

RED LAKE WATERSHED DISTRICT
Board of Manager's Minutes
February 8, 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 Johnson, seconded by Carlson, and passed by unanimous vote that the Board approve the agenda.

Tammy Audette read the minutes of January 25, 2007. A motion was made by Knott, seconded by Tiedemann, and passed unanimously that the Board approve the minutes.

Administrator Jesme reviewed the 2006 General Fund Budget year ending December 31, 2006 and the estimated 2007 General Fund Budget. Jesme reviewed the 2007 Projected Revenue and Expenses from January 1 through July 1, 2007.

Administrator Jesme discussed the renewal of a CD with a maturity date of February 28, 2007. Staff will solicit interest rate quotes from financial institutions and present them at the February 22, 2007 board meeting.

Administrator Jesme presented a security release form in the amount of \$200,000 from Border State Bank requesting the RLWD to release a security that is currently not in use. Jesme stated that we have adequate securities in place at Border State Bank for the amount of money the RLWD has on deposit. Motion by Tiedemann, seconded by Coe, and passed by unanimous vote to release the securities as requested by Border State Bank.

The board reviewed the Financial Report and Investment Summary as of February 7, 2007. A motion was made by Coe, seconded by Johnson and passed by unanimous vote that the Board approve the Financial Report dated February 7, 2007.

Keith Mykelseth, The Nature Conservancy Glacial Ridge Project Manager, Greg Bengtson, NRCS Glacial Ridge Project Manager and Wes Drake, NRCS Engineer presented plans for the 2007 Glacial Ridge Project which is located on lands owned and operated by the Nature Conservancy. The proposed project would call for partial or full abandonment of a legal drainage ditch RLWD Project #106, Polk County Ditch #140, which is currently under the jurisdiction of the Red Lake Watershed District. The Nature Conservancy is proposing to restore the area to a pre-settlement status by restoring wetlands. The RLWD would still maintain the Burnham Creek Impoundment which is downstream of the ditch outlet. A concern of the board members was the effect this would have on private landowners. RLWD Staff Loren Sanderson stated that in the area of Polk County Ditch #140, hundreds of acres of wetlands have been restored. Mr. Mykelseth stated that Polk County has abandoned portions of their ditches within this area already and are currently working on more. Mr. Mykelseth stated that he had spoken with Gerald Amiot, Polk County Auditor/Treasurer regarding potentially having joint hearings with the RLWD and Polk County Board. The Board questioned the legal process to follow for an abandonment or partial abandonment of a project. The Board instructed Legal Counsel Sparby

to research this further with both the Polk County Attorney and drainage lawyer Kurt Deter of Rinke Noonan.

Staff member Corey Hanson gave a presentation on the Thief River Watershed Sediment Investigation, RLWD Project #168. The area concentrates on the Thief River watershed mainly around the Agassiz National Wildlife Refuge and Thief Lake Pools. The project was adopted at the December 14, 2006 Board meeting. Mr. Hanson presented the grant application and resolution for signature in the amount of \$96,500 from the MPCA with matching funds from the RLWD and other agencies. A motion was made by Knott, seconded by Stanley and passed unanimously to authorize Administrator Jesme sign the Grant Application for the Thief River Watershed Sediment Investigation, RLWD Project #168.

Administrator Jesme discussed the letter from the International Water Institute requesting a contribution to help defray costs for the River Watch Student Forum to be held March 13, 2007 at the Alerus in Grand Forks. It was the consensus of the Board that we currently give money to the River Watch Program within our own program.

A financial request from the Pennington SWCD was received to help support the Area I Envirothon. Motion by Lee and seconded by Tiedemann, to donate \$100.00 to the Pennington SWCD to help financially support the Area I Envirothon. Motion carried.

Information for the MAWD Legislative Breakfast to be held on March 14-15, 2007 was presented to the Board. Managers Tiedemann, Coe, Knott and Administrator Jesme will attend. Staff members will contact local Senators and Representatives to schedule meetings.

Permit #07005 from Claire Berberich, Poplar River Township, Red Lake County was discussed. Motion by Knott, seconded by Carlson to table permit #07005 for further review of the drainage area during the 2007 spring runoff event. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed permits for approval. A motion was made by Johnson, seconded by Tiedemann to approve the following permits with conditions stated on the permits: #06108 from Clearwater County Highway Department, Nora Township; and #06139 from Pennington County Highway Department, Highland Township. Motion carried.

Administrator Jesme read his written report:

- Enclosed in your packet is a summary of the completed Evaluation Report for Watershed Management from the Legislative office. The entire document can be viewed online at <http://www.auditor.leg.state.mn.us/ped/2007watersheds.htm> or a copy can be provided upon request.
- Contact has been made with the petitioners for the Improvement of Polk County Ditch #53. The petition and bond should be forthcoming.
- A copy of the January 2007 Water Quality Program Progress Summary prepared by Corey Hanson is enclosed in the Board packet.

In addition to his written report, Administrator Jesme discussed the potential grant that Marshall County may receive from FEMA for re-mapping of the flood plains within Marshall County. FEMA has reduced the grant to \$500,000 due to the fact that they won't have as many panels to complete.

Manager Tiedemann questioned the potential funding sources for preliminary engineering for the Grand Marais Restoration. To date no funding has been secured.

Legal Counsel Sparby stated that he had spoken with Mr. Dan Rust in regard to the land transaction within the Brandt Impoundment regarding the claim of Debbie Hawkinson. The matter has been turned over to the abstract company's insurer, as they had missed an entry in updating of the abstract. We are awaiting a response from legal counsel from the insurance company.

Motion by Knott, seconded by Tiedemann motion carried to adjourn the meeting.


Vernon Johnson, Secretary