

RED LAKE WATERSHED DISTRICT
Board of Manager's Minutes
August 10, 2006

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

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

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

Darrold Rodahl, landowner in the State Ditch 83 drainage area, requested to appear. Mr. Rodahl requested of the Board to seek funding from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for approximately 12 slides that he feels occurred during the spring flooding of 2006. A motion was made by Coe, seconded Johnson to seek FEMA funding for these slides. Motion carried.

Arlene Novak read the minutes from the hearing of July 20, 2006 for RLWD Ditch No. 11, RLWD Proj. No.166. A motion was made by Knott, seconded by Coe, to approve the minutes of the July 20, 2006 hearing. Motion carried.

Arlene Novak read the minutes of July 27, 2006. A motion was made by Tiedemann, seconded by Knott, and passed unanimously that the Board approve the minutes as read.

The board reviewed the Financial Report of August 9, 2006. A motion was made by Tiedemann, seconded by Knott, and passed by unanimous vote that the Board approve the Financial Report dated August 9, 2006.

Roger Beiswenger and Rodney Langaas, viewers/appraisers for RLWD Project No. 166, RLWD Ditch No. 11, came before the Board to address questions pertaining to the procedure used for the breakdown of benefits and how they determined the rates per acre. Manager Nelson asked the viewers about the property located in the N1/2 S1/2 NE1/4 Section 3 Sullivan Township and the request of Mr. Mark Holy to reduce his benefits from \$250 to \$100 per acre. Mr. Beiswenger had no objection with that reduction of the benefits. Manager Coe asked the viewers their opinion pertaining to the letter received by Keith Driscoll concerning his land located in the N1/2 of Section 7 Sullivan Township. Mr. Langaas indicated that they did look at that area and how it lies within the drainage area of the Grand Marais and they felt the benefits were in order. It was the consensus of the Board to continue to review the comments from concerned parties as they come in but not make any other determination until the 30 day comment period has expired after which time a vote on the project final hearing will be made.

The Board reviewed a prepared cost benefit analysis study, completed by Administrator Jesme, concerning the construction of a new office facility versus renting an office facility. After considerable discussion of the two options and viewing the preliminary arch plans submitted by Jones Architectural Engineering, Inc, a motion was made by Johnson, seconded by Stanley, to

approve the Preliminary Architectural Plans, as submitted by Jones Architectural Engineering, Inc., for the construction of a new watershed district building.

The one year contract for Houston Engineering for Website hosting was presented to the Board. A motion was made by Knott, seconded by Carlson to approve a one year contract with Houston Engineering, Inc. for website hosting. Motion carried.

The Board addressed the letter from landowner Alam Sher concerning the dispute between the City of Goodridge and Leon Iverson. Mr. Sher asked that the Red Lake Watershed District intervene and help resolve the problems between the two parties. The consensus of the Board was that there was a previous decision to let the parties resolve their problem and that Legal Counsel Sparby will send a letter to Mr. Sher as well as Legal Counsel representing the city of Goodridge and relay the Boards wishes.

The Board reviewed permits for approval. A motion was made by Tiedemann, seconded by Johnson, to approve the following permits with conditions stated on the permits: No. 06062 from Dale Newton, Valley Township, Marshall County; No. 06075 from Curtis W. Swanson, Bray Township, Pennington County; No. 06076 from Leonard Meine, Godfrey Township, Polk County; No. 06077 from Vernon Peterson, River Falls Township, Pennington County; No. 06078 from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Columbia Township, Polk County; No. 06082 from Agassiz National Wildlife Refuge, East Valley Township, Marshall County; No. 06083 from John O. Thorson, Bygland Township, Polk County; No. 06084 from Agassiz National Wildlife Refuge, East Valley Township, Marshall County; and No. 06085 from Parnell Township, c/o Dennis Goodyke, Polk County. Motion carried.

Administrator Jesme read his written report:

- To date R.J. Zavoral & Sons, Inc. have been paid \$1,008,444.63 of the estimated total of \$1,604,269 toward the construction of the Euclid East Impoundment, RLWD Project No. 60C, and are approximately 85% complete with the Common Excavation and Borrow Excavation. Ditch "A" is completed and Ditch "C" is nearly completed.
- The U.S. Army Corps of Engineer's permit for the RLWD Project No. 60D, Brandt Impoundment site, was received just prior to this Board meeting. The contractor, R.J. Zavoral & Sons, Inc., were issued the order to proceed on August 2, 2006 and has started the stripping and core trenching on the southerly and westerly portion of the project. The Elizabeth Salentine land transaction has been completed.
- Manager Tiedemann, staff member Loren Sanderson, and Administrator Jesme attended the public informational hearing regarding the re-determination of benefits to Polk County Ditch Nos. 126 and 60 on August 3, 2006.
- The FEMA repairs have been completed on RLWD Ditch No. 10 as well as the wetland mitigation site. The 18" CSP through the dry crossing has been installed per the hearing and action of the Board on July 27, 2006.
- Construction to re-enforce the south berm on the Louisville/Parnell Impoundment has been completed by R.J. Zavoral & Sons, Inc. and partial payment in the original bid amount of \$24,938.88 has been issued. Final payment has not been made as there is some additional seeding required and a determination of yardage has yet to be completed.

- A July 2006 Water Quality Program Progress Summary is enclosed in the Manager's packet.

In addition to his written report, Administrator Jesme distributed a Red River Watershed Management Board Project Funding Commitment worksheet.

Administrator Jesme stated that Philip Quam had inquired if he could hay the grassland on RLWD property in Lessor Township, Polk County. Following discussion, the consensus of the Board was to allow Mr. Quam to hay the grassland at no charge. Manager Nelson inquired as to how many acres of land the District owned in Lessor Township and what intentions the District has for this land. Administrator Jesme indicated that, although he was not an employee of the District when the land was purchased, he understood that it was purchased for the purpose of a Flood Damage Reduction Project and that the project has since been dropped. After considerable discussion, it was determined that Administrator Jesme gathers all legal information on this property and report back to the Board at the next meeting.

President Nelson reported on the Budget/Salary committee's meeting and explained the 2007 proposed General Fund Budget to the Board. The salaries of the watershed staff were discussed. Motion by Tiedemann, seconded by Carlson to accept the Budget and Salary committee's recommendation of the following increases: Myron Jesme, 5%; Loren Sanderson, Arlene Novak, and Gary Lane, 3%; Jim Blix and Corey Hanson, 3% plus an additional \$1.00 per hour; and Tammy Audette, 3% plus an additional \$.50 per hour effective January 1, 2007. The Board requested to be notified of health insurance premiums for 2007 when they become available.

Motion was made by Coe, seconded by Carlson, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.


Vernon Johnson, Secretary