

RED LAKE WATERSHED DISTRICT
Board of Manager's Minutes
April 26, 2007

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, Gene Tiedemann, Vernon Johnson, and Allan Carlson. Staff present: Myron Jesme and Tammy Audette and Legal Counsel Delray Sparby.

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

Tammy Audette read the minutes of April 12, 2007. A motion was made by Coe, seconded by Stanley, and passed unanimously that the Board approve the minutes as read.

Jim Blix introduced the Bagley High School River Watch Program students and advisor Jill Thompson. Mr. Blix explained that currently the RLWD has 5 schools in the River Watch Program. The students presented their display board on Investigating Dissolved Oxygen Levels in Impaired Reaches of the Clearwater and Lost Rivers, for which they were awarded a Gold Award at the River Watch Forum held on March 13, 2007.

The board reviewed the Financial Report as of April 25, 2007. A motion was made by Knott, seconded by Tiedemann, and passed by unanimous vote that the Board approve the Financial Report dated April 25, 2007.

Chuck Fritz, Director, International Water Institute and Joe Courneya, Director, Red River Center for Watershed Education were present to discuss programs offered through their respective offices. Mr. Fritz stated that the International Water Institute was formed after the 1997 flood to develop watershed research and education in the Red River Basin. Mr. Courneya discussed the River Watch Program and that currently 29 schools in Minnesota offer the River Watch Program. The goal of the River Watch Program is not to find problems, but to get a solid foundation and understanding of how a watershed works. He further stated that U.S. Congressman Collin Peterson is working on obtaining federal funding for the River Watch Program. Mr. Courneya discussed the Red Lake River Rendezvous that will be held May 28 – June 10, 2007 with several stops planned throughout the watershed.

Administrator Jesme discussed the request from the West Polk County FSA office for a resolution giving authorization to sign on behalf of the RLWD for any Farm Service Agency documents. A motion was made by Knott, seconded by Stanley, and passed unanimously, that the following resolution be adopted:

WHEREAS, authorization is needed to act on behalf of the Red Lake Watershed District for Farm Service Agency documents;

WHEREAS, the Red Lake Watershed District Board of Managers hereby authorizes the Red Lake Watershed District Board President and/or Administrator to sign all documents on behalf of the Red Lake Watershed District for the Farm Service Agency;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution be adopted by the Red Lake Watershed District Board of Managers.

President Nelson discussed construction activities at the new RLWD building and the two quotes received for office furniture. A motion was made by Johnson, seconded by Coe and passed by unanimous vote to purchase office furniture through Tony Dorn, Inc., Thief River Falls.

The MAWD Summer tour will be held June 28-30 at the Ramsey Washington Metro Watershed District.

The Board reviewed the permit applications. Motion by Tiedemann, seconded by Knott and passed unanimously to approve the following permits with conditions stated on the permits: No. 07021, R.J. Zavoral & Sons, Inc., Keystone Township, Polk County; and No. 07022, Frank Forsberg, Gully Township, Polk County.

Administrator Jesme read his written report:

- Administrator Jesme attended a meeting in Crookston and a site visit of the proposed Polk County Ditch No. 53 Improvement. Those in attendance were Dan Thul and Dave Friedl, DNR; Brian Dwight, BWSR; Randy Huelskamp and Paige Guetter, NRCS/SWCD. The intention of the meeting was to introduce the project to the permitting agencies. Future meetings will be held with the landowners.
- An on-site meeting was held on the Brandt Channel Outlet Restoration Project on April 20th with Bruce Nelson and Jeff Johnson, FSA; Randy Huelskamp, NRCS; and Duane Steinbrink, Polk SWCD. Jeff Johnson will write an Environmental Review which is a federal requirement for all CREP sign-ups. Jesme indicated that the timeline for the completion of the review will be late June early July and that construction will not start until the review is completed. Bid opening is scheduled for May 24, 2007 at 10:00 a.m.
- The annual Advisory Committee meeting was held on April 24, 2007 at 9:30 a.m.
- Minutes from the RRWMB meeting are in the packet.

Administrator Jesme stated that he is waiting to hear from Polk County Auditor/Treasurer Gerald Amiot regarding the Judicial Ditch 72 Joint Ditch board meeting.

Managers Coe, Knott, and Carlson updated the Board on the Overall Advisory Committee meeting held on April 24, 2007.

The Board reviewed the Agassiz National Wildlife Refuge update and activities planned in 2007.

President Nelson discussed the change orders for the building that were received that morning. Mr. Nelson stated that the Building Committee will discuss them with the Architect Tom Jones and report back to the board.

Motion by Carlson, seconded by Johnson, with motion carried to adjourn the meeting.


Vernon Johnson, Secretary