

RED LAKE WATERSHED DISTRICT
Board of Manager's Minutes
June 28, 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, and Vernon Johnson. Absent: 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 Stanley, and passed by unanimous vote that the Board approve the agenda.

A motion was made by Knott, seconded by Tiedemann and passed by unanimous vote that the board dispense with reading of the June 14, 2007 minutes.

A motion was made by Tiedemann, seconded by Knott, and passed by unanimous vote that the Board approve the June 14, 2007 minutes as printed.

The board reviewed the Financial Report as of June 27, 2007. A motion was made by Tiedemann, seconded by Knott, and passed by unanimous vote that the Board approve the Financial Report dated June 27, 2007.

Administrator Jesme discussed the renewal of a CD that will mature on June 29, 2007. After discussion by the Board of future expenses, a motion was made by Coe, seconded by Tiedemann and passed by unanimous vote to deposit the CD into the Investor Savings account at Border State Bank.

Administrator Jesme discussed funding sources for the Preliminary Engineering on the Grand Marais Outlet Restoration. The MnDNR-Fisheries have ear marked \$10,000 in their budget for preliminary engineering, we hope to hear early July if we will receive this money. Jesme stated that Kent Lokkesmoe, MnDNR, has indicated that the RLWD can apply for a \$5,000 DNR Study Grant Application. The District was informed that they would be able to also apply for a \$5,000 Project Acceleration Grant through the Flood Damage Reduction Work Group. After discussion by the board, a motion was made by Tiedemann, seconded by Coe, and passed by unanimous vote to direct Administrator Jesme to apply for the DNR Study Grant Application and Project Acceleration Grant through the Flood Damage Reduction Work Group.

Discussion was held regarding engineering services for preliminary engineering on the Grand Marais Outlet. Legal Counsel Sparby stated that the RLWD is not required to bid out professional services. A motion was made by Tiedemann, seconded by Coe, to proceed with the Preliminary Engineering of the Grand Marais Outlet and direct Administrator Jesme to pursue engineering bids for preliminary engineering with Houston Engineering and HDR Engineering. Motion carried with Manager Knott abstaining.

Luther Newton, Red Lake County NRCS District Conservationist, updated the Board on activities within the NRCS. Mr. Newton fielded various questions from the Board regarding activities in Red Lake County and surrounding areas.

Administrator Jesme presented a \$14,000 Grant Agreement with The Nature Conservancy for water quality monitoring and well monitoring at the Glacial Ridge, RLWD Project No. 152. Jesme stated that there is no financial responsibility on the District's behalf and that this funding will be used to pay the U.S. Geological Survey for their services to this project. A motion was made by Knott, seconded by Coe, and passed by unanimous vote to authorize Administrator Jesme to sign the Grant Agreement with The Nature Conservancy.

An amended grant 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 to the board. The amended grant is for a decrease in the amount of \$15,116 from the original grant agreement dated October 1, 2006. A motion was made by Coe, seconded by Johnson and passed by unanimous vote to authorize President Dale M. Nelson to sign the amended grant agreement with the U.S. Geological Survey for a decrease in the amount of \$15,116 for ongoing hydrologic monitoring at the Glacial Ridge National Wildlife Refuge and the Nature Conservancy's Glacial Ridge property.

A Cooperative Draft Agreement with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to support the hydrologic and water quality investigations within the Judicial Ditch 66 watershed at the Glacial Ridge was presented to the board. Funding would be allocated through the District as money is received. A motion was made by Johnson, seconded by Knott and passed by unanimous vote to authorize Administrator Jesme to sign the Cooperative Agreement with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for hydrologic and water quality investigations within the Judicial Ditch 66 watershed upon receiving the final agreement.

The Board discussed the 2008 Budget/Employee Salaries. Managers Stanley, Knott and Nelson are on the Budget Committee. The Budget Committee will submit their recommendations to the Board at the July 26, 2007 meeting.

Administrator Jesme discussed the 2007 MAWD Legislative update handout.

An Agreement with Houston Engineering, Inc. for website hosting and maintenance was presented to the Board. A motion was made by Tiedemann, seconded by Johnson and passed by unanimous vote to authorize Administrator Jesme to sign the agreement with Houston Engineering, Inc. for website hosting and maintenance.

