

RED LAKE WATERSHED DISTRICT  
Board of Manager's Minutes  
March 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, Vernon Johnson, and Allan Carlson. Absent: Gene Tiedemann. Staff Present: Myron Jesme and Tammy Audette. Absent: Legal Counsel Delray Sparby.

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

Tammy Audette read the minutes of February 22, 2007. A motion was made by Knott, seconded by Johnson, and passed unanimously that the Board approve the minutes as read.

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

Staff member Corey Hanson presented the Preliminary Final Report for the Farm to Stream Tile Drainage Water Quality Study, RLWD Project #165 and also a Power Point Presentation that he had given at the MN Drainage Research Forum and Tile Drainage Seminar held in Moorhead. The RLWD has received an extension to the grant for the Farm to Stream Tile Drainage Water Quality Study, RLWD Project #165 until January 31, 2008, when the final report will be due.

Corey Hanson explained that some equipment has been installed for the Trout Stream Study. Since receiving the grant agreement for the Thief River Watershed Sediment Investigation, RLWD Project #168, Corey has met with the U.S. Geological Service and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to develop a work plan.

Administrator Jesme stated that a local landowner requested a CD version of the RLWD hydrologic model that was developed as part of the 10 Year Overall Plan. Manager Nelson indicated that the request seemed odd and asked the Board their feelings on the subject. Mr. Knott asked if anyone could use the hydraulic model for their own profit. Mr. Jesme stated that the model is unique to our watershed district and can only be used for projects within our watershed. Manager Coe echoed Knott's concerns about Engineering firms using the model and charging the technology to their costumers. It was the consensus of the board to table this item until the March 22, 2007 Board meeting.

The Board discussed the MAWD Annual Report. Administrator Jesme stated that the report contains information on buffer strips that is currently being amended in the MN House of Representatives and Senate. Mr. Jesme has spoken with Representative Dave Olin regarding House File 577 amending ditches and buffer strip requirements.

Administrator Jesme presented the Marshall County Local Water Management Plan. A copy of the report may be obtained by contacting staff members.

Administrators Update:

- Legislators are in the process of amending Minnesota Statutes 103E.021 as it relates to buffer strips and the enforcement of the buffer strips along legal drainage systems. The amendments if passed, are intended to better define where the 16 ½ foot buffer strip is to be measured, a clear inspection procedure for complying with the Statutes, what types of vegetation can be planted and how the system must maintain them, as well as various other issues. Administrator Jesme will keep the Board informed as these files go through the House and Senate.
- Enclosed in today's packets is a map showing snow survey amounts for the week ending March 3, 2007. Mr. Deter further stated that he represents the petitioners and since he is on retainer with the RLWD he will not be able address any issues that could arise. completed by staff Loren Sanderson and Gary Lane. Snow depths range from 11.5 to 15.0 inches and moisture contents range from 1.5 to 2.2 inches.
- Administrator Jesme and Managers Knott, Tiedemann and Coe will be leaving for St. Paul on Tuesday, March 13 to attend the Legislative Breakfast. A schedule of events has been provided in the packets.
- Gary Huschle, Agassiz NWR, Wildlife Biologist, is retiring after 31 years of service. There will be a retirement party held on his behalf on Saturday, March 24 at the Evergreen Eating Emporium. Any Board members wishing to attend should contact staff.
- Petitioners on Polk County Ditch #53 Improvement have indicated that they have received the bond and that it was mailed on March 7<sup>th</sup>. The petition and bond will be presented at the March 22 Board meeting.
- Administrator Jesme attended a meeting in Bemidji on Tuesday, March 6 to continue with the development of the Flood Damage Reduction Work Group Funding Prioritization Worksheet. When finalized, this worksheet will be presented at the March 29, 2007 March Conference held at Northland Inn in Crookston.

Administrator Jesme stated that he had spoken with Legal Counsel Sparby in regard to the abandonment of Polk County Ditch #140, RLWD Project #106. Mr. Sparby will speak with the Nature Conservancy's attorney in regard to the abandonment of the ditch system. Administrator Jesme also indicated that he has spoken to Keith Mykleseth, Glacial Ridge Project Manager and he has indicated that their attorney also feels that a full abandonment appears to be the best alternative. Upon an agreement Mr. Jesme will coordinate with Gerald Amiot, Polk County Auditor/Treasurer, for a joint hearing with the county and the watershed. Notices and posting of the hearing date will be sent out to all landowners, utilities and other affected parties.

Manager Nelson discussed the purchase of board table for the new RLWD building. A quote was received in the amount of \$7,030 from Northern Woodworking, Inc. which would include a 9 person Board table, a recorder's table, and presenters table. It was the consensus of the board to order all three tables at this time. Manager Nelson also discussed the change from tile to linoleum in the bathrooms, hallway, and entry.

Manager Johnson stated that he would be able to attend the MAWD Legislative breakfast to be held March 14-15<sup>th</sup> in St. Paul.

Manager Coe reported on the Beltrami County Shoreland Summit meeting he attended in Bemidji on February 28, 2007.

Manager Carlson stated that he was contacted by Merle Kolstad, landowner in Southeast Quarter of Section 10 Badger Township, Polk County. Mr. Kolstad has indicated that he is being flooded by flows in the Poplar River that are being restricted due to the fact that two culverts are plugged two miles north of his property. The culverts in question are located through Polk County State Highway #49. Manager Carlson also distributed pictures showing the plugged culverts. Administrator Jesme will submit a letter to Polk County Engineer Rich Sanders.

Manager Stanley questioned if we have any input on ditching law. Administrator Jesme will contact Representative Dave Olin in regard to the buffer strip legislation. Administrator Jesme stated that this legislation will be discussed at the MAWD Legislative Breakfast. He further stated that Ditch Inspectors will be required to provide yearly reports.

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

  
Vernon Johnson, Secretary