five quotes were received for the construction of the Richard Stengl ring dike. RBR was the low quote in the amount of \$38,652.70. In

addition to his written report, Administrator Jesme stated that he had met with Bill Best from BWSR and Lisa Newton from Marshall-Beltrami SWCD on site of the Ken Cwikla ring dike to discuss the wetland mitigation acres.

The signed Temporary Easement and Option To Purchase a Permanent Easement Agreement for the property owned by John A. and R. Lorraine Weiland in the RLWD Project No. 60B, Grand Marais Subwatershed area has been received. With the signature of the Board President on the Option, a check will be issued to Weilands. Administrator Jesme and HDR, Inc. Engineer Nate Dalager will be attending the Flood Damage Reduction Work Group (FDRWG) meeting on June 15 in Detroit Lakes to update the group on the progress of the Grand Marais Subwatershed Project. Notices for the June 23, 2005 hearing have been mailed to affected landowners, municipalities, and also advertised the hearing in the Warren Sheaf and the Crookston Daily Times.

The Minnesota Association of Watershed District's (MAWD) annual tour is scheduled for June 23-25, 2005 hosted by Thirty Lakes Watershed District with tour headquarters at Brainerd, MN.

Administrator Jesme indicated the permit from the Army Corps of Engineers has not been received as of this date for the Proj. 161, RLWD Ditch No. 10. Red Lake County Auditor Bob Schmitz has stated that there would be a fee of \$20,000 to purchase a bond, no matter the bond amount, for the financing of the ditch improvement. If the payment for the bond is considered part of the project, then the cost benefit ratio would make the project unmanageable. Manager Knott and Administrator Jesme will be meeting with Red Lake County Board of Commissioners on Tuesday, June 14, 2005, to discuss the county bonding the project versus the county financing the project.

Louie and Jake Lauritson of Lauritson Financial came before the Board to present a 457 Deferred Compensation Program available for Board and staff of the Red Lake Watershed District. A sample kit was distributed and the program was explained and questions answered. Motion by Nelson to implement the 457 Deferred Compensation Program, make available to Board managers and staff with Administrator Jesme as the contact person, seconded by Tiedemann. Motion carried.

Legal Counsel Delray Sparby stated that he would obtain a Conciliation Court form for Administrator Jesme to prepare for collection of a delinquent cost share of a ring dike construction.

Manager Johnson informed the Board of outcome of the Red River Watershed Management Board's (RRWMB) special Board meeting on May 26, 2005. He stated the special meeting was to address legal concerns of another watershed district and the request to have the RRWMB's legal involvement in the matter. The motion did pass the RRWMB with Vernon Johnson being the sole vote rejecting the involvement in the legal proceedings of another watershed district.

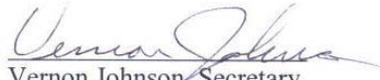
Manager Stanley asked if the Louisville/Parnell Impoundment berm repair had been completed. Administrator Jesme stated that the repair project is progressing and that the necessary paperwork is being completed. Once all required information is gathered, the RLWD will solicit quotes for the repair.

Manager Stanley also stated that he had a phone call from a resident by the Moose River Impoundment area stating with the recent heavy rainfall he had some crop damage and questioning when the gates to the impoundment had been closed. Administrator Jesme stated the south gate had been closed on Sunday, June 5 and the north one was closed on Monday, June 6. Administrator Jesme also stated that Parnell's gates have not been closed at this time as they have not reached the trigger points as indicated in the Operating Plan.

Manager Tiedemann asked Administrator Jesme if we used geotextile fabric for previous projects. Administrator Jesme indicated that he had used geotextile fabric in the past with mixed results.

A motion was made by Nelson, seconded by Johnson, that the meeting recess to a tour of the Grand Marais Subwatershed project area with Managers Nelson, Knott, Carlson, Tiedemann, and Stanley and Administrator Jesme touring. Motion carried.

Following the tour of the Grand Marais Subwatershed Project, a motion was made by Stanley, seconded by Tiedemann that the meeting adjourn. Motion carried.


Vernon Johnson, Secretary