The Board discussed buffer strips on RLWD ditches. State statute requires that the District maintain a 16 ½ foot grass buffer strip on all ditch systems. Manager Tiedemann discussed the Legislative Audit Report that stated BWSR is required to make sure Watersheds are in compliance. Discussion was held on how they measure the 16 ½ feet, what type of vegetation is required, and landowners who are not in compliance. A motion was made by Knott, seconded by Coe, to authorize RLWD staff to send letters to landowners along RLWD ditch systems stating the requirements of grass buffer strips and that right of way stakes will be installed after the 2007 harvest. If the District needs to reseed any buffer strips that are not in compliance, the cost of reseeding will be billed to the ditch system. If landowners do not comply with the 16 ½ foot grass buffer strip, the landowner will be billed individually for costs incurred to reseed. Motion carried.

Administrator Jesme discussed the Flood Damage Reduction Work Group (FDRWG) project summary that outlines the findings of the FDRWG regarding project readiness in putting together capital bonding request.

Pay Estimate No. 3 in the amount of \$83,655.61 for R.J. Zavoral & Sons, Inc. for construction of Red Lake Watershed District Ditch No. 11, Project No. 166 was presented for approval. A motion was made by Tiedemann, seconded by Stanley, to approve Pay Estimate No. 3 in the amount of \$83,655.61. Motion carried.

Permit #07032, Excel Dairy, Excel Township, Marshall County was discussed. Administrator Jesme stated that Excel Dairy complied with the proper installation of the culvert recommended by RLWD staff.

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. 07037, Steve Adams, Huntsville Township, Polk County; No. 07038, The Nature Conservancy, Tilden, Kertsonville, Onstad and Godfrey Townships, Polk County; No 07039, Erik Nymann, North Garnes Township, Red Lake County; No. 07041, Polk County Highway Department, Huntsville Township, Polk County; No. 07042, Brent Solie, Godfrey Township, Polk County; No. 07043, City of Thief River Falls, Rocksbury Township, Pennington County; No. 07044, Mark Worshek, Queen Township, Polk County. Motion carried.

Administrators Report:

- The District received an Amended Polk County Zoning Ordinance manual dated May 2007.
- The MPCA General Storm Water Permit for construction of the Shanon Schauer ring dike, located in Section 27, Esther Township was received. Construction started today with clearing and grubbing, and weather permitting should be completed by the last week of July.
- The draft specifications and engineers estimate for the wetland mitigation sites have been received for the Euclid East and Brandt Impoundments. The final draft should be completed within the next two weeks. Seeding has to occur in a dormant state.
- The MPCA General Storm Water Permit and signed contract and performance bond were received for construction of the Brandt Channel, RLWD Project No. 60E. A pre-construction meeting is set for July 2 at 9:00 a.m. Construction is expected to start the second week of July.
- CRP on the Brandt Impoundment was recently reseeded. Euclid East will be seeded after it dries up. R.J. Zavoral & Sons are currently working on the punch list of items to be completed.
- Due to recent rainfall and high river levels the Euclid East Impoundment was operated.
- The approved RRWMB minutes are in today's packet.

Manager Stanley and Administrator Jesme updated the board on the meetings held in Bemidji and Grygla planned by the MnDNR regarding assessments involving Con Con lands in regard to ditch projects. Jesme distributed his and Ron Harnack's comments that were presented at the meeting.

Manager Knott stated that Garry Bennett is the new MnDNR Hydrologist in Thief River Falls and that Don Buckhout, MnDNR, will be leaving the Bemidji office to go back to St. Paul.

Manager Nelson updated the Board on construction activities for the new RLWD building. The original bid was to black top only the parking lot. An estimate was obtained to black top the driveway and an additional 3 feet strip by the south garage door at an estimate of \$9,936. A motion was made by Johnson, seconded by Stanley to black top the driveway and additional 3 foot strip at a cost of \$9,936.00. Motion carried.

Legal Counsel Sparby stated that at the Thief River Falls City Council meeting it was reported that the Northern Municipal Power Company will not be moving into the current building. Notice should be given to the city that we are vacating the building by August 31, 2007. Manager Nelson stated that he contacted Jim Breiland, Breiland Landscaping, regarding landscaping for the new building. Mr. Breiland will draw up some plans and present it to the Board.

Manager Johnson discussed the channel restoration project on the Silver Creek, Clearwater County. The RLWD has committed \$17,000 towards the project which has a funding shortfall of \$10,209. Manager Johnson will speak with the Clearwater County SWCD for future projects that may need to be funded and possibly use the 2007 money that was allocated for local SWCD projects to put towards the Silver Creek project.

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


Vernon Johnson, Secretary