

RED LAKE WATERSHED DISTRICT
Board of Manager's Minutes
February 22, 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 Carlson, seconded by Knott, and passed by unanimous vote that the Board approve the agenda.

Tammy Audette read the minutes of February 8, 2007. A motion was made by Johnson, seconded by Coe, and passed unanimously that the Board approve the minutes as read.

The board reviewed the Financial Report as of February 21, 2007. A motion was made by Coe, seconded by Stanley, and passed by unanimous vote that the Board approve the Financial Report dated February 21, 2007.

Administrator Jesme discussed the interest rate quotes received from various financial institutions for investment of a CD that matures on February 28, 2007. It was the consensus of the Board to authorize the staff to purchase a CD from Unity Bank, Red Lake Falls at a rate of 5.20% for a 12 month period.

Administrator Jesme discussed the settlement agreement the RLWD has with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MnDNR) for maintenance on State Ditch 83, RLWD Project #14. In 2006, a \$50,000 levy was submitted to Marshall and Beltrami County for maintenance on State Ditch 83 payable in 2007. As per the settlement agreement, the MnDNR is obligated to pay 32 percent of the cost of minor repairs up to a maximum amount of \$16,000 per year for ditch assessment on Con Con lands owned by the MnDNR. The MnDNR has forwarded payment of \$16,000 directly to Marshall and Beltrami County which will be included with the collected levy for State Ditch #83 maintenance.

A Joint Funding Agreement with the U.S. Geological Survey for ongoing hydrologic monitoring at the Glacial Ridge National Wildlife Refuge and the Nature Conservancy's Glacial Ridge property was presented. The RLWD had previously entered into an agreement with the USGS in 2001 which gave the District the authority to be the funding sponsor for the ongoing hydrological project. Motion by Tiedemann, seconded by Johnson, to authorize President Nelson sign a new Joint Funding Agreement with the U.S. Geological Survey to continue with the ongoing hydrologic monitoring at the Glacial Ridge National Wildlife Refuge and the Nature Conservancy's Glacial Ridge property. Motion carried.

Pay Estimate #4 in the amount of \$24,239.25 for Schmitz Builders for the construction of the new RLWD building was presented for approval. Motion by Tiedemann, seconded by Knott and passed unanimously, to authorize payment of Pay Estimate #4 in the amount of \$24,239.25.

Change Order #2 in the amount of \$6,288 for Schmitz Builders for construction of the new RLWD building was discussed. The change order includes 2" insulation under the concrete floor

and changing the fan switches in the bathrooms to timer switches and a 50 amp circuit for the electric range in the kitchenette. Motion by Knott, seconded by Stanley to approve Change Order #2 in the amount of \$6,288 to Schmitz Builders. Motion carried.

Wayne Weber, Red Lake SWCD and Jim Hest, Northwest MN Joint Powers Board, presented plans for the Nyman Bank Stabilization Project on a dredged portion of the Clearwater River. Mr. Weber explained that Eric Nyman, a local landowner, would like to build a home near the site. Work would include approximately 500' of bank stabilization. Administrator Jesme stated that since this is within the dredged portion of the Clearwater River it is under the RLWD jurisdiction. Mr. Hest explained that the plan was designed to meet NRCS standards. Motion by Stanley, seconded by Johnson authorizing the Nyman Bank Stabilization Project to proceed within the dredged portion of the Clearwater River under the jurisdiction of the RLWD with supervision/inspection from Red Lake SWCD and or the Northwest MN Joint Powers Board Engineer and that all applicable permits are obtained. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed permits for approval. A motion was made by Tiedemann, seconded by Carlson to approve permit #07003, Gentilly Cattle LLC, Gentilly Township, Polk County with conditions stated on the permit. Motion carried.

Administrator Jesme discussed the Beltrami County Shoreland Summit, 9th Annual Joint Conference of the RRWMB and the 3rd International Water Conference. Board members wishing to attend should contact RLWD staff.

Manager Johnson presented the Outstanding Supporting Organization Award received from the Giziibii Resource Conservation and Development Association. Manager Johnson and Coe attended the awards presentation.

Administrator Update:

- Contact has been made with Wade Robinson, Program Technician from the Clearwater SWCD about the cost share project that the District is involved with on the Silver Creek. Mr. Robinson indicated that the project had been re-bid with bids pretty close to the bids received last year. The project is still approximately \$9,100 short but the township, as a last resort, is investigating borrowing money from Clearwater County to complete the funding. Mr. Robinson has contacted the USFWS to see if they can appropriate anything above and beyond what they are already committed to.
- The signed grant agreement from the MPCA has been received. Corey will now be able to start necessary preparations for this project and will be attending a joint meeting with Agassiz National Wildlife Refuge on February 27, 2007 to develop a work plan with them for monitoring sites within the refuge.
- Enclosed in today's packet is a response from MAWD in reference to the Office of Legislative Audit's Report on Watershed Management.
- A Shallow Lakes forum will be held at the Holiday Inn Hotel and Suites April 3rd and 4th in St. Cloud. Enclosed in today's packet is information concerning this seminar.
- Orville and Myron attended the RRWMB meeting in Fertile on Tuesday, February 20th. Enclosed in today's packet is a copy of the approved minutes from the RRWMB December 19, 2006 meeting. Administrator Jesme will continue to provide the approved minutes on a monthly basis.

Legal Counsel Sparby stated he had a conference call with Kurt Deter regarding the abandonment of a legal drainage ditch under the jurisdiction of the RLWD for the Glacial Ridge Nature Conservancy Project. Mr. Sparby indicated that a complete abandonment would be in the best interest of the RLWD. Mr. Sparby had spoken with Wes Drake, NRCS Engineer, and both felt it could work for either a complete abandonment or a partial. The NRCS will be required to present a petition for the abandonment of the system to the District and since a portion of the system is under the jurisdiction of the Polk County ditch authority, it would make sense to hold a hearing for the abandonment in conjunction with the Polk County abandonment proceedings. Administrator Jesme will coordinate with Polk County to set a hearing date upon receiving the petition.

Administrator Jesme indicated that he had received an e-mail from Dave Friedl, MnDNR Fisheries, stating that he had applied for a \$10,000 grant for preliminary engineering for the Grand Marais Outlet Restoration. Jesme will update the Board as information on the grant or other fund raising efforts come forward.

Manager Stanley discussed the Tile Drainage Conference he attended in Moorhead on February 14, 2007.

Manager Knott discussed that the RRWMB is sending out request for proposals for a Public Information Consulting Service to assist in communicating with targeted media for educational and/or public information objectives.

Manager Tiedemann stated that he has spoken with Jeanette Kliner in regard to the Brandt Outlet Channel, RLWD Project 60E. Mrs. Kliner accepted the offer of \$850 per acre at 24.09 acres for a total amount of \$20,476.50. Mrs. Kliner will be in contact with Duane Steinbrink, Polk County NRCS, for possible enrollment of CREP or other programs which maybe beneficial to them.

Manager Nelson stated that he has spoken with Northern Woodworking regarding a cost estimate for a new board table at the new RLWD building.

Considerable discussion was held on the possibility of enrolling staff members in Dale Carnegie courses. It was the consensus of the Board that since Water Quality Coordinator Corey Hanson does a substantial amount of public speaking it would be beneficial for him to attend an upcoming session. The Board instructed Administrator Jesme to coordinate with Corey as to his schedule.

Motion by Lee, seconded by Stanley, with motion carried to adjourn the meeting.


Vernon Johnson, Secretary