

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

President Dale M. Nelson called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. at the Red Lake Watershed District office, 1000 Pennington Avenue South, Thief River Falls, MN.

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

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

Arlene Novak read the minutes of July 12, 2007. A motion was made by Knott, seconded by Stanley, and passed unanimously that the Board approve the minutes with minor correction.

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

Corey Hanson, Water Quality Coordinator, presented an informational item to the Board seeking their guidance for future planning of implementation projects involving installation of main line tile and wild rice paddies. The Board recommended looking for other funding sources with other agencies, i.e. NRCS, and collect more information. Corey also updated the Board on some of his projects that he is currently working on.

Maggie Anderson, Agassiz NWR, had contacted Administrator Jesme and updated him on their projects and also thanked Corey for helping with their studies.

A letter of resignation of Board member Allan Carlson was read by President Nelson. Polk County has been notified and is currently advertising to fill the remaining term of the Board position. A motion was made by Johnson, seconded by Coe, to accept the resignation of Allan Carlson. Motion carried.

Mark Meister, Red River Watershed Management Board Public Information Consultant, presented a Focus Group Research Process to the Board. The tasks he will perform will be to research and do survey and focus group research with different stakeholders. Local citizens, producers, landowners, absentee landowners, etc., will be surveyed and various media outlets will be contacted seeking individuals to serve on the Focus Group Research sessions.

Jeff Langan, Houston Engineering, gave a presentation for the preliminary engineering proposal for the Grand Marais Outlet Restoration Project, RLWD Project No. 60F.

After the presentation, Chairman Nelson asked Jeep Mattson if he had some information he would like to present to the Board concerning this project. Mr. Mattson then presented information on culverts in the area of the project.

Nate Dalager and Keith Winters, HDR Engineering, Inc. presented their preliminary engineering proposal on the Grand Marais Outlet Restoration Project, RLWD Project No. 60F.

A request to the Board was distributed from R.J. Zavoral & Sons which requested the reduction of the retainer fee for the Brandt Impoundment from 5% to 2.5%. Administrator Jesme stated that all the items have been completed on the punch list and that RLWD and HDR staff approve the reduction. Motion by Tiedemann, seconded by Coe, to approve the reduction of retainage and approve the payment to R.J.Zavoral & Sons, Inc. in the amount of \$58,146.73.

Administrator Jesme presented a quote received from Thune Insurance and two quotes from Northern State Agency for insurance of the new RLWD Building. Motion by Knott, seconded by Coe, to accept the quote from Thune Insurance for insurance of the new RLWD building, effective August 1, 2007, in the annual premium amount of \$3,091.00.

The Board reviewed permits for approval. A motion was made by Johnson, seconded by Knott to approve the following permits with conditions stated on the permits: No. 07048, Dale R. Anderson, Moylan Township, Marshall County; No. 07049, Ken and Jean Brejcha, Gentilly Township, Polk County; No. 07050, Nature Conservancy, Tilden Township, Polk County. RLWD Permit No. 07040, Paul Wilder, Fairfax Township, Polk County, is a field drainage ditch and was only presented for information to the Board. Motion carried. Pre-approval of a permit for Mike Drangsveit, RLWD Permit No. 07053, was given.

Administrators Report:

- With the exception of a sump structure, Schauer's ring dike, located in Section 27 of Esther Township, Polk County, is substantially completed. A final payment will be scheduled for next Board meeting.
- R.J. Zavoral & Sons, Inc. informed Administrator Jesme that they should have their portion of the Euclid East and Brandt Impoundment projects completed by mid-August at which time the final inspections can be completed and proceed with the final payment hearings.
- The contractor has moved back to the Brandt Channel Restoration Project, RLWD Proj. No. 60E to continue with the construction.
- Included in the manager's packet is a copy of the Con-Con land final draft report to the Administrative Judge from the Red River Watershed Management Board and Jerry Von Korff, Rinke Noonan.
- A June 2007 Water Quality Report from Corey Hanson is included in the Manager's handouts.
- A copy of a newspaper article dated July 17, 2007 from the Norman County Index was included in the Manager's packet. This article features the Grand Marais Project 60 B and the recently completed Brandt and Euclid East Impoundments.
- In the 2007 legislative session, watershed district managers, WMO board members, and SWCD supervisors were added to the list of public officials (MSA 10A.01) required to file Statements of Economic Interest with the State of Minnesota. This requirement was part of the "accountability" section of new laws for water management organizations. A copy of the "Original Statement of Economic Interest for Appointed Public Officials" is included in the Manager's packet. Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts (MAWD) has been working with the Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure to facilitate everyone receiving notice of the new requirement and filing properly. All managers and watershed district offices should receive after August 1, 2007, information

on this requirement from MAWD. Forms need to be returned no later than October 1, 2007.

In addition to his written report, Administrator Jesme stated a letter had been sent to Jody Torkelson, City of Thief River Falls, stating that the RLWD building at 102 Main Avenue North, Thief River Falls, will be vacated by August 31, 2007 and the deeds, etc. will be turned over at that time.

Manager Stanley stated he will be meeting with Maggie Anderson, Agassiz National Wildlife Refuge (NWR), in the afternoon following this Board meeting to tour and get updates of projects of the NWR.

Discussion of the tasks and cost previously proposed by Houston Engineering and HDR, Inc. was discussed. The quote from Houston Engineering was \$31,971 and \$40,366 from HDR, Inc. Following discussion of the tasks and quotes received, a motion was made by Coe, seconded by Stanley, to accept the engineering proposal from Houston Engineering in the amount of \$31,971. Knott abstained from voting. Motion carried.

Manager Tiedemann brought up a drainage issue by Maple Lake along Polk County Road 210. Administrator Jesme indicated that Loren Sanderson has been in contact with Polk County Engineers to discuss the problem in this area. Jesme indicated that RLWD staff and Polk County staff will work together to find ways to convey water in this area more efficient and that a permit may be pending for this issue.

President Nelson stated that the Budget/Salary committee members Stanley, Knott, and Nelson had met on Monday, July 23, 2007. Administrator Jesme reviewed the 2008 Proposed General Fund Budget with the Board.

The Board met in executive session to discuss the salary portion of the General Fund Budget. Motion by Johnson, seconded by Stanley to set the following pay increases, effective January 1, 2008 as follows: Myron Jesme, 5%; Loren Sanderson, Arlene Novak, Gary Lane, Tammy Audette, and Corey Hanson, 2%; and Jim Blix, 2% plus an additional \$1.00 per hour. Motion carried. The Board requested to be notified of health insurance premiums for 2008 when they become available.

Motion by Stanley, seconded by Johnson, to set the General Fund Budget hearing for August 23, 2007 at 9:30 a.m. Motion carried.

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


Vernon Johnson, Secretary